

same thing in very old skins of *Turdus gigas* of South America, as compared with freshly killed individuals.

In a second paper¹ our authors have described *Hypothymis azurea javana* (p. 22) Java; and *Munia atricapilla batakana* (p. 22) Sumatra.—W. S.

Papers on Minnesota Birds.—In a recent number of the Occasional Papers of the Museum of the University of Minnesota² are several interesting ornithological papers.

Dr. T. S. Roberts describes some changes in the distribution of certain Minnesota birds in the last fifty years. Sixteen species are considered of which eleven are recent immigrants from farther south. The Red-bellied Woodpecker, Cardinal, Prothonotary Warbler and Louisiana Water-Thrush are now established summer residents and breed regularly while the Barn Owl, Cerulean, and Blue-winged Warblers, Bewick's and Carolina Wrens, Tufted Tit and Gnatcatcher, while not yet common, are steadily increasing in numbers and breeding records for all have been established.

Five species have come into the State from the west—Brewer's Black bird and the Arkansas Kingbird being now well established while the Burrowing Owl, Lark Bunting and Chestnut-colored Longspur are not yet common. Mr. William Kilgore has a paper on the breeding of the Connecticut Warbler in which he presents all the data so far published with a complete bibliography.

W. J. Breckenridge summarizes the breeding records of Nelson's Sparrow in Minnesota and presents photographs of an authentic nest and eggs while he also describes an interesting hybrid between the Indigo and Lazuli Buntings. There is an excellent colored plate of this hybrid by the author together with the adult and young of Nelson's and LeConte's Sparrows.—W. S.

Poole on Birds of Berks Co., Pa.—Mr. Earl L. Poole, well known as a bird artist and a member of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, has compiled an excellent annotated list of the birds of Berks County,³ Pa., to the avifauna of which he has given especial attention during a residence of ten years in the city of Reading where he is now assistant Director of the Reading Public Museum and Art Gallery.

With the coöperation of local bird students he has accumulated much information on dates of occurrence of the various species and this forms the basis of his list. Under each species is given a general statement of the character of its occurrence with average migration dates and full data for the capture or observation of the rarer forms.

¹ Two New Malaysian Birds. *Ibid.* pp. 22-23.

² Occasional Papers: No. 3. University of Minnesota, Museum of Natural History pp. 1-40 with a plate.

³ The Bird Life of Berks County, Pennsylvania. By Earl L. Poole. Bulletin No. 12 Reading Public Museum and Art Gallery. pp. 1-70 frontispiece plate.

A list of species "reported" as occurring in Berks Co. follows the main list among which we note the Ruddy Turnstone "from near Tuckerton"—obviously, we should think, Tuckerton on the coast of New Jersey, a favorite spot for shore-bird gunners in the past. Mr. Poole has done well to keep this list separate from the main text and we doubt whether many of the birds contained in it really came from Berks Co., so easy is it to make mistakes in cases depending upon memory and to get specimens and data confused.

Well prepared lists such as this are of the utmost importance as they form the basis for state and national catalogues and Mr. Poole is to be congratulated upon an excellent contribution to regional ornithology. An excellent half-tone plate of the Barn Owl from a painting by the author appears as a frontispiece.—W. S.

Wilkinson's 'Shanghai Birds.'—This attractive volume written and published in Shanghai presents descriptions and brief accounts of the habits of the birds found in the vicinity of the city, with colored plates of most of them from paintings by Grönvold. There are also several introductory chapters on identification, bird "sounds," naming of birds, migration and orientation.

The author is to be congratulated upon his success in producing a book that will prove of the greatest assistance to beginners in the study of oriental ornithology and as a result of its publication the next generation should show a great increase in the number of residents in China able to recognize the bird life about them.

The details under each species are well arranged; first a brief statement to aid in field identification bringing out the most striking characters, then a more detailed description with remarks on habits and times of migration, and finally a description of the nest and eggs.

In discussing migration the author has some original remarks on the possibility of an extra sense in birds "which enables them to communicate with one another over long distances," citing the concerted actions of flocking birds and the success of an individual in locating a flock of its own kind at a distant point.

The book is excellently printed and forms a valuable work of reference on the common birds of China.—W. S.

Acworth's 'This Bondage.'²—'This Bondage,' is a curious production, partly because it is a thoroughgoing example of special pleading. The main objects of the work, which are not evident in the early chapters,

¹ *Shanghai Birds. A Study of Bird Life in Shanghai and the Surrounding Districts.* By E. S. Wilkinson. Shanghai North China Daily News and Herald Ltd. 1929. pp. i-xxi + 1-243.

² *This Bondage: A Study of the "Migration" of Birds, Insects, and Aircraft, with some reflections on "Evolution" and Relativity.* By Commander Bernard Acworth, D. S. O., R. N. pp. XXIV-229; 6 figs. London (John Murray), 1930. 8 vo.