

style, setting forth his careful observations without ornamental embellishment. The first three treat of the Purple Martin, its nesting habits; the feeding of the young; and the roosting place near St. Louis, Mo. The latter is in a willow thicket along the Mississippi, the birds assembling at first on a sand bar, thus differing materially from the habit of the species as we know it at Cape May, N. J., where they roost in a grove of rather tall maples with no previous place of assemblage except on rooves of buildings or telegraph wires.

There is also an account of a Crow roost at St. Louis; a sketch of the winter bird life of that region as well as a review of the bird life of the Ozarks and of parts of Taney County, Mo.; and an account of the Chimney Swift.

In the Ozark paper attention is given to a much neglected species, the Bewick's Wren, which here, as in the mountain foot-hills of south central Pennsylvania, occupies the rough country to the exclusion of the House Wren.

Mr. Widmann's sketches are delightful reading and form a contribution of no little importance to the ornithology of Missouri.—W. S.

Figgins' 'Additional Notes on *Branta canadensis*.'¹—Mr. Figgins after a lapse of several years returns to the controversy with Mr. Harry S. Swarth on the status of *Branta canadensis hutchinsi* and *occidentalis* which he still contends are hybrids, while the forms *canadensis* and *minima* he thinks should be regarded as species. The old points of difference are gone over again at some length and some additional data presented, notably measurements of specimens from the Arctic Coast and Hudson Bay supplied by Dr. R. M. Anderson. Such questions are purely matters of personal opinion until adequate series of breeding birds are secured, a condition which does not, in the present case, seem to have been reached. Meanwhile the varied interpretations of older writers and the question of what measurements shall and shall not be used does not seem to get us nearer to a solution. Hybridism however, we might add is a very difficult thing to prove.—W. S.

Abbott's 'What Comes from What.'²—This little pamphlet consists of charts representing graphically the relationship between all groups of plants and animals from the lowest moulds and bacteria to the flowering plants, and from the infusoria to the vertebrates. They are of course mainly compiled and while ingenious, cannot be taken too seriously because individual opinion as to lines of descent differ so greatly.

¹ Additional Notes on the Status of the Subspecific Races of *Branta canadensis*. By J. D. Figgins. Proc. Colorado Museum of Natural History. Vol. IV, No. 3. December 15, 1922, pp. 1-19.

² What Comes from What, or the Relationships of Animals and Plants. By Charles L. Abbott. Published by the Author. 600 Ivy Street, St. Paul, Minn. pp. 1-48, Price \$1.00.

Few ornithologists, for instance, will admit that the Hummingbirds were evolved directly from the Swifts or that the latter came through the Tree Swifts from the Caprimulgidae. Nor can we say that the South American Tanagers arose directly from the Sturnidae of the Old World especially when our best authorities are unable to clearly differentiate them from the Fringillidae. Nevertheless the author has ingeniously contrived to place the various orders and families in such a way that their general relationship is indicated.—W. S.

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL JOURNALS.

Bird-Lore. XXV, No. 1. January–February, 1923.

Stories from Birdcraft Sanctuary. By Mabel Osgood Wright. III. The Winter Patrol.—Care of the reservation in winter and accounts of bird visitors.

Bird-Lore's Twenty-third Christmas Census. Edited by John T. Nichols.—The usual large list from all parts of the country which will be carefully studied by local students. We congratulate the editor upon his practice of inserting queries after records which appear to him doubtful and which are not accompanied by corroborative data. The carelessness that is becoming prevalent in publishing uncorroborated observations will ruin the whole value of sight records if not checked, and will compel us to throw them all out in preparing authentic State lists etc. Trained ornithologists are well aware of this fact and where they err in not insisting upon corroborative data they are all the more to blame, as they should be an example in this respect to the beginners. The observer who finds his most interesting observation queried or rejected will be very careful to furnish details next time.

Visitations of Siskins and the presence of wintering Towhees seem to have been the features of this winter in the Atlantic States.

In connection with Mr. Potter's list of 43 species from Cape May, N. J. it may be of interest to know that the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club on its annual hike on Washington's birthday saw 51 species in the same locality and failed to see 14 of those listed by Mr. Potter and no trace of spring migration was yet in evidence. So does winter bird life vary from day to day.

Mr. Pearson continues his account of the Herons of the United States and a plate by Fuertes depicts the Egret, Great White, Great Blue and Würdemann's Herons.

The Condor. XXIV, No. 6. November–December, 1922.

The development of Young Costa Hummingbirds. By R. S. Woods.—Illustrated.

Evidence of Musical "Taste" in the Brown Towhee. By Richard Hunt.—This is a long discussion of song development through mimicry. The author heard two Brown Towhees in far distant localities both adding