

tific names of the species, however, were at that time unknown to both of us, and the subsequent identification, after our return, was entirely my own work. Mr. Baker, however, has quoted my notes and identifications throughout his book as if they were his own. In many cases he has supplemented them by original notes which must have been drawn from memory—a very unreliable source after a lapse of five years. For instance, on p. 28, he says ‘finches were quite abundant,’ while they were in reality very scarce, and p. 32 he records ‘thrushes’ at Glenn’s Camp, while we only saw one thrush in Yucatan, which was at another time and place.

Strangest of all, however, is his account of the Trogon. The bird was shot in the cactus thicket, under the circumstances which he describes, was a Motmot and not a Trogon, as my notebook shows, and the only Trogon that we did collect—in fact, the only one we saw—had not a ‘rose-colored breast,’ but was the *yellow breasted T. caligatus*.

In describing the effects of the rarefied air during our ascent of Orizaba, Mr. Baker says: “I was seized with most violent symptoms. My head swam, my eyes became bloodshot. * * * * Another of my companions was affected in the same manner.” As Mr. Baker and I were together when we desisted in the ascent I must be the one to whom he alludes, and I can only say that for my part the account is grossly exaggerated, nor did I see such signs of distress in my companion. Indeed, Mr. Baker’s recollections of the trip seem in many respects very dim, as the opening paragraph of his book shows that he has forgotten the name of the vessel upon which we sailed from New York.

On page 97 Mr. Baker takes occasion to ridicule the naming of the mollusks in the Mexican National Museum, referring to one instance as a ‘most ludicrous error.’ There is an old saying that “people who live in glass houses should not throw stones,” and it seems equally ‘ludicrous’ to find on page 123 of Mr. Baker’s book a figure of our eastern kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) labelled *T. vociferus*; the white tail-band, which is characteristic of the eastern bird and absent in the other, being brought out prominently in the cut; and yet this figure was drawn by the author especially for this work.

It may seem scarcely worth while to call attention to Mr. Baker’s plagiarism as I have done, but unfortunately this is not his first offense, as can be seen on comparing his article on the Round-tailed Muskrat, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1889, p. 271, with Mr. F. M. Chapman’s earlier paper on the same subject, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. II., p. 119, and it seems only right that such practice should be exposed.

WITMER STONE.

ACADEMY NAT. SCIENCES PHILA.

SHELLS AS IMPLEMENTS.

PROFESSOR OTIS T. MASON calls attention, in SCIENCE, October 11, 1895, to an illustration of a perforated shell, said to have been used as a scraper, given in von den Steinen’s work on ‘The Natives of Central Brazil,’ and resembling those figured by Holmes in his ‘Art in Shell,’ Pls. xxvi., fig. 3: xxvii., fig. 1. In shell heaps on the shores of Frenchman’s Bay, Mt. Desert Island, I have found numerous valves of the *Mya arenaria* similarly perforated. The greater part seem to have been so pierced by the hard beaks of the common crow, like those found now on beaches. Others, however, show such a rounded perforation as can only have been made by man, and have the edge artificially smoothed. I have always supposed that such smoothing was caused either by the lashing to it, or the insertion, of a wooden handle, and that the object was used as a spoon or ladle. This seems to be corroborated by the circumstance that the inside of one of these shells is covered by a hard incrustation resembling what is often found upon fragments of pottery vessels that have been used as cooking utensils. The edges of the shells show no indication that they have been used as scrapers.

HENRY W. HAYNES.

BOSTON, October 16, 1895.

SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

Canyons of the Colorado. By J. W. POWELL, PH. D., LL. D., formerly Director of the United States Geological Survey, member of the National Academy of Sciences, etc., etc. Meadville, Pa., Flood & Vincent, The Chautauqua-Century Press. 1895.

This is a sumptuous volume of 400 quarto