

and the true Carolinian not at all, being restricted to the lower Connecticut Valley and the north coast of Long Island Sound.

Mr. Forbush's comments on the natural enemies of birds deserve the careful attention of all of his readers. He says, very truly, "In a state of nature the natural enemies of any species are as essential to its welfare as are food, water, air, and sunlight. They serve to check the increase and regulate the numbers of other species which in turn, when so regulated, tend to perform a similar office for vegetation. Unthinking people are slow to realize this. . . . We destroy the Great Horned Owl, the greatest enemy of the Crow and Crows become unduly numerous and injurious. If we seriously reduce the Crows, Robins, upon which they prey, will probably become so abundant as to do great injury to small fruits. . . . The indiscriminate destruction of Herons, Hawks, Owls, Crows, skunks, weasels and other enemies of rats and mice and the larger insects, is sure to result in great periodical increases of such creatures which never can be checked by humans without great effort and expense." These are but a few of the many carefully explained instances of the danger of upsetting Nature's balance, and one should read them all and be careful to follow Mr. Forbush's advice that "the views of the well-meaning but misinformed man who advocates the extermination of lesser native natural enemies of birds should be given no serious consideration."

In the preface the author pays a tribute to the late Louis Agassiz Fuertes and as we look upon his beautiful plates—the last that he prepared for publication, we realize once more the great loss that both science and art have suffered in his passing. We understand that some of the plates for Volume III were prepared before his death but the completion of the series must be entrusted to another hand.

We trust that by this time Mr. Forbush has gotten the remainder of his text so far completed that he will soon be free from the enormous labor that its preparation has entailed, and in heartily congratulating him on the completion of Volume II, we wish him all speed with Volume III.—W. S.

Bent's 'Life Histories of North American Shore Birds.'—Mr. Arthur Cleveland Bent with tireless energy has produced another—the seventh—volume¹ of his 'Life Histories' of North American Birds. This covers about half of the Shore-birds including the Phalaropes, the Stilts and Avocets and the Snipe and Sandpipers from *Scolopax* to *Totanus* in the sequence of the A. O. U. 'Check-List.' When the other volume of the Shore-birds appears the entire series of the 'water birds' will have been completed.

¹ Life Histories of North American Shore Birds. Order Limicolae (Part I). By Arthur Cleveland Bent of Taunton, Massachusetts. Bulletin 142, U. S. Nat. Mus., United States Government Printing Office, Washington, 1927. pp. i-ix + 1-420, pl. 1-55 (included in pagination). Price 85 cents; from Superintendent of Documents, Gov't. Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

The volume before us follows exactly the excellent plan of its predecessors, with abundant quotations from publications and original field notes of collectors and explorers, especially the many recent explorers of the arctic and subarctic regions. As most of the Shore-birds breed far to the north, but little detailed information on their nesting habits has been available until quite recently, and in Mr. Bent's work we have the life history of many of the American species adequately presented for the first time.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Bent for his painstaking compilation and it is gratifying to note the response that his request for information has received from those best able to furnish it.

The accounts of the breeding of certain species such as the Knot and the Sanderling which we know only as transients along our sea shores are especially interesting. In the case of the former, by the way, one of the earliest records of the discovery of the downy young was, we think, the specimen secured by the late Langdon Gibson at Tucktoo Valley, Greenland, July 11, 1891 (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., 1895, p. 503 and 'Auk,' 1922, p. 360).

The illustrations are, as usual, excellent, consisting of photographs of nests and eggs, downy young and adults.—W. S.

Robinson's 'The Birds of the Malay Peninsula.'—This handsome volume¹ 7.5 x 10.5 inches in size is the first of a series of five and treats of the 'Commoner Birds' of the Peninsula. It is attractively printed and bound and is illustrated with twenty-five colored plates from paintings by Grönvold representing forty species many of which have not been figured before or, if so, inadequately.

By way of introduction there is an excellent map of the peninsula and a brief description of the several states and colonies, some pertinent remarks on zoogeography and nomenclature, and a bibliography.

The main text considers the birds in the order of Sharpe's 'Hand-List.' Each account is headed by the Latin name, binomial or trinomial, as the case may be, and an English name; then comes the original reference and the more important synonymy followed by the Malay name of the bird, Description, Soft Parts, Dimensions, Range in the Malay Peninsula, Extralimital Range, Nidification, and Habits. The diagnoses of the higher groups are popular in character and the keys to the genera and species simple.

The scope and method of treatment are admirable and the finely printed

¹ The Birds of the Malay Peninsula. A general account of the birds inhabiting the region from the isthmus of Kra to Singapore with the adjacent islands. By Herbert C. Robinson C. M. Z. S., M. B. O. U., C. M. Amer. O. U., Late Director of Museums, F. M. S. Volume I: The Commoner Birds, with twenty-five full-page plates in colour. Issued by Authority of the Federated Malay States Government. H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, London, W. C. I. 1927. pp. i-1, + 1-329. pll. I-XXV and Map. Price 35s.