

contain respectively comments on such occurrences during the year as seem of special interest, and the observations received from the Faroes.

The paper ends with a map, showing the locations of about eighty Danish lights. — GERRIT S. MILLER, JR.

Lane's Field-Notes on the Birds of Chili.¹—Students of South American birds should be grateful to Dr. Sclater for publishing the valuable series of notes constituting this paper. Mr. Lane was sent to Chili by the late Mr. H. B. James to gather material which, in connection with his own observations, was to be used in a proposed work on Chilean birds.² Lane was in the field from November, 1889, to December, 1890, during which time he made collections and observations near Santiago, in the Province of Tarapacá, in northern Chili, and in the Provinces of Arauco and Valdivia and the Island of Chiloe in southern Chili. The notes here given by Dr. Sclater from Lane's journals relate to 124 species and are of exceptional interest. They were evidently written by a keen, appreciative observer, and he gives us well-drawn character sketches of birds concerning whose life histories we previously had very little reliable information. Often a page or more is devoted to a description of the habits and haunts of a single species and there are particularly satisfactory accounts of such representative Chilean species as members of the genera *Phytotoma*, *Pteroptochus*, *Hylactes*, *Thinocorus*, *Nothoprocta* and others.—F. M. C.

Richmond on Madagascan Birds.³—As a result of a few months' collecting (February to July, 1895) in Madagascar, mainly on the east coast, Dr. Abbott has forwarded to the U. S. National Museum 217 specimens of birds. These are referred by Dr. Richmond to 83 species, one of which, *Ægialitis thoracica*, he has before described,⁴ while two others, *Thalassornis insularis* and *Copsychus inexpectatus*, are here for the first time described as new.—F. M. C.

An Ohio Grackle Roost.⁵—This paper contains the results of one season's work, from the arrival of the Grackles on March 9 to their

¹ Field-notes on the Birds of Chili. By Ambrose A. Lane. With an Introduction and Remarks by P. L. Sclater. The Ibis, January, 1897, pp. 8–51; April, pp. 177–195; July, pp. 297–317. Figg. 5.

² Cf. Auk, X, 1893, p. 354.

³ Catalogue of a Collection of Birds made by Doctor W. L. Abbott in Madagascar, with Descriptions of three new species. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XIX, pp. 677–694. Received May 19, 1897.

⁴ Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., X, 1896, p. 53.

⁵ The Oberlin Summer Grackle Roost. By Lynds Jones. = Bulletin No. 15, Wilson Ornithological Chapter of the Agassiz Association. Oberlin, Ohio, July 30, 1897. 12mo. pp. 37–56, 2 maps, 1 cut in text.

departure on October 31. During this time the study of these birds was the observer's chief object; his record of their movements sometimes began at 3 A. M. and continued until the birds had left the roost, and in the evening he was again at his post to note their return. We have, therefore, a detailed history of the lives of these birds during their presence on their breeding grounds, by an ornithologist whose enthusiasm permitted no relaxation in the care with which his observations were made, and whose experience fitted him to direct his efforts most effectively. His study shows that "during courtship and nesting, each occupying about two weeks under normal conditions, none of the Grackles flock together to pass the night, whatever they may have done previously; but as soon as incubation has well begun the old males seek the shelter of some convenient grove and pass the night there with others of their kind. As soon as the most forward young are able to fly, they are escorted to the common roost by the old male, or if the whole brood should develop at the same time, by both parents; and where there is any marked difference in the development of the young of the same brood, the later ones, accompanied by the old female, bring up the rear. The young are fed for some days after they begin to roost with the old ones. . . . In general, the birds depart from the roost with the rising sun, and return to it at sunset. Singing and calling begin with the break of day, and continue until the birds depart for their feeding grounds. At night there is comparatively little singing, and all noise and shifting about cease as darkness falls. Early in the season the birds arrive and depart independently of each other, but with the advancing summer flocking increases, until finally all move as one individual." The paper is to be commended for its clear presentation of an admirable piece of field work. — F. M. C.

Cory's Shore Birds of North America.¹ — This work is constructed on the same lines as the author's 'How to know the Ducks, Geese and Swans,' and his 'Key to the Water Birds of Florida,' published originally in his 'Hunting and Fishing in Florida' (reviewed in this Journal, XIII, 1896, pp. 246, 247). It is intended, the author says, "to meet the wants of a large number of persons, especially sportsmen, who are interested in birds and would like to know their names, but often find it no easy task to identify them by the 'bird books.' To all such I offer this Key, in which the species are arranged in groups according to size," etc. The work consists of a few introductory pages, describing how to measure birds, a glossary of technical terms, and an 'Index to the Key,' followed

¹ How to know | the Shore Birds | (Limicolæ) | of | North America | (south of Greenland and Alaska) | all the species being grouped according to size and color | — | By Charles B. Cory | . . . [= 9 lines, titles and list of the author's principal publications] | — | For sale by | Little, Brown & Co. | Boston | 1897 — Small 4to, pp. 89, with numerous illustrations.