

being separately given, followed by a chronological summary of the records, and a map on which are plotted the places and dates of arrival. An introduction of 28 pages states the method and purpose of the work, and gives a tabular presentation of the weather conditions and the arrival records. At the end of the Report is a summary of the records of some 40 'unscheduled birds,' or species with too few records to treat formally, and a list of the observers and lighthouses from whom observations were received, and a map showing the points at which the observations were made.

A few of the general statements made in the 'Introductory' are to the effect that the "west of England was in many cases populated before the east and southeast." 'A well-defined route, followed by various streams of immigrants, passes due north from Devon, through Wales and the western counties of Scotland. In the case of some species, which arrived along the whole of the south coast, the direction of flight was due north, but their western flank was invariably in advance of the eastern.' Some other species held a northwesterly course, and a few others a northeasterly course. It is the purpose of the Committee to continue these observations and reports for several years, reserving generalizations till much more information has been gathered. The Committee for 1906 consisted of F. G. Penrose, chairman, C. B. Rickett, C. B. Ticehurst, N. F. Ticehurst, and J. L. Bonhote, secretary.—J. A. A.

**Forbes's 'An Ornithological Cross-section of Illinois in Autumn.'**— This novel contribution to ecology gives the results of observations made by Messrs. A. O. Gross and H. A. Ray, on a trip across the State of Illinois from Danville to Quincy, August 28 to October 17, 1906, under the direction of Professor Forbes, who here<sup>1</sup> summarizes the results. The strip surveyed was 150 feet in width for the whole distance of 192 miles, or an area of five and a half square miles. The total number of birds observed, and recorded with reference to their mode of occurrence, as whether in corn, wheat, stubble, or plowed fields, meadows, orchards, pasture lands, swamps, etc., was 4804, representing 93 species. Of this total number 1620, or about one third, were English Sparrows; 90 per cent. of the birds seen belonged to 20 species, and 85 per cent. to 15 species. Eliminating the English Sparrow from consideration, the number of individuals seen for 18 species ranged, respectively from 57 for the Blue Jay to 517 for the Crow Blackbird.

Besides the discussion of the observations, the data are conveniently presented in 12 tables, and the paper closes with a tabular list of all the species observed; the route is divided into six sections, thus giving approximately the dates and localities where the birds were seen, as well as the number for each section.

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<sup>1</sup> An Ornithological Cross-section of Illinois in Autumn. By S. A. Forbes. Bull. Illinois State Laboratory of Nat. Hist., Vol. VII, April, 1907, pp. 305-335.

The list is interesting from several points of view; as the period of observation included the most important portion of the fall migration, it is not surprising to note that many of the summer residents and early migrants were met with only during the first part of the journey, and the later migrants only toward its close. Only 13 individuals are recorded for the whole family Tyrannidæ, of which six are Phœbes and three are Kingbirds — two of the latter for the last three days of August, and the other for October 12-17! A Rough-legged Hawk is entered as seen the last of August; only one Chipping Sparrow is recorded, for the period Sept. 17-21; also one each for the Red-eyed, Philadelphia and Solitary Vireos, one Yellowthroat and one Mockingbird. The Song, Swamp and Lincoln's Sparrows were not noted till October. There is brief reference to a later trip made by the same observers, from Cairo twelve and a half miles northward, with very different results as to the prevailing species represented, while the number of individual birds to the square mile showed an increase of from 874 to 5882.

Says the author: "Definite conclusions of permanent value concerning the numbers and significance of the bird life of the State evidently cannot be drawn until many such pictures as these have been assembled, compared, and adjusted in their right relations; and it has been the principal object of this paper to describe and illustrate one process, at least, by which the materials necessary to a correct general view of the ornithological ecology of the State may be brought together and made available."— J. A. A.

**Bangs on the Wood Rails.**— Only the species occurring north of Panama<sup>1</sup> are here treated, namely *Aramides axillaris*, *A. cajanea*, *A. albiventris*, *A. a. mexicanus*, and *A. a. plumbeicollis*. Following a 'key' to the five forms, each is described in detail, including tables of measurements, with a discussion of its relationships and geographical distribution. *A. a. mexicanus* is here first described, it differing from true *albiventris* in darker colors throughout.— J. A. A.

**Berlepsch on New Neotropical Birds.**<sup>2</sup>— Of the thirty 'new' forms here described (17 species and 13 subspecies), seven had previously been named and briefly described in Vol. XVI of the Bulletin B. O. C., in May, 1906. *Idioptilon* is a new genus of Tyrannidæ (type, *I. rothschildi* sp. nov.), and a third of the new species and subspecies belong also to this family. About half of these new forms are from Argentina and Bolivia, and the others mostly from Brazil, Ecuador, and Colombia.— J. A. A.

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<sup>1</sup> On the Wood Rails, Genus *Aramides*, occurring North of Panama. By Outram Bangs. American Naturalist, Vol. XLI, March, 1907, pp. 177-187.

<sup>2</sup> Descriptions of New Species and Subspecies of Neotropical Birds. By Hans Graf von Berlepsch. Proc. IVth Internat. Orn. Congress, 1905 (1906), pp. 347-371.