

Reservation with Warden Sprinkle last spring, can testify to the painstaking devotion of these men to the work that they have undertaken and the need of more adequate remuneration for their services. The patrol of the government reservations has now passed from the Audubon Societies to the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, where it properly belongs. The long list of reports of allied and State societies contain much of interest and illustrate how widespread the interest in popular bird study has become.

In the face of this most encouraging report it is distressing to turn to the editorial in the last issue of 'Bird-Lore,' in which we learn of the action of Legislatures and Congress leading to the drainage and opening to settlement of portions of the Klamath Lake Reservation in Oregon and California. The former operations have already converted part of the lake into a desert, and the only hope for saving this most important refuge seems to lie with the Secretary of the Interior whose interest might be aroused if sufficient appeals were made to him.—W. S.

Bulletin of the Essex County Ornithological Club.¹—This attractive publication introduces a new bird club apparently of a type of which we cannot have too many. We have only praise for the numerous "Audubon" clubs which are springing up all over the country, but of necessity their activities are so completely taken up with conservation of wild life and the furthering of popular and elementary nature study, that the more serious side of ornithology, such as has engaged the attention of the "Nuttall," "Cooper" and "Delaware Valley" Clubs, has not come within their scope. The mingling of the two activities in one organization has not been productive of very happy results and we therefore welcome the organization of "ornithological" clubs wherever the material for such clubs exists. The presence of an "Audubon" club in the same community in no way complicates the situation and members of the former may readily be also active in the latter. The Essex County Club, like two of the three mentioned above, is a men's club and was formally organized in 1916, although a nucleus had existed since 1907 as the "Ipswich River Bird Trip." The present officers of the club are: President, Frank W. Benson; Vice President, Albert P. Morse; Secretary, Ralph Lawson; and Treasurer, Albert B. Fowler; and the meetings are held at the Peabody Museum at Salem, Mass.

Besides the account of the founding of the Club, By-Laws, Calendar and List of Members, the present publication contains an article on the 'Identification of Hawks in the Field' by Dr. C. W. Townsend; 'Thirteen Ipswich River Bird Trips' by Ralph Lawson, with a list of 136 species observed; 'Coöperative Effort in Bird Study' by Arthur A. Osborne; and 'Told Around the Big Table'—a department for general notes. Under

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the last head we notice that the contributions are signed only with the initials of the authors, a practice which sanctioned by custom in the case of reviews is certainly open to criticism in the case of scientific contributions.

In looking over the various records we wonder if the observer of the Connecticut Warbler in May fully realized the excessive rarity of this species in the east, in spring, or was familiar with the plumage of the female Mourning Warbler which has a more or less conspicuous eye-ring and bears a striking resemblance to the Connecticut. Mr. Brewster's statement that there was not a single spring record of the bird in any part of Massachusetts in which he had full confidence, is significant.

We wish the Essex County Club every success and trust that the present publication is the forerunner of a series of valuable bulletins upon the bird life of the district.—W. S.

Hollister's Account of the National Zoo.¹—In the Report of the Smithsonian Institution for 1917, published in 1919, there is an admirable popular account of the animals in the National Zoological Park, prepared by the director, Mr. Ned Hollister. It is fully illustrated by half-tones from photographs and a number of these are devoted to the birds, the Californian Condor, Whistling and Trumpeter Swans being among the more notable of the North American species. Among foreign species figured are the Horned Screamer, Cape Barren Goose—inadvertantly marked "Barren Ground Goose"—Black and Mute Swans, etc.

This pamphlet should serve an excellent purpose in producing a more intelligent interest in foreign birds and mammals. The great trouble with American systematic zoologists until quite recently has been that they have dealt almost exclusively with North American species and the broadening of the field in the present generation is most encouraging. In furthering this tendency our zoological gardens offer the best opportunities but too often there is a lack of accessible information about the mammals and birds that may be on exhibition. Mr. Hollister's "popular account" furnishes just what is needed, and may lead many a young student to a wider study of mammalogy and ornithology than he would otherwise have followed.—W. S.

Cory's Review of the Genus *Rhynchocyclus*.²—In this useful paper Mr. Cory gives the results of his study of the specimens belonging to this genus in the collection of the Field Museum of Natural History.

¹ The National Zoological Park: A Popular Account of Its Collections. By Ned Hollister. From the Smithsonian Report for 1917, pages 543-593, with 46 plates. Washington, 1919.

² The Relationships and Geographical Distribution of the Species and Races belonging to the Genus *Rhynchocyclus*. Proc. Biological Society of Washington. Vol. 32, pp. 217-224. December 31, 1919. By Charles B. Cory.