

these papers attention might be called to the author's report¹ on a collection made at Parana in 1910 and 1911 which apparently appeared in 1912.—W. S.

Oberholser on Bird Life in the Great Basin.²—One naturally associates Dr. Oberholser's name with the most technical treatises dealing with nomenclature and taxonomy, and the present paper will doubtless come as a pleasant surprise to many who are unacquainted with his versatility. He has here presented us with an admirable popular sketch of the physical characteristics and bird life of one of the most interesting of the desert areas of the west—the Great Basin.

The habits and appearance of many of the water and shore-birds of Tule and Pyramid Lakes are described in some detail as well as of a number of the more truly desert birds which are not dependent upon the presence of bodies of water. The student of the life history and behavior of our native birds will find Dr. Oberholser's paper one well worth consulting. While no scientific names appear, one cannot but notice some of the peculiarities of the English names, for which the author is probably not responsible. Instead of following the standard forms established by the American Ornithologists' Union and in very general use, we find the editor of the Smithsonian Report, insisting that "humming bird" and "mocking bird"³ consist of two words with not even a hyphen, though "meadowlark" and "nighthawk" pass as single words. In another report from the same institution however, we find "humming-bird" hyphenated!—W. S.

McAtee's Community Bird Refuges.³ In this attractively gotten up pamphlet the author calls attention briefly and concisely to the advantages of increasing the number of birds on or about our farm lands. While the average number of birds to the acre throughout the country is shown to be two, the number has been increased by the offer of suitable inducements to as many as 59 pairs. At an annual average value of 10 cents each to the farmer, as insect destroyers,—a ridiculously low estimate, the birds of the United States effect a saving of four hundred million dollars every year, and it is readily seen that the more we can attract to our grounds the better.

The usual methods of erecting nest boxes, winter feeding, planting of berry bearing bushes, etc., are mentioned, with references to other available publications on the subject. A novel feature however, is a plea for

¹ Compt. Rend. Soc. Scient. de Varsovie, 1912, V. Ann., fasc. 8. pp. 452-500. [In Polish with condensed reprint in French].

² Glimpses of Desert Bird Life in the Great Basin. By Harry C. Oberholser. Smithsonian Report for 1919, pp. 355-366. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1921.

³ Community Bird Refuges. By W. L. McAtee. Farmers' Bulletin 1239. U. S. Dept. Agr., December, 1921, Svo. pp. 1-14.