

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.

first description is the original description upon which a name must stand, and in these days there is absolutely no excuse for such careless practises. When so much time has to be taken up in going over the imperfect work of the older writers it is hard to understand why present day authors persist in perpetrating the same sort of crimes against taxonomy, to trouble future generations. 'The Auk' has no personal feeling in such cases, but is doing its utmost to discourage careless systematic work and to persuade all journals to insist upon full and adequate diagnoses of new forms.— W. S.

'**Cassinia**'.¹— With the current issue of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club's annual, Dr. Spencer Trotter assumes the duties of editor. The high type of the publication both as to typography and character of contents is fully maintained and both the editor and the Club are to be congratulated upon the appearance of this, the sixteenth annual number.

The opening article is by Dr. Trotter and is an interesting biography of Wm. P. Turnbull, author of that beautiful little brochure on the 'Birds of East Pennsylvania and New Jersey' which Dr. Coues refers to as "the best printed treatise on American birds extant" and in which his amanuensis found "no typographical error after close scrutiny."

Henry W. Fowler, the president of the Club, presents a list of 'Some Rare or Unusual Birds in Upper Philadelphia', supplementary to a previous list published in 'Cassinia' fourteen years ago.

An excellent account of the nesting of the Least Bittern is furnished by Julian K. Potter, who fortunately studied the habits of the birds and development of the young, and photographed the nest at various stages, thereby adding to our knowledge of the species to an extent that could not be done by the mere collecting of the set of eggs.

Thomas D. Burleigh contributes a list of breeding birds from Samar, Clinton Co., Pa.

The usual 'Report on Bird Migration' and 'Abstract of the Proceedings of the Club' close the number. Those possessing this issue should make sure that reprinted pages have been substituted for pp. 27-30 which contained errors in the migration tables.— W. S.

Shelton's Land Birds of West Central Oregon.²— In this well prepared bulletin Mr. Shelton presents a list of 143 species with the status of each in the district under consideration, which is nearly coincident with the boundaries of Lake County. The method of treatment follows that of Dr. Joseph Grinnell's distributional list of California birds with the synonyms omitted. An introduction discusses the life zones of the area,

¹ Cassinia, Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, of Philadelphia. 1916. Issued March, 1917. pp. 1-58.

² A Distributional List of the Land birds of Western Oregon. By Alfred C. Shelton. University of Oregon Bulletin, New Series, Vol. XIV, No. 4. January, 1917. 8vo, pp. 1-51, figs. 1-10.