

or manner of occurrence in the State as a whole. The nomenclature is that of the A. O. U. Check-List, brought down to include the changes adopted in the Fourteenth Supplement, published in July of the present year.— J. A. A.

**Penard's Birds of Guiana.**<sup>1</sup>—The authors of the present work (which, unfortunately for English readers, is written in the Dutch language) resided for twelve years in Dutch Guiana and made a large collection of the birds of that region. They therefore write from personal knowledge of the birds, and are able to give much first-hand information of their habits, about which little has heretofore been recorded.

An introduction of about forty pages gives a general account of the local distribution of many of the species, their breeding habits and migrations. The remainder of the first volume treats, in systematic sequence, of the species, from the Grebes to the Cuckoos. There are keys to the higher groups, and descriptions of the species (in small type), followed by a more or less full account of their habits and local distribution.

Volume II, which will contain the remainder of the Picariæ and the Passeres, is now ready for the press, but (we are privately informed) will not be published until proceeds from the first volume become available.— J. A. A.

**Forbes's Statistical Study of the Mid-Summer Bird Life of Illinois.**<sup>2</sup>—This is a summary of some of the more general results of statistical observations made in 1907, in the southern part of the State in June, in the central part in July, and in the northern part in August, by two field observers, Messrs. A. O. Gross and H. A. Ray. The character of the field work is stated, the purpose of which is to obtain "a better knowledge of the significance of birds in the economy of nature." The statistics here presented are of much interest, as are the conclusions derived from them, which a fuller survey may or may not seriously modify. The work here detailed should be greatly extended, and carried on by a sufficient number of competent field observers to enable surveys to be conducted simultaneously in different parts of the State, so as to avoid the necessity of comparing seasonally unlike data, as in the present instance. It is work eminently well worth doing, and becomes trustworthy in proportion to its thoroughness and comprehensiveness, and which we hope to see undertaken energetically on a large scale. The present is an excellent beginning, and the

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<sup>1</sup> De Vogels van | Guyana | (Suriname, Cayenne en Demerara) | Door | Frederik | Paul Penard | en | Arthur Philip Penard | [Volume I] Uitgave van | Wed. F. P. Penard | Paramaribo |— No date = April, 1908. 8vo, pp. xliii + 588, with 173 half-tone cuts in text. Price, \$5.00; postage 30 cents additional. Orders for the work may be addressed to De Wolfe & Fiske Co., 16-20 Franklin St., Boston, Mass.

<sup>2</sup> The Mid-summer Bird Life of Illinois: A Statistical Study. By Professor S. A. Forbes, University of Illinois. Amer. Nat., Vol. XLII, No. 500, August, 1908, pp. 505-519.

generalizations here presented indicate that certain facts and conditions, of which experienced field ornithologists may feel conscious, may eventually be established on a scientific basis.

Professor Forbes points out that from the data thus far collected it is evident that there is a numerical increase in birds from the northern part of the State southward, in the ratio of 133 birds in the central part, and 181 in the southern, to 100 in the northern part. While there is undoubtedly a southward numerical increase, it must be noted that here June in the south is compared with August in the north, which is hardly a fair basis. It would hence be of interest to repeat the reconnaissance, reversing the order. This would furnish a basis for the double comparison of north with south — in June *and* August — and for comparing two censuses of the same region at opposite ends of the breeding season. As is well known, August is the season of moult, when birds are comparatively quiet and seek seclusion, and when, in the latitude of northern Illinois, there is generally a dearth of birds in comparison with June. Some indeed have either begun to move south, or have gathered into loose flocks and are of irregular distribution, and some even occupy different haunts as compared with June. Again, in repeating this reconnaissance in inverse order in respect to season, it would be well — almost important — to employ the same observer as before, since different observers differ greatly in the matter of expertness, and in the taking of such a census all the conditions should be as similar as possible.

The statistics presented respecting the Meadowlark are of exceeding interest, but we do not feel so sure that the inductions based thereon are satisfactory. It is of interest to know that there are many more Meadowlarks apparently in southern Illinois than in northern Illinois, but the greater abundance in pasture lands in northern Illinois in August as compared with their numbers in meadows, than in southern Illinois in June, may be in large part seasonal, since the preferred nesting grounds of Meadowlarks are meadows, while later in the season their dispersal is more general and includes pasture and other open lands as well as meadows.

If we were to make any formal criticism on Professor Forbes's paper, it would be to say that while the work here reported upon is well worth doing, and has been well planned, the data from a single season's work of two observers are too few to warrant the expectation that generalizations from them can be otherwise than premature, since observations made in August in northern Illinois, cannot be satisfactorily compared with others made in June in southern Illinois, since the two periods relate to two very different seasons in the cycle of avian activities.— J. A. A.

**Warren on Birds of Northwestern Colorado.**<sup>1</sup>— An itinerary, illustrated with a map, is given of the author's route in northwestern Colorado in the spring and summer of 1907. Although the main purpose of the

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<sup>1</sup> Northwestern Colorado Bird Notes. By Edward R. Warren. The Condor, Vol. X, pp. 18–26, Jan. 1908.