

The book consists of rather lengthy descriptions of the sixty-three birds known from the islands mainly compiled from the 'Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum.' There are also some very brief notes and a short preface. It is regrettable that full accounts of the habits of the birds are not presented as a "popular" bird book of the right sort might go far to arouse interest in Samoan bird life and ward off the destruction that the author seems to think inevitable.

The little book is well printed and there are keys to the species included in the various orders and a bibliography.—W. S.

Mrs. Twining's 'Bird Watching in the West.'—We have had an abundance of popular bird books dealing with the familiar birds of the East but in the West until lately the concern of bird students has been with the more serious side of ornithology. Mrs. Twining, however, stands for the growing army of bird lovers both in the East and West, who delight in the bird as a part of nature; furthermore she possesses the ability to express in print her feelings about birds and to picture bird doings that have come under her observation in a way to give pleasure to others of kindred tastes.

The sketches,¹ twenty-nine in number, are arranged in four parts covering the four seasons and to give an idea of the topics we quote from the Autumn section: "Adventures in the Air; From Zone to Zone; The Little Songs of Autumn; Flocks of the Wayside; Robins and Jaybirds; Waxwing Flocks; and Bird Visitors from Mountain Forests."

They deal mainly with the vicinity of her home near Portland, Oregon, but the species are many of them widely spread while an appendix with lists of birds for the western national parks and other spots extends the interest of the book.

There are a number of little pen sketches by way of illustration.

The author says in the preface "I have tried to put into words something of the intrinsic charm of the birds themselves" and "to write about the birds I know the best to the end that those who read may better understand all birds." We think that she has succeeded admirably and her little book should attract a large number of readers.—W. S.

Cassinia for 1929-30.—Financial pressure has made the announcement on the cover of 'Cassinia' somewhat inconsistent as it has, of late years, been a biennial rather than an annual; and for some reason the stated scope "Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware" has in this number been extended to include North Dakota! However, the character and interest of the publication² are amply upheld. There is a biographical sketch of the late Spencer Trotter; an account of southern herons in New Jersey by Chas.

¹ Bird Watching in the West. By Frances Staver Twining (Member, Cooper Ornithological Club). Illustrations by Florenz Clark. 1931. Metropolitan Press, Publishers, Portland, Oregon. Pp. 1-170. Price \$2.00.

² Cassinia. Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club. No. 27 1929-30, March 1932. Pp. 1-72. Price \$1.00.

A. Urner; of ducking on the Susquehanna flats by J. Fletcher Street; a series of data on the nesting of the Hummingbird for fourteen years, often several nests a year, at Fairville, Pa.; and the usual migration report now continued for a period of thirty years; also the abstract of proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club and a bibliography. The activity of the Club is evidenced by the fact that in the two years covered by this number there were thirty-two meetings with an average attendance of thirty-six.—W. S.

Illinois Audubon Bulletin, 1932.—This attractive publication maintains its high standard and interest. The present number² contains among other articles an excellent illustrated account of "Flashlights of Birds," by Tappan Gregory; "Island Bird Life," by W. I. Lyon, describing the terns of Lake Michigan; "Gathering Field Notes for Bird Paintings," by Walter A. Weber; together with local reports and many good illustrations. There is so much real ornithology in these "Bulletins" that they should be in every ornithological library.—W. S.

Economic Ornithology in Recent Entomological Publications.—Entries suitable for this heading seem scarcer than formerly, and only the four following have come to notice in the last two years.

Sugar-beet weevil (*Bothynoderes punctiventris*).—This insect described as the most dangerous pest of sugar beets in the Balkan region of Europe has been carefully investigated in Czechoslovakia. The study of its natural enemies reveals birds as the most important among predators. Stomach analyses done by Dr. O. Farsky showed that crows, jackdaws, jays, magpies, gulls, starlings, partridges, and pheasants are the most effective destroyers of the pest.²

Lesser migratory grasshopper (*Melanoplus atlantis*).—This is the species principally concerned in destructive grasshopper outbreaks in Montana and North Dakota, but one which is injurious also in many parts of a very extensive range. Like all grasshoppers it is freely eaten by predators. The following is said³ of its bird foes: "The most important predatory enemies of this insect in Montana are the Lark Bunting (*Calospiza melanocorys*), Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*), Sage Hen (*Centrocercus urophasianus*), Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Pedioecetes phasianellus*), and domestic turkeys and chickens. Of these the most important is the Lark Bunting, which is very abundant on the prairie lands. Swarms of grasshoppers can often be located by the presence of large numbers of these buntings. The Bureau of Biological Survey has found specimens of this locust in the stomachs of 24 species of birds."

¹ The Audubon Bulletin. No. 22, 1932. Pp. 1-64. Illinois Audubon Society. c/o Chicago Acad. Sci., Clark and Center Sts., Chicago.

² Rozsypal, Jan., The Sugar-beet pest, *Bothynoderes punctiventris* Germ. and its natural enemies, Bul. l'Ecole Sup. d'Agron., Brno, C, 16, 1930, p. 89.

³ Shotwell, R. L., A study of the lesser migratory grasshopper, Tech. Bul. 190, U. S. Dept. Agr., July 1930, p. 27.