

**Kirk Swann's 'Synoptical List of the Accipitres.'**<sup>1</sup>—This useful list is continued from *Herpetotheres* to *Pernis* in the present instalment, completing eighty genera. We notice that our American White-tailed Kite is regarded as a subspecies of the Australian *Elanus axillaris*. With actual intergradation out of the question this disposition of the bird must have been made upon the claim of overlapping of characters, but we fail to find the claim sustained upon an examination of material at hand, though it is interesting to note the resemblance between the two species in connection with the arguments for a relationship between the Australian and South American faunas which have from time to time been published.

This instalment of Mr. Swann's work contains an additional list of ten species and subspecies omitted from the preceding parts, among which we notice *Spizaetus batesi* W. Selater, which we regard as identical with *S. africanus* Cassin.—W. S.

**Dr. Shufeldt's Bibliography.**—In the 'Medical Review of Reviews' for January, 1920,<sup>2</sup> there is begun a bibliography of the writings of Dr. R. W. Shufeldt prepared by himself, with a short introduction from which we learn that since the appearance of his first paper in 1881, he has published from twenty-five to thirty papers or books annually, the total at the present time numbering considerably over 1500. The subjects while largely biological, cover a wide range of topics. The present instalment runs to the end of 1888 and carries the list to No. 201. The author's papers, as is well known, are so widely scattered that a bibliography of this sort will be a convenience to those who wish to consult them, and surely no one is so well fitted for compiling the list as the author himself. Our only regret is that the biographical portion is not more complete.—W. S.

**Stuart Baker on Egg Collecting and Its Objects.**—It is very gratifying to have an article on egg collecting from one who is himself a collector and yet who fully appreciates what is meant by the word science. When the scientific ornithologist has attempted to point out the weak points in egg collecting, he receives scant attention from the egg collector who considers that he knows nothing about the subject, while many a collector who claims to be collecting for "scientific" purposes fails to show the slightest appreciation of the meaning of that term.

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<sup>1</sup> Synoptical List of the Accipitres (Diurnal Birds of Prey) Part III. January 20, 1920, pp. 77-114. Price, 4 shillings.

<sup>2</sup> Complete List of My Published Writings. With Brief Biographical Notes. (First Instalment.) By R. W. Shufeldt, M. D., Major, Medical Corps, U. S. Army. Medical Review of Reviews, XXVI, No. 1, January, 1920, pp. 17-24. Frederick H. Robinson, senior editor, 51 East 59th St., New York City, N. Y. Price per number, 25 cents.

Mr. Baker starts out with the quotation of a leading ornithologist: "Of egg collectors we have many, of oölogists, alas! but very few," which he says is "a very true summing-up of the situation, however depressing it may be." He goes on to say that the basal idea of those egg collectors who have *some* object in view is to ascertain and record the color and description of the eggs of each species of bird, but he adds, all such preliminary work has already been done. The real work now is to discover the underlying reasons for coloration and peculiar shape and the method of adaptation and eliminative protection. There is also the study of relationship in egg structure between birds of different families and genera as an aid to working out the true classification of birds, as well as the study of geographic variation in eggs in connection with the range of the species and the recognition of subspecies.

"The crudest and most deservedly abused form of collector," says Mr. Baker, "is the man sets out with the ambition of filling one box or drawer with the eggs of one species. Such collections merely form a mass of beautiful dead things which gratify his eye and sense of possession." He also warns against making a specialty of abnormal sets for such a collection, while it may be very beautiful is "scientifically almost useless," since all scientific work must be done upon normal sets.

There are great opportunities for developing "oölogists" out of our host of "egg collectors" if they are guided in the right paths, and Mr. Baker's paper may be read with profit both by the collector and by those who are opposed to collecting. Incidentally the journal in which the paper appears, 'The Oologists' Exchange and Mart,'<sup>1</sup> is an admirable little publication dealing with the serious side of egg collecting and well worthy of perusal by American oölogists.—W. S.

#### **Economic Ornithology in Recent Entomological Publications.—**

Allusions by entomologists to the bird enemies of various insects are cited and discussed in the following paragraphs, each devoted to a different insect or group of insects.

False wireworms (*Eleodes*).—These are the larvae of beetles of the family Tenebrionidae, which are injurious in western states to grain, fruit and garden crops. The author of the paper reviewed<sup>2</sup> notes from various sources that Burrowing Owls, Butcher Birds, Crows, Crow Blackbirds and Red-headed Woodpeckers prey upon these beetles and further states that adults have been found by the Biological Survey in stomachs of 13 species of birds. This record may now be considerably improved. The most important economic species of false wireworm (*Eleodes tricolorata*) has been found in the stomachs of eight species of birds, as follows: Frank-

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<sup>1</sup> The Oologists' Exchange and Mart. Kenneth L. Skinner, Editor, Brooklands Estate Office, Weybridge, England. Subscription, \$1.25 per year.

<sup>2</sup> McColloch, J. W. Journ. Ec. Ent., Vol. II, No. 2, April 1918, pp. 219-220.