

How to Know Birds.

COLOR KEY TO NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS. By Frank M. Chapman, Associate Curator of Ornithology and Mammalogy in the American Museum of Natural History; author of "The Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America," "Bird Life," &c. With upward of 800 drawings by Chester A. Reed. H. S. 8vo. Pp. 312. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co. \$2.50.

The design of this book of Mr. Chapman is to enable the unlearned man to recognize our native birds at sight—and without shooting them. He thinks the passion for nature study instilled so arduously in schools nowadays and the love of birds fostered by Audubon Societies has provided a growing class of persons who like to potter about the woods and name the inhabitants thereof—persons who have not a gun and would not use one if they had it.

You are to note that the names spoken of here are the common or woodland and old-field names—the names under which the feathered kind have acquired fame and poetic associations. In this volume Mr. Chapman has arranged the birds in their orders, duly labeled in Latin and English, but for the convenience of the unlearned, for whose benefit the book is intended, the birds in each order have been arranged not by scientific differentia, but by color markings—the most important characteristic to which the amateur nature student without a gun must trust in his attempts at identification. So we have the order Passeres, "Perching birds," which in the further pages relating to them are arranged as "Perching Birds Marked with Red," (including Tanagers Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Finches, &c.) "Perching Birds Marked with Blue," (including Blue Birds, Blue Jays, Blue Grosbeaks, &c.) then "Perching Birds Marked with Yellow or Orange," (Orioles, Goldfinches, Wagtails, Warblers, Meadow Larks, Kingbirds, &c.;) then "Perching Birds Marked with Chestnut or Reddish Brown," "Perching Birds Chiefly Dull-Colored," &c. Along the margins of the pages, opposite the brief descriptions of the birds, are colored plates of each, not designed to be perfectly accurate, but to give the distinguishing markings and the general appearance of the bird as he appears at the safe distance at which in the bush an observer would be likely to see him. Of course the scientific name is included in the descriptive paragraph, and at the end is a systematic table of the birds of North America north of Mexico, arranged according to the approved orders, families, species, and sub-species, with the common names first and the full scientific names following.

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