

Part XII of this work, which was not received at the time of issue and hence not noticed in these columns, is entirely devoted to ducks with an excellent colored plate of the wings of the surface feeding species. Of these the Mallard, Teal, Widgeon and Pintail are included in *Anas* and the Pochard, Scaup, Ringneck etc., which one or two recent authors have so hopelessly separated, are kept together in *Nyroca*.—W. S.

Lönnberg on Palaearctic Goshawks.—In this paper¹ the author comments on the great variability of these birds and the difficulty of determining what differences are due to age and season and what to geographic variation. He confirms Schiöler in finding a difference between the Goshawks of middle Europe and the Scandinavian peninsula but shows that the name for the former should be *dubius* not *gallinarum*. A new race *Astur gentilis poecilopterus* (p. 215) is described from northern Russia and a specimen from Kansu, China, identified with *A. g. khamensis* Buturlin.—W. S.

Todd on the Genus Arremonops. Mr. Todd as a result of a careful study of a large series² of specimens recognizes seven species of this genus. *A. conirostris* (3 subspecies), *striaticeps* (4 subspecies), *chloronotus tocuyensis*, *verticalis*, *superciliosus* (3 subspecies) and *rufivirgatus*, (2 subspecies). *A. conirostris umbrinus* (p. 38) Merida, Venezuela, is described as new.—W. S.

Reports of the Roosevelt Wild Life Station.—The March Bulletin³ of the Roosevelt Wild Life Forest Experiment Station contains two major papers. 'The Summer Birds of the Alleghany State Park' by Aretas A. Saunders and 'The Ruffed Grouse with Special Reference to its Drumming' by Edmund J. Sawyer.

The former is an admirable account of the breeding birds of the Park, arranged in strictly ecological groups; birds of the orchards and shade trees; the open fields; the upland thickets; the forest floor and undergrowth; the upper branches and forest crown; the marshes, the water margins and lowland thickets. There are plates in colors of four of these groups from paintings by E. J. Sawyer and numerous half-tones of characteristic habitats, which unfortunately do not do justice to the photographs from which they are taken on account of being printed on ordinary text paper.

There is a chapter on field identification and a key based on field characters, while the author has much to say on songs and call notes, a subject to which he has given much thought and study. His attempts at syllabic representation of songs are the best we have seen and he wisely refrains

¹ Some Remarks on Palaearctic Goshawks. By Einar Lönnberg, *Ibis*, April, 1923, pp. 211-217.

² A Synopsis of the Genus Arremonops. By W. E. Clyde Todd. *Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash.*, Vol. 35., pp. 35-44, March 28, 1923.

³ Roosevelt Wild Life Bulletin, Vol. I, No. 3, March, 1923. Published Quarterly by the University, Syracuse, N. Y., pp. 229-386, pls. 25-29, figs. 71-122. Map 4

from using English words, preferring to form arbitrary syllables which represent the bird notes as they sound to him.

The usual data of time of occurrence, relative abundance etc., are given, but the keynote of the whole paper is field identification; a subject to which we cannot give too much attention in these days, when sight records are becoming our main stock in trade in many ornithological investigations. Mr. Sawyer's paper on the drumming of the Grouse, illustrated by 28 snapshots of drumming birds, is a monograph on the subject. The author has watched, at a distance of a dozen feet, at least a hundred drummings and upon the data thus secured are his conclusions based, although he also discusses the more important publications on the subject.

The main new facts that he feels that he has proven—although one of them he states has previously been assumed—are that (1) the outward and upward motion of the wings is chiefly responsible for the drumming sound, not the forward and downward stroke, the latter being practically silent; (2) the striking of the air with the wings is practically the sole cause of the sound; (3) the fluttering at the end of the drumming is devoid of the ventriloquism which marks the preceding part of the performance; (4) frequently the bird turns completely around before drumming but faces the same way each time on a given log. The details of his observations are replete with interest and should be carefully read by all who are interested in this noble game bird. The bulletin as a whole is one of the best yet issued by the Station.

In this connection, attention should be called to a paper¹ on the 'Relation of Wild Life to the Public in National and State Parks' by Dr. Chas. C. Adams, director of the Station. This should be carefully read by everyone interested in wild life preservation. The pleas against *extermination* of any species and against the introduction of exotic species of animals or plants into wild life preserves are points well taken and should have the widest publicity. Our National and State parks and reservations are our only hope for the preservation of any part of the primaeval wilderness and all commercialism or destruction of Nature's balance within these areas must be prevented. Certain species may be "pests" or "vermin" on the farmer's acres and may have to be killed there to allow some other species of commercial value to increase abnormally, but in the wilderness where the aim is to preserve primaeval conditions all species are on the same footing and nature who has always taken care of their interrelation can be trusted to govern them without man's interference.—W. S.

Recent Papers by Bangs and Penard.—Messrs. Outram Bangs and Thomas E. Penard have recently described a new Bee-eater² *Merops*

¹ The Relation of Wild Life to the Public in National and State Parks. By Dr. Charles C. Adams. Proc. Second Nat. Conference State Parks, 1922. pp. 129-147, 1923.

² A New *Merops* from Java, Proc. N. E. Zool. Club, VIII, p. 43, Feb. 27, 1923.