

in a new investigation by Mr. E. R. Kalmbach,<sup>1</sup> Assistant Biologist of the Biological Survey. A large amount of new and more recent information has been collected through correspondence and the number of stomachs upon which conclusions on the food habits of the bird are based, has increased from 909 at the time of the previous report to 2118.

The matter is clearly and concisely presented under various headings and the results and conclusions summarized at the close of the report. The omnivorous habits of the Crow and the resulting complexity of the problem of determining its worth to man can readily be appreciated when we learn that no less than 656 different items were detected in the stomachs examined. After carefully weighing all the factors in the case, Mr. Kalmbach concludes that while the Crow undoubtedly does much damage in destroying corn and other crops, poultry, nestlings and eggs of wild birds, etc., nevertheless the enormous amount of good that it does in destroying noxious insects, especially in the early spring, when they are at the lowest ebb of their life cycle, constitutes a benefit that we cannot afford to dispense with. Therefore he considers that while the bird should not be protected no efforts directed toward its extermination should be tolerated. In other words it should be kept at about its present abundance and should be allowed to be shot whenever it is found doing damage.

In the Delaware Valley, according to the reviewer's experience, there seems no doubt but that the Crow has decreased considerably during recent years, owing apparently to the molestation of the roosts, and if this condition prevails over other parts of its range, it may be that by the time another report on the bird's economic value appears, it will be necessary to give it some measure of protection. Ornithologists would be sorry to see a bird of such varied interest and historical association, seriously reduced in numbers, when there is no more call for such action than Mr. Kalmbach has shown, and we sincerely hope that his practical recommendations will be accepted throughout the country.

This excellent report is illustrated by an admirable colored plate of the Crow from a painting by the author, a map of the United States locating 174 Crow roosts, and a diagram showing graphically the food of the Crow throughout the year.—W. S.

**Arthur's 'Birds of Louisiana.'**—This list published as a 'Bulletin of the State Department of Conservation'<sup>2</sup> is issued in response to the demands of schools, nature teachers and others interested in extending a knowledge of the wild birds of the state. Mr. Arthur has done his work well, giving us an authoritative list of species according to the A. O. U.

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<sup>1</sup> The Crow and its relation to Man. By E. R. Kalmbach. U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Bulletin No. 621. February 16, 1918. pp. 1-92.

<sup>2</sup> The Birds of Louisiana. Bulletin 5, State of Louisiana, Department of Conservation, M. L. Alexander, Commissioner. [By Stanley Clisby Arthur, Ornithologist.] pp. 1-80. New Orleans, January 1918, with several maps and other text figures.

'Check-List,' with the several local vernacular names and brief comments on the time of occurrence, relative abundance, habits and more important color marks. No less than 368 species and subspecies are listed in this pamphlet, an increase of forty-five over the list of Messrs. Beyer, Allison and Kopman, published in 'The Auk' (Vols. XXIII, XXIV and XXXII).

An introduction of eight pages considers the history of Louisiana bird life, migration and other general topics, while a number of small maps and half-tone text figures illustrate this interesting and welcome publication.—W. S.

**Murphy on the Natural History of the Mexican Portion of the Colorado Desert.**<sup>1</sup>—Mr. Murphy made two trips into this interesting region in March 1915, for the purpose of securing specimens of the Lower Californian Pronghorn and other desert animals for the museum of the Brooklyn Institute. In the present paper he presents some general information about the region, an exceedingly interesting and well illustrated narrative of his trips and an annotated list of the birds, as well as some account of the Pronghorn.

The list of birds comprises 134 species and includes besides those observed by Mr. Murphy, a number of others which were secured or observed by Mr. Samuel N. Rhoads on a trip through this country in 1905 (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1905, pp. 679-690). Mr. Murphy's excellent paper forms a valuable supplement to Dr. Grinnell's recent report on the fauna of the Lower Colorado Valley, farther north.—W. S.

**Batchelder on New Birds from Newfoundland.**<sup>2</sup>—An examination of a considerable series of Ovenbirds and Yellow Warblers taken during the breeding season in Newfoundland, has convinced Mr. Batchelder that they are separable subspecifically from individuals from the rest of eastern North America, and he therefore proposes for them the names, *Seiurus aurocapillus furvior* (p. 81) and *Dendroica aestiva amnicola* (p. 82) respectively. In a general way these new forms are darker in coloration than the 'typical' races.

The establishment of very slightly differentiated geographical races in the east will soon bring us face with some of the problems that have troubled our friends in California and other parts of the west, in the matter of sight identifications. The advent of a "Brown-headed Chickadee" in the eastern states a year ago, which could not be subspecifically identified without collecting the specimen, caused great speculation as to how observations on the bird should be recorded and as these Newfoundland Oven-

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<sup>1</sup>Natural History Observations from the Mexican Portion of the Colorado Desert. By Robert Cushman Murphy. Abstract Proc. Linnæan Soc. of New York, Nos. 24-25, 1917, pp. 43-101, plates I-VI.

<sup>2</sup>Two Undescribed Newfoundland Birds. By Charles Foster Batchelder. Proc. New England Zool. Club, VI, pp. 81-82. February 6, 1918.