

Plovers, Sandpipers and other Limicolae illustrating as heretofore the seasonal plumages, including the downy young, of all species which breed in Holland. There are in addition plates of several of the Hawks, Gallinaceous birds and Rails. The plate of the Ruff shows admirably the large number of confusing plumages which this remarkable bird assumes, while those depicting the Black Cock and Ring-necked Pheasant are also interesting in showing seasonal and other variation.—W. S.

**Hartley's 'The Importance of Bird Life.'**<sup>1</sup>—This volume covers a much wider field than one would suppose from the title. The value of birds to agriculture and the means taken for their protection are fully considered, but unlike most similar works it does not stop there but includes chapters on the value, history, etc., of domestic fowls and pigeons; accounts of birds that are trained to hunt, to sing, and to perform in other ways; the history of the plume industry, of guano, of game birds and game laws. There is thus a large amount of information to be found here which would have to be sought for in various special publications and would not be available to the general reader. We gather here data on the flight of Homing Pigeons and learn that their fastest flight is at the rate of ninety miles an hour and that this is also the fastest accurately recorded rate for flying ducks. We can also obtain information on the history of falconry and the principles of poultry raising and of breeding for egg laying hens, some of which have now reached the record of 200 eggs a year. A number of half-tones from photographs illustrate many of the chapters. Mr. Hartley's book will prove a valuable work of reference for those desiring information on many branches of bird study not contained in the usual popular ornithological works. So far as we can judge from a hasty perusal of the volume the information is accurate, although we cannot quite share the author's optimism on the absolute success of the war on the plume trade, especially in the case of England where the protectionists do not seem to be satisfied with the working of the plume law, nor can we become enthusiastic on the future of our wild game for the preservation of which, we fear, vast protected breeding grounds must be provided and the number of gunners reduced, unless we are to be contented with and successful in breeding game for stocking private shooting grounds.

In the account of the nature of feather coloring the author is not quite clear, as he seems to say in one paragraph that in blue and metallic feathers the colors are "chemically composed and may be extracted by means of reagents," while in the next he states that blue feathers owe their color to surface structure which if eradicated will bring out the basic color which was previously concealed. We think there has been some typographical error in the former sentence while in the latter, though mainly

<sup>1</sup> *The Importance of Bird Life. A Popular Account of its Economic Significance and Conservation.* By G. Inness Hartley. Illustrated. New York. The Century Co. 1922. pp. 1-316. Price \$2.00.

correct, the blue is not dependant on *surface* structure as can be learned from the article on 'Blue Feathers' in the present issue of 'The Auk'.

In the list of birds which have been exterminated the use of "America" instead of North America or the United States is somewhat misleading as some of the species said to be extinct "in America" are still plentiful in Middle or South America. The term is, as we know, often used synonymously with the United States but not in scientific works or in distributional discussion. In this connection too we might suggest that the Scarlet Ibis said to be "found in the Gulf States; now exterminated in America" had never more than one definite record for North America—three birds seen by Audubon flying overhead in Louisiana. The Roseate Spoonbill, moreover, we hope is not quite extinct, while we notice that the Dickcissel has been exterminated in some states under that name and in others as the Black-throated Bunting, thus figuring twice in the list of species on the road to extinction. These are however, but casual slips in compilation and do not affect the value of Mr. Hartley's excellent volume.—W. S.

**White's 'Check-List of the Birds of New Hampshire.'**<sup>1</sup>—This is another of those convenient little pocket lists for the recording of observations of which quite a number are appearing today. The names, technical and vernacular, are printed on the outer edge of the left-hand page with several narrow blank pages inserted, the paper being wide ruled ledger with each species occupying one line. The total number of species is 292, eight of them being additions to Dr. Glover M. Allen's list, namely: *Gavia pacifica*, *Pelecanus occidentalis*, *Mareca penelope*, *Nyctanassa violacea*, *Numenius borealis*, *Sturnus vulgaris*, *Spiza americana* and *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*, for the inclusion of which references are given. The author very wisely is content with the nomenclature of the A. O. U. 'Check-List' and attempts no innovations; The simplicity of the arrangement should appeal to everyone who uses it, while the good quality of the paper insures permanency to the records. We note with interest the inclusion of the English Sparrow, but at the end of the list instead of in its proper place. The Sparrow as we have always contended is in exactly the same category as the Sterling and if one is included in our daily lists so should the other.—W. S.

**Chisholm's 'Mateship with Birds.'**<sup>2</sup>—Popular bird study is going on apace in Australia even though it may have been later in getting started

<sup>1</sup> Check-List of the Birds of New Hampshire (F. B. White, Concord, N. H., October 1922.) pp. 1-120.

<sup>2</sup> Mateship with Birds. By Alec H. Chisholm, Past President Queensland Gould League of Bird Lovers, Past President Queensland Naturalists' Club, State Hon. Secretary Royal Australian Ornithologists' Union, Co-Editor Queensland Naturalist, etc. With an Introduction C. J. Dennis ("The Sentimental Bloke,") Illustrated with Photographs from Life by the Author and Others. Whitcombe & Tombs Limited. 189 Little Collins Street, Melbourne. [Also London.]