

opossum and swine are just as apt to contaminate water as the buzzard (pasturage also in the case of hogs), and the dog and chickens are far more likely to carry infection by bodily contact with other domestic animals than the buzzard. It seems evident therefore that at the same time that steps are being taken to greatly reduce or exterminate a wild bird — the buzzard — which may possibly play a minor part in the transmission of anthrax, farmers are harboring several domestic animals that have far greater possibilities as spreaders of the disease. The fact that the disease may be carried by flies is more than sufficient to explain the most severe epidemics.

However, the real fault lies with none of these animals, but with man himself. Dr. Morris says "we believe that the neglect to properly dispose of anthrax carcasses is, without doubt, the factor most responsible for the continuance and spread of anthrax." (p. 16.) In accordance with the most primitive ideas of sanitation, the cleaning up of all kinds of matter likely to become the source of disease, has too long been left to the buzzard, opossum and the domestic scavengers in the South. It is inexcusable to wage warfare upon a bird which cannot harm us unless we give it the opportunity by our own criminal negligence. Let the farmers bury deeply all animals dying on their premises, doing this as promptly as possible after death, and there will soon be no reason for laying blame for the transmission of stock-diseases upon any animal, wild or domestic.—
W. L. M.

Cassinia, 1912.¹ — Under the new regime 'Cassinia' remains the same interesting yearbook of an ornithological club that evidently is very much alive. We note that Mr. Stone, the former editor, is the principal contributor, three articles being credited to him. One is a sympathetic sketch of the life of General George A. McCall, who was one of the chief aids to Cassin in the preparation of his book on the 'Birds of California and Texas.' Mr. Stone presents also the customary summary of observations on the migration of birds in the vicinity of Philadelphia. A slightly larger number of migrants arrived later than the average date of arrival than earlier. Attention is called to the greater variation in this respect of the earlier migrants. Two striking features pointed out are the scarcity of Bluebirds and the unusual abundance of Goldfinches in April.

Another article on migration, by Professor W. W. Cooke, contrasts the dates of arrival in 1791 as recorded by Dr. Benjamin S. Barton with the average dates for recent years. There is no significant variation in the lists at opposite extremes of more than a centenary period. Barton's publication contains the earliest record of the Swallow-tailed Kite for Pennsylvania, one of the very few records of the Carolina Parakeet for that state and the only one for New York.

Mr. Julian K. Potter contributes a 'Preliminary Report on Roosting Habits of the Purple Grackle in the Delaware Valley.' He finds that no

¹ Cassinia. A Bird Annual. Vol. XVI. Philadelphia, 1912, 72 pp.

particular type of growth is favored for a roosting place, that the same roosts are resorted to year after year, and that persecution, other than the destruction of trees does not affect roost stability. The number of birds in the roosts constantly increases up to the last of September and the main body of the birds leaves about the last week of October.

This volume of 'Cassinia' contains also a reprint of a newspaper article relating to a great nesting of Passenger Pigeons in Forest and Warren Counties, Pa., in 1886; a collection of reminiscences of Philadelphia collections and collectors, by Dr. Spencer Trotter; a bibliography of Pennsylvania ornithology for 1912; a list of members and the proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club. The average attendance of the 15 club meetings during the year was 22, and it is stated that only once in 15 years has the average fallen below 19. This is a record of which any local ornithological club might well be proud.—W. L. M.

The Ornithological Journals.

Bird-Lore. Vol. XV, No. 1. January-February, 1913.

The Duck Hawks of Taughannock Gorge. By A. A. Allen and H. K. Knight. With excellent illustrations.

Local Decrease in Bluebirds. By W. W. Cooke.—Affected area lies just north of the regular winter range.

Notes from Labrador. By A. C. Bent.

The Migration of North American Sparrows. By W. W. Cooke.—The Snow Buntings. Plumage notes by Chapman and color plate by Fuertes. Bird-Lore's Thirteenth Bird Census.—199 lists are published.

The Hudsonian Curlew by A. C. Bent and the Ruffed Grouse by Geo. Bird Grinnell are the 'Educational Leaflets.'

The Condor. Vol. XIV, No. 6. November-December, 1912.

Study of the Eggs of the Meleagridæ. By R. W. Shufeldt.

Nesting of the Rocky Mountain Nuthatch. By F. C. Willard.

A Horseback Trip across Montana. By Aretas A. Saunders.

Nesting Habits of the Western Bluebird. By Harriet W. Myers.

W. L. Sclater presents a reply to W. W. Cooke on his 'Birds of Colorado.'

The Condor. Vol. XV, No. 1. January-February, 1913.

A Glimpse of Surf-Birds. By W. L. Dawson.—Illustrated by a series of remarkable photographs.

Concealing and Revealing Coloration of Animals. By Junius Henderson — A general review of the problem.

Swallows and Bed-bugs. By Edw. R. Warren.—Need of more data on bird parasites emphasized.

Notes on Some Fresno County Birds. By John G. Tyler.—Six species discussed.

Bird Notes from the Coast of Northern Lower California. By George Willett.—Annotated list of 98 species.

The Outlook for Conserving the Band-tailed Pigeon as a Game Bird of California. By Joseph Grinnell. (See p. 291.)