

This is a common mistake with teachers of science, and through this method these studies have lost many an otherwise enthusiastic adherent; and laymen generally have been led to consider that these technicalities are the all-important parts of a science and have been repelled from a study of it by the repulsive looking names and phrases offered them by way of introduction. If teachers would begin with lessons on the birds and their habits, when students desire to arrange in systematic order the species with which they have become acquainted, the need of these technicalities, as conveniences, will impart an interest to them, and dispel much of their apparent repulsiveness.

There is a statement in the article on the Thrush family too glaringly erroneous to stand unchallenged; for these papers are of no value whatever if not correct; they must not be misleading to those whom they are designed to instruct.

Moreover in days gone by Canadian ornithologists have gained, and most deservedly, a reputation for being unreliable and of writing little which was worthy of attention; and the present generation should strive to redeem themselves from this charge, which will require exceptional care to accomplish.

In his article on the Thrushes Mr. Seton embraces the Wood Thrush among those species which he says are common throughout Canada. Now unquestionably, the Wood Thrush is

common in southern Ontario, and is found in the Province of Quebec from Montreal west and south; but it has not been taken in the north-eastern districts of Quebec nor in any of the Maritime Provinces, hence to state that it is common throughout Canada is misleading.

It is not pleasant to think one runs the chance of being considered a grumbler but I feel constrained to point out what appears to be an error in Professor Wilson's article in this magazine for March, 1884. I refer to his recommendation of Samuel's 'Birds of New England' as a standard text-book. This work on a whole is *not reliable*, and should not be placed in the hands of a beginner. There is a great deal in it that is authentic, and of the very best, especially the lengthened quotations from Baird and Wilson; but mingled with these are so many mischievous blunders that the book is dangerous to any but a well-informed student.

The other books mentioned by Professor Wilson are the best standard works now in use, but he failed to give title of the book which is generally considered the very best text-book for young students. I refer to "New England Bird-life," edited by Dr. Elliott Coues and published by Lee & Shepard. In the two handy volumes in which this work is issued, the beginner may obtain at a small cost all he is likely to make use of for, at least two years. After he has become thoroughly acquainted with all this book