

British Board of Agriculture Reports on the Food of the Rook, Starling, and Chaffinch.¹—The present reports are based on the examination of the stomachs of 277 rooks, 748 Starlings and 527 Chaffinches by Professors F. V. Theobald and Wm. McGowan (pp. 1–49) and 332 Rooks, 662 Starlings and 490 Chaffinches by Professor H. S. Leigh (pp. 49–56). These investigators agree fairly well that the Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*) is more injurious than beneficial, that the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) if not too abundant, is a friend of the agriculturist, and that the Chaffinch (*Fringilla cœlebs*) is about neutral so far as choice of food is concerned, but that a true estimate of its economic value depends upon the extent (as yet unknown) to which it distributes seeds of injurious plants. Details of the analyses are given.—W. L. M.

Food of a Collection of South Australian Birds.—On an expedition to the Musgrave Mountains in northwestern South Australia, Capt. S. A. White, preserved stomachs of 45 of the species of birds collected. The contents of these were analyzed by Mr. Arthur M. Lea of the South Australian Museum and analyses have been published in the report on the expedition.² These are among the most definite of notes on the food of Australian birds, and the report will be of great value to whoever attempts the task of assembling and generalizing all such information.—W. L. M.

Recent Publications on Bird Conservation.—Bulletins and reports on one phase or another of bird conservation are appearing so rapidly that it is possible only to mention them very briefly in this connection. The U. S. Department of Agriculture in Farmers' Bulletin No. 774³ presents the usual summary of the game laws for 1916, while Senate Executive Document E. gives the text of the recent wild bird treaty with Canada. Massachusetts is well to the fore with valuable publications. A beautifully printed work⁴ by Bradford A. Scudder is published by the Fish and Game Protective Association, presenting full information regarding methods of attracting and increasing the numbers of wild birds; while a bulletin⁵ on the natural enemies of birds and a circular⁶ on food plants to attract birds and protect fruit, both by Edward H. Forbush are issued by the State Board of Agriculture.

An especially noteworthy and welcome bulletin is issued by the Uni-

¹ Suppl. 15, Journ. British Bd. Agr., May, 1916. pp. VI + 56.

² Trans. Roy. Soc. South Australia, 39, 1915, pp. 760–766.

³ Game Laws for 1916. By T. S. Palmer, W. F. Bancroft, and Frank L. Earnshaw. Farmers Bulletin 774, U. S. Dept. Agriculture. October 9, 1916. pp. 1–64.

⁴ Conservation of Our Wild Birds. By Bradford A. Scudder. Massachusetts Fish and Game Protective Assoc., 748 Tremont Bldg., Boston, Mass. [1916], pp. 1–71.

⁵ The Natural Enemies of Birds. By Edward Howe Forbush. Economic Biology Bull. 3, Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture. Boston, Mass., 1916. pp. 1–58.

⁶ Food Plants to Attract Birds and Protect Fruit. By Edward Howe Forbush. Circular No. 49, *Ibid.*, 1916. pp. 1–21.

versity of South Carolina entitled 'Decrease of Birds in South Carolina,'¹ by Belle Williams, secretary of the South Carolina Audubon Society. This presents reports from all over the State on the abundance of birds, enforcement of laws, etc., and covers effectively the whole problem of bird conservation in one of the states where educational work of this kind is sadly needed.

In 'Science' for September 15, Dr. Joseph Grinnell and Mr. Tracy I. Storer discuss 'Animal Life as an Asset of National Parks.'—W. S.

The Ornithological Journals.

Bird-Lore. XVIII, No. 5. September–October, 1916.

Cardinals Through the Year. By Mrs. Robert G. Steele.

Protection of Migrating Birds in England. By W. W. Grant.— Describing the perches on lighthouses.

An Ancient Bird Census in Asphaltic Petroleum. By M. C. Frederick.— Account of the bird remains discovered in the La Brea deposits, Los Angeles, Cal.

Oregon Notes. By Sarah G. Pickins.

Winter Feeding-Stations at Highland Park, Rochester, N. Y. By W. L. G. Edson and R. E. Horsey.— Tabulates actual number of visits to feeding stations in one day. The Chickadees score was 1239!

Screech Owl Johnnie. By Florence M. Bailey.

The colored plate depicts four species of Thrasher, while the Audubon leaflet treats of the Avocet.

The Condor. XVIII, No. 5. September–October, 1916.

More Bird Notes from Big Bear Valley, San Bernardino Mountains. By W. M. Pierce.— Fourteen species.

Meeting Spring Half-way (cont'd). By Florence M. Bailey.— Corpus Christi to the Mexican Boundary.

A Hospital for Wild Birds. By Dr. W. W. Arnold.

Some Birds of the Fresno District, California. By J. G. Tyler.

Some Bird Notes from Humboldt Bay. By Joseph Mailliard.

Notes of the Golden Eagle in Arizona. By F. C. Willard.

The Oölogist. XXXIII, No. 9. September 15, 1916.

Relative to the Bald Eagle in Alaska. By I. J. Van Kammen.

Alarming Scarcity of Vultures. By E. F. Pope.— Destroyed in Texas as carriers of cattle disease. Cf. also No. 10.

Blue-Bird. VIII, No. 8. September, 1916.

An Experience with the Winter Wren. By C. J. Stanwood.— An admirable study of the nesting and rearing of the young.

The Wilson Bulletin. XXVIII, No. 1. March, 1916.

¹ Decrease of Birds in South Carolina. By Belle Williams. Bull. 47, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia, S. C. August, 1916. pp. 1–69.