

There is a preliminary review of the arrangement of *Nestor* in relation to other parrots in the classifications of various authors, and we were in hopes that Dr. Shufeldt, with the material at his disposal, would shed some further light on the subject, but upon turning to the conclusions we are disappointed to find only that "the family Nestoridae may now be considered an established fact, in so far as the morphology of *Nestor notabilis* is concerned." However, the plates and detailed description should aid others to make fuller comparisons with skeletons of the supposed allies of *Nestor* when opportunity offers.—W. S.

Murphy's Photographs of South Georgia Birds.—In the American Museum Journal for October, 1918, Mr. Robert C. Murphy has a number of photographs of the birds of South Georgia Island accompanied by explanatory descriptions. Full accounts of these species have appeared in his several papers in 'The Auk' and six of the photographs were previously published in connection with them. Several of those now published have been enlarged and are printed with more extended backgrounds adding much to their appearance.—W. S.

Taverner's Recent Papers on Canadian Birds.¹—In the 'Canadian Alpine Journal,' Mr. P. A. Taverner has published a list of birds secured or observed by the Canadian Geological Survey Expedition, mainly by Mr. Wm. Spreadborough, in Jasper Park, Alberta, during the summer of 1917. Most of the notes deal with species supplementary to Mr. J. H. Riley's list for the same region, published in the Journal for 1912, and they are numbered continuously with it, from 79 to 108. The few notes on species listed by Riley are entered without numbers. There are some interesting remarks on the southward movement of Horned Owls and Goshawks and their destruction of the Grouse, and also some systematic conclusions of interest. The two Song Sparrows obtained on the expedition, topotypes of Riley's *Melospiza m. inexpectata*, are regarded as closest to a series of *merrilli* identified by Oberholser and Mr. Taverner fails to find "the characters described by Riley as characteristic of his new form." The Canada Jays he regards as nearest to *Perisoreus c. fumifrons* if that is a tenable subspecies, certainly nearer to *canadensis* than to *capitalis*. The Flickers were none of them pure, with the *cafer* tendency stronger than the *auratus*.

Another important paper by the same author is on 'The Hawks of the Canadian Prairie Provinces in their Relation to Agriculture.'² This corroborates the results obtained by the investigations of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, in that the majority of hawks, with the exception of the Accipiters, are beneficial. The damage done by Gophers both as destroyers

¹ Addenda to the Birds of Jasper Park, Alberta. Canadian Alpine Journal, Vol. IX, 1918, pp. 62-69.

² Museum Bulletin No. 28, Canadian Department of Mines. Biol. Series, No. 7. August, 1918.

of crops and as carriers of cattle disease is emphasized, as well as the importance of conserving the Buteonine hawks as a natural check upon them when their chief enemy the Coyote disappears. The plea that has recently been advanced in Pennsylvania in defense of removing protection from these birds — i. e. that the farmer cannot distinguish one hawk from another and therefore does not know when he can kill a hawk, if some are protected and others not, is disposed of in the following words: "With so much at stake a farmer or sportsman is no more justified in advancing ignorance as an excuse than he is in proclaiming his inability to distinguish between crops and weeds . . . discrimination is a part of his business and as such should be studied." Eight colored figures of hawks from clever paintings mainly by F. C. Hennessey illustrate the paper.— W. S.

'Aves' in the Zoological Record.¹— Mr. W. L. Scater has again ably catalogued the ornithological literature of the world, for the year 1916. Titles to the number of 942 are listed and systematically catalogued, an increase of eight over 1915. We notice that the German ornithological journals were accessible in England for at least a part of 1916, while none have reached 'The Auk' or any of the American libraries, so far as we are aware, since the issues for July or August, 1915! Evidently the British ornithologists are not inclined to adopt Lord Walsingham's suggestion (cf. *Nature*, Sept. 5, 1918) that for the next twenty years at least scientific men shall by common consent ignore all papers published in the German language. Dr. W. J. Holland's reply to Lord Walsingham's proposition (*Science*, Nov. 8, 1918) should be read by all interested in this matter, and we think all fair-minded persons will agree with him that there are plenty of ways to secure justice against the Germans without disrupting the whole underlying framework of scientific nomenclature, which we have been at such pains to build up. Such arbitrary action is, as he says, only an attempt "to beat the Prussians by Prussianizing ourselves." We are therefore very glad to find the last installment of 'Aves' as complete as its predecessors with the contributions from the central powers included, no matter how strictly we may hold them accountable for the crimes of the war. The value of Mr. Scater's compilation to the working ornithologist we have emphasized on a former occasion and we can only endorse what was said then and again commend the Zoölogical Society for maintaining this record for us during the strenuous years that have just passed.— W. S.

Proceedings of the Linnæan Society of New York.²— Besides the usual numerous notes dealing mainly with the vicinity of New York City

¹ *Zoölogical Record*, Vol. LIII, 1916. *Aves*. By W. L. Scater, M. A., pp. 1-72. August, 1918. Printed for the Zoölogical Society of London, sold at their House in Regent's Park, London, N. W. Price six shillings.

² Abstract of the Proceedings of the Linnæan Society of New York for the year ending March 12, 1918, No. 30, 1917-1918. Issued September 18, 1918, pp. 1-38, one plate.