

Farley on 'Birds of the Battle River Region' (Alta.)—The region covered by this well gotten-up list¹ comprises an area of 200 x 40 miles in Central Alberta with which the author is evidently well acquainted. After a "foreword" in which the country is briefly described, with some small photographs of typical spots, the list of birds comprising 238 species and subspecies is presented, usually with brief annotations, though in the case of a few species much longer notes are attached.

Only two forms of Canada Goose seem to pass through this country; *Branta c. canadensis* and *B. c. leucopareia*, and the Blue Goose is not recorded. The Goshawk is regarded by the author as "the most destructive bird of prey in the west, and is the only one that I habitually shoot," while of Swainson's Hawk he says "a ruthless slaughter of these unwary hawks is being constantly carried on by thoughtless and cruel hunters * * * grim reminder of the terrible ignorance of man and his utter disregard for the country's valuable wild-life"; he moreover has no criticism of the Marsh Hawk which Major Brooks, a little farther west, condemns so heartily.

The Crow has vastly increased since the author's arrival in Alberta in 1892 and he regards it as a great menace to the ducks through its destruction of their eggs and young, especially on reservations. His plea that "a whole hearted policy on the part of Canada and the United States for the destruction of Crows would help materially in bringing the ducks back to their former numbers" seems to be a rather extravagant statement. Crows, as we have pointed out, are as useful as they are harmful in various parts of the United States and extermination is not the answer in such cases but rather control in areas where the birds are a nuisance.

Mr. Farley wisely follows the A. O. U. 'Check-List' as to nomenclature and sequence but insists on dropping the apostrophe in the case of personal names. This excellent pamphlet will go far to educate the people of Alberta in the value and interest of their birds.—W. S.

Wetmore on Hummingbirds, Swifts and Goatsuckers.—'The National Geographic Magazine' has in the past published some notable series of colored plates of birds which have been of the greatest educational value and it now begins a still more pretentious undertaking: the reproduction in colors of paintings by Major Allan Brooks illustrating some 500 familiar land and sea birds of North America, to be accompanied by suitable text by notable ornithologists. The first of these articles² is by Dr. Alexander Wetmore describing his experiences with hummingbirds, swifts and goatsuckers in various parts of the world, and detailed accounts

¹ Birds of the Battle Creek Region With Notes on their Present Status Migrations, Food Habits and Economic Value. By Frank L. Farley. Camrose, Alberta. First Edition, July, 1932. Published by the Institute of Applied Art, Limited. 10042, 109th St., Edmonton, Alberta. Price 50 cents.

² Seeking the Smallest Feathered Creatures. By Alexander Wetmore. Hummingbirds, Swifts, and Goatsuckers. By Allan Brooks. Nat. Geog. Mag., LXII, No. 1, July, 1932, pp. 64-89.

of the habits and distribution of the twenty-six North American species beautifully depicted by Major Brooks. This series will form a work which all interested in American ornithology cannot afford to be without. Besides Major Brooks' paintings, which are attractively grouped on tinted backgrounds, there are a number of interesting photographs of young swifts and humming-birds.—W. S.

Legendre's Monograph of the European Titmice.—This publication¹ forms Vol. VI, of the 'Encyclopedie Ornithologique' being published by Paul Lechevalier and Sons. It considers in much detail the various species of titmice found in Europe with the numerous geographical races that have been recognized by recent authorities. There are descriptions, distributions, accounts of habits, nests and eggs etc., together with keys for determination, maps, photographs of several of the species, and a colored plate of four of the species of *Parus*. The limits of the family Paridae are somewhat extended by including the Kinglets. The five genera recognized as belonging to the group are *Parus*, *Aegithalos*, *Anthoscopus*, *Regulus*, *Panurus* and eighty-three forms are recognized while eight supposed hybrids are described.

The paper is well prepared and forms a valuable contribution to our knowledge of a group of birds to which the author has given much attention.—W. S.

The Indiana Audubon Year Book.—This valuable publication contains a vast amount of notes on Indiana birds besides much information of wider interest. Prominent in the latter category may be mentioned a biographical sketch, by Dr. B. W. Evermann, of the veteran Indiana ornithologist, Amos W. Butler, with portrait and bibliography; an extensive paper on Bird Parasites both internal and external by George Zebrowski; Birds of Prey of Mercer Co., Ohio, by Paul Forsthoefel; a short paper on Bird Life of Nova Scotia by Mrs. Henry Watterman; and Racing Homing Pigeons by Harry M. Gould. Much information on Robins has been compiled by Dr. Earl Brooks and Arthur M. Grass, the latter estimating on several careful counts that the total number of Robins' nests in the state each year is over eight million!

We congratulate the Audubon Society upon another excellent publication.—W. S.

A British Bird Census.—Our colleague W. B. Alexander has published² the results of both winter and summer counts of the bird inhabitants of a 125-acre farm near Oxford, England. The results are of comparative value with those obtained in the Eastern United States, with which they

¹ Monographie des Mesanges d'Europe par Marcel Legendre. Encyclopedie Ornithologique. Paul Lechevalier & Fils Editeurs 12, Rue de Tournon, Paris—Vie. 1932. Pp. 1-121, 15 figs., 5 planches.

² The Bird Population of an Oxfordshire Farm, Journ. Animal Ecol. 1, No. 1, May 1932, pp. 58-64.