

the Roosevelt Experiment Station is unique in several respects. There is no lengthy annotated list, but a series of chapters describing the bird life of various sections of the Park, as one takes a typical trip through it, from Gardiner to Mammoth Hot Springs, Yellowstone Lake and the Grand Canyon followed by sketches of the bird life of the various characteristic environments'—the forests, open country, brooks and rivers etc., with special consideration of the Mallards, the White Pelicans and the Trumpeter Swans of the Yellowstone. Finally there is a key for field identification and a nominal list of the birds of the Park, with English and technical names, a bibliography and two maps.

There are many half-tone illustrations from photographs by the author and others and four colored plates from paintings by E. J. Sawyer, representing groups of birds of the forests; Yellowstone Lake; open country and wooded streams. These are similar in character to those furnished by the same artist for earlier bulletins and are equally well done.

With regard to the Trumpeter Swans we learn that Mr. Skinner has seen them on eight occasions during the years 1915-1921 from one to five individuals on each occasion. Of the Pelicans, he writes that about 700 are present for an average of ninety-six days each season, the date of arrival varying from April 28 to May 23, while that of departure ranges from September 5 to 7. The winter home of these Pelicans is not definitely known and the bird banders have here an interesting opportunity!

Mr. Skinner is to be congratulated upon an admirable piece of work especially well adapted to the needs of visitors to the Park who should make sure to obtain a copy of the report while it is at the same time an excellent work of reference for the ornithologist engaged on faunal work or on the life history of individual species.—W. S.

**Aves in the Zoological Record.**—Mr. W. L. Sclater has again performed the arduous task of compiling the list of ornithological papers and new species for the 'Zoological Record' for 1923. This publication is absolutely essential to the working ornithologist who must know what has been published each year and what new species have been described or his work will be likely to prove useless and confusing duplication.

It is therefore a very serious matter for all zoologists when the Zoological Record is threatened, as it now is, with suspension owing to the inability of the Zoological Society of London to longer meet the increasing expense of its publication. Recently other institutions and individuals have in some measure come to its assistance but it is absolutely necessary that this support be continued in greater measure. It would seem that there are many members of the A. O. U. who could well afford to purchase the 'Aves' section. The publication<sup>1</sup> would amply repay them in giving a

<sup>1</sup> Aves. Zoological Record. Vol. LX, 1923. By W. L. Sclater, M. A. Printed for the Zoological Society of London. Sold at their House in Regent's Park, London, N. W., 8., pp. 1-75. Price, 7 shillings and 6 pence. December, 1924.

clearer idea of the extent of the ornithological literature of the world while there would be the satisfaction of knowing that they were helping to make the progress of scientific ornithology possible.

Mr. Selater has listed no less than 1027 titles for the year 1923, all of which are arranged alphabetically by authors and again classified under the various special topics of which they treat and the countries whose bird life they discuss. Then there are the names of all new species and subspecies, reviews of groups and special notes on particular birds, all arranged systematically so that one may, at a glance, obtain references to all that has appeared relative to any branch of ornithology or the birds of any family or country. Mr. Selater has again placed all ornithologists in his debt for his careful and conscientious work. (see further p. 483 seq.)—W. S.

**Stoner's Sketch of the Life of Audubon.**—The University of Iowa has issued an 'Extension Bulletin' on the life of Audubon<sup>1</sup> which in a supplementary sheet is credited to Prof. Dayton Stoner. It would perhaps have been better had the authorship remained anonymous since the sketch is full of errors,—a particularly unfortunate fact in view of the educational character of the publication. The writer was apparently quite ignorant of Prof. Herrick's 'Life of Audubon' which corrected so many of the misstatements of earlier biographies (see 'Auk,' January 1918) and has taken his data from one of the latter, so that we find both the date and place of Audubon's birth erroneously stated and other errors regarding his early life. But in addition to this, the facts of his life are so badly garbled that it is difficult to understand how the sketch could have been prepared. To cite a few of the errors Audubon is credited with securing 300 subscribers to his work in 1824, before ever going to England, while as a matter of fact he had not then published a single plate nor definitely decided to publish, his first subscribers were obtained abroad and it is doubtful if he had as many as 300 all told. The ornithologist Charles Bonaparte is referred to as "Joseph Bonaparte" and the title of the 'Birds of America' is constantly misquoted. We trust that the publication in the interests of accuracy may be withdrawn from circulation.—W. S.

**Kirke Swann on the Birds of Prey.**<sup>2</sup>—The third part of Kirke Swann's 'Monograph of the Birds of Prey' is fully up to the standard of its predecessors. It covers the remaining species of *Circus*, the genera *Microrastur*, *Clamosocircus* (p. 145, new name for *Climacocircus* Cab. preoccupied), *Geranospiza*, *Urotriorchis*, *Parabuteo*, *Melierax* and begins the great genus *Astur*.

Besides the excellent synonymy and technical discussion under each

<sup>1</sup> Stoner's 'Life of John James Audubon' University of Iowa Extension Bulletin No. 116. January 15, 1925, pp. 1-10.

<sup>2</sup> A Monograph of the Birds of Prey. By H. Kirke Swann, London, Wheldon & Wesley, Ltd. 2, 3, and 4, Arthur St., New Oxford St., W. C. 2. Part III.