

erroneous in at least four respects. "The pigeon ... auklets appear [in southeastern Alaska] only as *migrants in winter*"—what does it mean! "White-breasted" cormorants and "Gambel's whitethroat"—what are they? "The only game-bird of the [south-coast district of Alaska] ... is the *white-tailed ptarmigan* ...". "Of the owls, the short-eared finds excellent nesting-places in the *thick woods* ...". "... Both varieties of the Canada or spruce grouse, or fool-hen, resort in *summer* to breeding-places *all over the interior* ..."—than which a more foolish statement could hardly be constructed! The above-quoted, and other statements, are inconsistent with many of the best-known facts in Alaskan ornithology.

It does seem to us that when an organization of the standing and financial resources of the National Association of Audubon Societies essays to engage in instructing the youth of the land with "accuracy", better results than parts of those here presented might have been secured. It is a reflection upon the standing of ornithology and ornithologists in America when presumably representative work is put out in this faulty manner—and for the worthy purpose of popular education.—J. GRINNELL.

WILD LIFE CONSERVATION. By WILLIAM T. HORNADAY (Yale University Press, New Haven, November, 1914, pp. vi+240, 13 pls.).

That noted champion of wild life conservation, W. T. Hornaday, has just contributed another valuable work to the cause. The book is the result of a series of lectures dealing with wild life conservation as given before the Yale Forestry School. The author says: "The publication of this volume by the University Press may well be accepted as a contribution to a cause. It is hoped by those who have made possible this lecture course and this volume that this presentation may arouse other educators in our great institutions of learning to take up their shares of the common burden of conserving our wild life from the destructive forces that so long have been bearing very heavily upon it."

In his introduction Dr. Hornaday scores University educators for training a grand army of embryologists and morphologists and allowing the annihilation of the species that our zoologists are studying. He asks: "Which is the more important: the saving of the pinnated grouse from extermination, or studying the embryology of a clutch of grouse eggs?"

The book is divided into five chapters, as follows: "The Extinction and Preservation of Wild Life," "The Economic Value of Our Birds," "The Legitimate Use of Game Birds and Mammals," "Animal Pests and their Rational Treatment," and "The Duty and Power of the Citizen in Wild Life Protection." In addition a chapter on "Private

Game Preserves as Factors in Conservation" by Frederick C. Walcott is given, and the book concludes with a bibliography of the more recent works on wild birds with special reference to game preserves and the protection and propagation of game. A number of very telling pictures depicting the slaughter of game and also a number illustrating protection are used as illustrations.

The most pertinent sentences and paragraphs are placed in italics. Most of these expressions are in Dr. Hornaday's positive style. They are expressed in such a way as to make them appear immutable laws. For example, here are some of them: "No one thanks an ancestor who hands over to him only desolation, ugliness and poverty"; "a fauna once destroyed cannot be brought back"; "every wild species of bird or mammal quickly recognizes protection, and takes advantage of it to the utmost"; "if our quail and grouse are decently treated, and sensibly protected, they will come back so rapidly and so thoroughly that we will not need to look abroad for substitutes." We are glad to see a growing sentiment in favor of this last maxim. Our own native game will always be of more value than introduced game.

The time is near at hand when every sportsman will echo the sentiment expressed in the following: "The outing in the open is the thing,—not the amount of bloodstained feathers and death in the game bag." This slogan should be conspicuously posted in every gun club lodge in the United States.

The chapter on "The Duty and Power of the Citizen" furnishes information as to "what the young conservationist can do when the mantle of leadership has fallen upon him." The following advice is given: "Do not propose any local legislation"; "a leader must be willing to sacrifice his personal convenience, the most of his pleasures, and keep at his work when his friends are asleep or at the theater"; "campaigns for wild life conservation should attack educated classes", for "the greatest factor in reforming the wild life situation is *education*, for it is the educated people who educate their legislators into the making of better laws and providing means for their enforcement."

Mr. Walcott's chapter on "Private Game Preserves" deals largely with successful methods of propagating game and the success attendant upon careful protection. He also suggests the aviary as an important adjunct to the education of the public.

