

cult to say, but the name seems to have a status in nomenclature and hence renders Dr. Shufeldt's name invalid. We would propose as a substitute **Phasianus roberti** nom. nov. after Dr. Robert W. Shufeldt.—W. S.

White on an Expedition to the Interior of Australia.¹— This paper treats of the scientific results of a trip, on camel back, of 1300 miles undertaken by Capt. and Mrs. White primarily for the purpose of adding to the knowledge of the avifauna of interior Australia. Their route lay north from Oodnadatta, the railroad terminus 700 miles north of Adelaide, and extended to the headwaters of the Finke and Todd Rivers. "A dry and awful country which, when the rain comes, blossoms like the rose, but in a short space of time (about eight weeks) once more subsides into its normal state of drought." Capt. White adds "The dreary aspect and the solitude of this vast country followed us like a nightmare as we travelled south." Collections in various departments were made and are treated by specialists, the narrative and the account of the birds being by Capt. White. One hundred and eighteen species and subspecies are listed, six of which have been described as new by Mr. Gregory M. Mathews in the 'Austral Avian Record.' The stomach contents of sixteen species are described by Mr. Arthur M. Lea.—W. S.

Cassinia, 1914². The editor of the Delaware Valley Club's publication, Mr. Robert Thomas Moore, has brought out another exceedingly interesting number, though its appearance is somewhat delayed. While the policy of restricting the scope of 'Cassinia' to the states bordering on the Delaware is wisely continued, the character of the articles demonstrates the unlimited possibilities of intensive study in a limited area.

Dr. Spencer Trotter contributes to the series of biographical papers a discussion of 'Old Philadelphia Bird Collectors and Taxidermists' in which a disappearing type is considered from personal acquaintance with such examples as Chris. Wood, John Krider, etc. John D. Carter shows the possibilities of close observation on Delaware River birds even though only a short time each day may be available for the purpose. George Spencer Morris gives a delightful account of the Tacony Valley where his home is located and about which are centered all his early ornithological associations.

Henry Oldys has a paper on 'Individual Variety of Bird Songs' suggested by a paper by Mr. Moore in last year's issue of 'Cassinia' and Dr. Cornelius Weygandt writes of 'Summer in the Poconos' in his attractive style.

¹ Scientific Notes on an Expedition into the Interior of Australia carried out by Capt. S. A. White, M. B. O. U., from July to October, 1913. Trans. Royal Soc., So. Australia, XXXVIII, pp. 407-474, pl. XXI-XXXIX, 1914.

² Cassinia: A Bird Annual. Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club. 1914. pp. 1-80, pl. I-V. March [= April, 1915.] Delaware Valley Ornith. Club, care Acad. Nat. Sciences, Philadelphia. Price 50 cts.

The summary of the spring migration is fuller than usual owing to a material increase in the corps of observers, and there are the 'Abstract of Proceedings,' 'Bibliography' and 'Club Notes.' Under the last appears an account of the Twenty-fifth anniversary dinner of the Club on January 7, 1915, at which 66 members and seven guests were present. The average attendance at the meetings during 1914 was approximately 24.—W. S.

Publications on Bird Protection.—Mr. E. H. Forbush's annual report¹ as state ornithologist of Massachusetts is, as usual, full of interesting facts and valuable suggestions. Among other things he shows the effect of birds in checking the ravages of the army worm, the effect of the destruction of ducks, herons and other aquatic birds on the abundance of mosquito larvæ and the prevalence of diseases transmitted by these insects. Ducks at least are known to devour mosquito larvæ in quantities. The European Starling and the havoc it causes in the orchards by pecking apples and pears and devouring cherries are also considered at length.

The Alabama Bird Day Book for 1915² for which the Commissioner of Game and Fish, Mr. John H. Wallace, Jr., is responsible, is as usual admirably fitted for its purpose, replete with short sketches and poems suitable for Bird Day celebrations and illustrated by some of the Mumford color plates of familiar species. Alabama stands well in the lead among the states of the Union in furthering the observance of Bird Day.—W. S.

Bird Enemies of two Beetle Pests.—The huisache (*Acacia farnesiana*) a favorite shade tree in the southwest is damaged by a longicorn beetle (*Oncideres putator*). "It is believed that the Southern Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens*) and probably also the Texas Woodpecker (*Dryobates scalaris bairdi*) attack the larvæ. While neither of these birds has been found with larvæ, they have been observed at work on branches that contained numerous larvæ of this insect and have left empty chambers behind."³

A click beetle, seriously injurious to corn, oats and cotton, is reported upon by entomologists of the South Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station. They report that in both 1912 and 1913 "the elytra of this beetle were recognized in the excrement of a Nighthawk, presumably *Chordeiles virginianus*. These elytra were found to be very frequent in the excrement of this bird in a field of tasseling corn where thousands of these

¹ Seventh Annual Report of the State Ornithologist [of Massachusetts] for the Year 1914, Sixty-second Ann. Rept. State Board of Agr., pp. 1-31. January 13, 1915.

² Alabama Bird Day Book. Issued by Department of Game and Fish. John H. Wallace, Jr., Commissioner; Miss Sophia Watts, Secretary. [Montgomery, Ala.]

³ High, M. M. The huisache girdler. Bull. 184, U. S. Dept. of Agric., April 8, 1915, p. 8.