

he found there. The number of 'island races' described from the Canaries is considerable and our author is thoroughly up to date in his recognition of them and in his use of trinomials in their designation.— W. S.

The New Nature Library.¹— It seems but a few years ago that the only popular works on general natural history were those of Rev. J. G. Wood and a few others who wrote from a British standpoint and who had but little to say of American species. The publication of a Nature Library, exclusively American, was therefore an exceedingly happy idea. The volumes constituting the original library are familiar to a large number of nature lovers, and ornithologists who, to be good ornithologists, should know something of the other classes of animals as well as of plants, have found them a valuable series of reference volumes. The new thin paper edition reduces the bulk of the set about one half and makes them handier for consultation. It is to be regretted that in getting out a new edition the groups overlooked in the previous one could not have been included — the salamanders for instance among the vertebrates, and the beetles among the insects, as well as the whole series of lower marine invertebrates. Had the molluscs been restricted to North American species as was done in all other groups these might easily have been added without much increase in bulk. However the volumes will guide many a student and answer many a question for the amateur for years to come.— W. S.

Recent Publications on Economic Ornithology.— Two recent bulletins of the U. S. Department of Agriculture deal with birds. 'Five Important Wild-Duck Foods' by W. L. McAtee² is published in response to a demand for a similar publication which appeared some time ago. In these days of bird refuges and sanctuaries it is important to know what to plant in order to furnish food for birds of all kinds. In this paper the 'Delta Duck Potato' and 'Wapato' both species of *Sagittaria*, the 'Chufa,' *Cyperus esculentus*, 'Wild Millet' *Echinochloa crus-galli* and the 'Banana Water Lily' *Nymphaea mexicana* are discussed. 'Birds in Relation to the Alfalfa Weevil' By E. R. Kalmbach³ will be of value to all growers of forage plants. While at present restricted to northern Utah the pest is spreading and it is well to remember the part birds play in its destruction and also to know that young chickens and turkeys are an excellent check to the weevils if allowed to feed in infested fields.

Mr. H. P. Attwater⁴ has compiled an excellent Bulletin for the Texas Department of Agriculture entitled 'Use and Value of Wild Birds to Texas

¹ The New Nature Library. Vols. I-VIII. Doubleday Page and Co. New York. Cloth, \$31.50.

² Five Important Wild-Duck Foods. By W. L. McAtee. Bulletin 58, U. S. Dept. Agr., pp. 1-19. Feb. 7, 1914. Price, cts.

³ Birds in Relation to the Alfalfa Weevil. By E. R. Kalmbach. 107, Bull. U. S. Dept. Agr., July 27, 1914, pp. 1-64.

⁴ Use and Value of Wild Birds to Texas Farmers and Stockmen and Fruit and Truck Growers. Compiled by H. P. Attwater. 1914. Bull. No. 37, Texas Dept. of Agr., pp. 1-61. Distributed by the Commission of Agriculture, Austin, Tex.