"Our Vanishing Wild Life", and this

newer work, "Wild Life Conservation", are unique books, and they have to be placed in a class by themselves. The fact that they are a contribution to a cause, from a man who is devoting his life to that cause, adds interest and force to them. The commendatory criticism of another great champion of wild life, Theodore Roosevelt, is to be found in the *Outlook* for January 20, 1915.—H. C. BRYANT.

DISTRIBUTION AND MIGRATION OF NORTH AMERICAN RAILS AND THEIR ALLIES. By WELLS W. COOKE. Contribution from the Bureau of Biological Survey. [Bull. U. S. Dept. Agric. no. 128, pp. 1-50, 19 figs. (maps) in text. Issued September 25, 1914.]

This paper is a continuation of Professor Cooke's valuable work on the distribution and migration of North American birds. Previous publications of the Survey along this line have dealt with the warblers, ducks, geese and swans, shore birds, herons and their allies, and the egrets. Many papers concerned with the distribution of North American sparrows have been published in *Bird-Lore*.

A total of forty-four forms are considered in the present contribution, which deals with the rails. Of these twenty-one are confined to the West Indies or Middle America, and two species are casual in Greenland, leaving twenty-one forms (18 species and 3 subspecies) which range into or through the United States. The ranges of the extralimital forms and those of casual occurrence are briefly considered, while the ones occurring in the United States are treated more or less at length, according to the amount of information which is available concerning them.

The general, breeding, and winter ranges, spring and fall migrations, and dates upon which eggs or young have been taken or observed, are considered in turn. Maps showing the localities from which birds have been recorded are provided for each of the species occurring in the United States, and for the Spotted Crake of Europe. These show the breeding records, occurrences in summer, in winter, and wintering or resident records. Tables of the spring and fall migrations, showing the numbers of years for which the records have been kept, and the average and extreme dates of first and last appearance, are provided for the better known species. For reasons unknown to the reviewer the Humboldt Bay record of the California Clapper Rail (Cooper and Suckley, 1859, p. 246) is omitted.

Altogether the paper is a valuable contribution to distributional ornithology and an important reference manual. It is to be hoped that other groups may soon be treated in a similar manner and that the publications already issued, when republished, may be provided with distributional maps as in the present paper.—TRACY I. STORER.

SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF THE BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY.—Mr. McAtee's paper¹ on "How to Attract Birds in Northeastern United States" is the first of a series of publications which the Biological Survey plans to issue on similar topics. When the series is completed the whole of our country will have been covered and the special methods to be adopted in each region thoroughly discussed.

The fencing of bird havens and methods of supplying breeding places are first described. Two types of bathing and drinking vessels are figured and the necessity for a water supply pointed out; then the matter of food supply is taken up. Under "Artificial Food Supply" the materials suitable for artificial feeding in order to attract the several kinds of birds in the region are named, and some of the devices for offering the food are shown in the accompanying illustrations. The "Natural Food Supply" is next considered, first as regards seed-eating birds, and then as regards the fruit-eating species. The paper concludes with a table showing the seasons of fruits, both native and introduced, which are available in the region and attractive to the birds found there, and a second table of the fruits which are useful to protect the commercial species by serving as counter attractions. The publication of future bulletins in this series will be awaited with interest.

In "Game Laws for 1914"² Dr. Palmer and his assistants have presented their fifteenth annual report on the progress of game legislation in the United States and Canada. The bulletin presents a brief but comprehensive review of the measures enacted during the year, arranging them by subjects under the several states and in a uniform style to facilitate comparison. The legislation of 1914 was smaller in amount than for any year since 1906. In general it was

¹McAtee, W. L., How to Attract Birds in Northeastern United States. U. S. Dept. Agric., Farmers' Bull. 621, 15 pp., 11 text figs., 1 map. Issued December 14, 1914.

²Palmer, T. S., Bancroft, W. F., and Earnshaw, F. L. Game Laws for 1914. U. S. Dept. Agric., Farmers' Bull. 628, 52 pp. Issued October 20, 1914.