

to some extent of earlier, ornithological conditions of this limited and somewhat peculiar area. We note a singular slip in the name of the Pied-billed Grebe which is given (in two places) as *Tachybaptus podiceps* instead of *Podilymbus podiceps*; also *Stryx* for *Strix* (p. 427); *articus* for *arcticus* (p. 429); and in respect to diphthongs one is puzzled to know whether it was the intention to separate or combine the vowels *ae* and *oe*, since they occur about as often *æ* and *ø* as *ae* and *oe*, both forms sometimes occurring on the same or adjoining pages; and the same irregularity of usage with *ae* and *æ*. But these are minor faults in an otherwise very carefully printed paper, and one of permanent value as a contribution to faunal literature.— J. A. A.

Beebe on the 'Ecology of the Hoatzin.'— In a recent paper of 22 pages, illustrated with several half-tone plates, Mr. C. William Beebe treats of the history and habits of the Hoatzin,¹ based on his studies of the bird in its haunts in Venezuela and British Guiana. On neither occasion were young birds to be found, so that the notes on the species refer solely to the adults, which were met with in life on the Guarapiche River in northern Venezuela in March, 1908, and on the Abary River in April, 1909. The introduction contains observations on the structure of its well-developed crop, and on the relationships of this "extremely ancient and isolated type." Then follow sections devoted to the history of its discovery, its nomenclature, geographical distribution, its 'general appearance,' its parasites, habits, food, nest and eggs, the author's field notes at the two localities above mentioned, and an account of his photographic studies, the results of which are reproduced in the accompanying half-tone plates, showing its haunts, attitudes in trees, and its nests. Mr. Beebe found the Hoatzin beginning to nest in British Guiana in April, but the nesting season evidently varies, since others have found it nesting here from December to July, and on the Orinoco in September.

The Hoatzins, says Mr. Beebe, "appear to be extremely sedentary, and day after day we could be sure of finding the birds in the same place. We located nine flocks, ranging from a single pair to forty-two in number, and these seemed never to move from their favorite trees except when driven back a few yards into the jungle by our intruding canoe." One of the photographs here published shows a flock of eleven birds. It is unnecessary to say that Mr. Beebe's paper is an important contribution to the history of an exceedingly interesting and hitherto little known bird.— J. A. A.

Beebe on Birds of Northeastern Venezuela.²— Mr. Beebe, accompanied by Mrs. Beebe, spent about three weeks, during March and April, 1908,

¹ A Contribution to the Ecology of the Adult Hoatzin. By C. William Beebe, Curator of Birds, New York Zoological Society. *Zoologica*, Scientific Contributions of the New York Zoological Society, Vol. I, No. 2, pp. 45-66, fig. 1-20. Dec. 28, 1909.

² An Ornithological Reconnaissance of Northeastern Venezuela. By C. William Beebe. *Zoologica*, Vol. I, No. 3, pp. 67-114, fig. 21-37. Dec. 28, 1909.