

Sclater's Birds of Colorado.¹— This work forms a handsome uncut octavo volume of 576 pages, beautifully printed on heavy unsized paper, illustrated by sixteen excellent halftones from photographs of birds and nests by R. B. Rockwell, E. R. Warren and H. W. Nash; a contour map of Colorado and a frontispiece portrait of General William J. Palmer.

As he explains in the introduction Mr. Sclater was induced to prepare this volume by the often expressed desire of General Palmer but before it was ready for publication the General died and the work now appears as a personal tribute to him, the expenses of publication being defrayed by his sister-in-law, Mrs. Wm. L. Sclater and his brother-in-law, Mr. Chase Mellen. General Palmer's interest in nature and in the welfare of the Colorado College Museum of which Mr. Sclater was for some time director are thus fittingly memorialized.

The introduction contains a few paragraphs on the physical features of Colorado and nominal lists of the birds arranged according to character of occurrence and vertical distribution.

The main text consists of a key to the orders, keys to the families and genera, and keys to the species, diagnoses of the families and genera; and detailed treatment of the species. Under each species are given the A. O. U. number; references to the published Colorado records, the papers being listed in a bibliography at the end of the volume and referred to here by number; a full description; a paragraph on distribution, abundance and time of occurrence; and a short account of habits.

The Aiken collection of Colorado birds secured for the Colorado College Museum by General Palmer forms the basis of Mr. Sclater's work while he makes special acknowledgment to Chas. E. Aiken, E. R. Warren and Judge Junius Henderson for assistance and to the extensive note-books of the late Dennis Gale.

Mr. Sclater has apparently made an exhaustive study of the literature of Colorado ornithology and his work is a scholarly compilation. Authorities are quoted frequently for nearly all statements—so frequently indeed that one misses the freshness and life that characterize accounts of bird habits drawn more largely from personal experience, but Mr. Sclater makes no claim to original investigations and in the comparatively short period of his residence in Colorado he has certainly admirably mastered the subject which he here presents, the History of the Birds of Colorado.

The nomenclature and classification used are "almost without exception that of the recently published third edition of the A. O. U. Check-List" Whether *Pediocetes*, *Architrochilus* (for *Archilochus*) and *Chondestes gram-*

¹ A History of | the Birds of Colorado | By | William Lutley Sclater | M. A. (Oxon.), M. B. O. U., Hon. M. A. O. U. | (Lately Director of the Colorado College Museum.) | with Seventeen Plates and a Map. | Witherby & Co. | 326 High Holborn London | 1912. American agents Stechert & Co., West 20th St., N. Y. City. Price, \$5.

micus are intentional or accidental deviations we cannot say as they are used without comment.

It would have been better perhaps if the 'distributions' had been quoted more exactly from the A. O. U. list as some of them as they stand are rather misleading, the Western Grebe for instance is said to breed south to central Mexico. Some other remarks are rather startling as the statement that the Thrasher gets its name from "its habit of beating or thrashing the insects it catches until dead and deprived of wings and legs," while the 'double moult' as a character of the Sylviidæ does not seem to apply to any of the Colorado species. By a curious *lapsus* Mr. D. D. Stone is constantly referred to as Mrs. Stone! These however do not detract from the general excellence of Mr. Sclater's volume which certainly provides Colorado ornithologists with an admirable basis for future work.— W. S.

Howell's Birds of Arkansas.¹ — There are to-day but few states without adequate bird-lists. One of the most neglected in this respect has been Arkansas, but thanks to Mr. Howell we have now an admirable annotated catalogue of the 255 species and subspecies hitherto taken in the state or reported by competent observers.

The data upon which the report is based were largely collected by the author during a collecting trip in the spring and early summer of 1910, while additional information was gathered by other members and correspondents of the Biological Survey. The dearth of publications on the birds of Arkansas may be realized when we find that the author is able to quote only four titles in his bibliography and that prior to 1902 only 48 species had been reported from the state.

The distribution, time of occurrence and relative abundance of the various species are well discussed by Mr. Howell while the breeding ranges of several species are carefully mapped, those of the Whip-poor-will and Chuck-will's-widow proving to be almost exactly complementary. Several excellent halftone plates from drawings by Fuertes and photographs of characteristic scenery and a faunal map add to the attractiveness of the report.— W. S.

Burns on the Broad-winged Hawk.² — Mr. Burns has brought together in this monograph a vast amount of information. It is based upon "twenty-two years of personal observation and five years of close study of the literature." Those portions which are based upon the author's personal observations form the most valuable part of his work. Mr. Burns has

¹ Birds of Arkansas. By Arthur H. Howell, Assistant Biologist, Biological Survey. U. S. Department of Agriculture. Biological Survey Bulletin No. 38. 1911. pp. 1-100.

² A Monograph of the Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*, by Frank L. Burns with the co-operation of over one hundred American Ornithologists and the compilation of the World's Literature. Wilson Bulletin, XXIII, Nos. 3-4, Sept.-Dec., 1911, pp. 141-320.