

Rhinebeck Birds and Seasons.¹—The numerous 'Bird Clubs' that are springing into existence all over the country find it necessary to issue some sort of annual report which is often enlarged, by the addition of special articles and illustrations, into quite a pretentious publication. With men of experience to guide them such as Mr. Baynes in the Meriden Club, and Mr. M. S. Crosby and Mr. Clinton G. Abbott in the Rhinebeck Club, these brochures may be made into valuable contributions to ornithological literature.

The present publication is one of these and gives an excellent resumé of methods to attract birds; an account of the winter bird life of the vicinity of Rhinebeck, N. Y.; the spring and autumn migration and the nesting season, all of which abound in accurate dates drawn from Mr. Crosby's large experience. As these clubs increase in their number of trained observers why cannot they conduct coöperative studies of at least the spring migration in their vicinity? Such work under competent direction is much more valuable than that of scattered individuals, and the director, knowing the members of his corps personally, can form a better estimate of the accuracy of their work than a distant compiler, and censor the manuscripts accordingly. The results can then be communicated to some center, national or state as the case may be, and the work of the central compiler greatly reduced. The methods of coöperative work adopted by the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club for the past sixteen years are well worth studying in this connection.

Meanwhile we have only praise for the 'Report of the Rhinebeck Club' which is not only valuable for its contents but is a neat and attractive piece of book-making.—W. S.

Shufeldt on Fossil Birds from Florida.²—In a paper by Mr. E. H. Sellards on 'The Association of Human Remains and Extinct Vertebrates at Vero, Florida' there are two pages on the fossil birds of the Vero deposit, contributed by Dr. Shufeldt in advance of his complete report. The following new names are here proposed, *Querquedula floridana*, *Larus vero* and *Ardea sellardsi*. The first two are nomina nuda as no descriptions accompany them, the last must however, rest upon the diagnosis here given. Nothing whatever is gained by quoting these new names in advance as is here done, except to provide a stumbling block for all bibliographers of the future. The rules of nomenclature are clear enough as to the fact that there is no such thing as a 'preliminary' description. The

¹ Rhinebeck Birds and Seasons. Articles Published in the Rhinebeck Gazette October 3rd, 1914, to September 25th, 1915. By Maunsell Schiefflin Crosby. Illustrated with Photographs by Members of the Rhinebeck Bird Club. To which is added the Second Annual Report of the Rhinebeck Bird Club. Published by the Rhinebeck Bird Club, Rhinebeck, N. Y. 1916.

² On the Association of Human Remains and Extinct Vertebrates at Vero, Florida. By E. H. Sellards. Reprinted from The Journal of Geology, Vol. XXV, No. 1, Jan.-Feb., 1917. Report on Fossil Birds from Vero Florida. By R. W. Shufeldt. pp. 18-19.