

blemishes. But that absolute perfection is beyond human reach is occasionally demonstrated even in the present painstaking product. For example, grammatical lapses in the following quotations from page 164 are apparent: "The duties of incubation were shared by both sexes; in two instances the male was setting and in three the female."

Whatever of misgiving may be aroused in the mind of the reader of Loomis's paper in regard to some of the theoretical interpretations and to the peculiarity in handling geographic variation, the paper must be commended for the extraordinary care exercised in gathering and publishing the multitude of facts therein made available in regard to the relatively little known Tubinares.—J. GRINNELL.

THE HAWKS OF THE CANADIAN PRAIRIE PROVINCES IN THEIR RELATION TO AGRICULTURE, by P. A. TAVERNER. Canada Geological Survey, Museum Bulletin No. 28, Biological Series no. 7, August, 1918, pp. 1-14, 4 plates (8 colored illustrations), 7 figs. in text.

It is to be hoped that this bulletin will be given the widest possible circulation, especially among the farmers of the region covered, for although the treatment of the subject is necessarily of the briefest, the author has nevertheless compressed within these few pages much accurate information upon a generally misunderstood subject. The written descriptions and the illustrations should together suffice for ready identification of the species by the layman, and the nature of the food of each is concisely indicated. Emphasis is rightly placed upon the harmlessness of most hawk species, as regards human interests, and the absolute benefits accruing to the farmer through the activities of many of them.

Such educational work as this is valuable and should be pushed farther. It has been neglected in the past with results familiar to all ornithologists. The fate of the White-tailed Kite in California and of the Mississippi and Swallow-tailed kites in Illinois are fair examples of what is happening elsewhere throughout the country,—the destruction of beautiful and harmless birds through ignorance and thoughtlessness. Printed matter calculated to offset such action is of the scarcest, and seldom reaches the individual who should be convinced of the error of his ways. Of United States government publications, the one and only report adequately covering the subject, Dr. A. K. Fish-

er's *Hawks and Owls of the United States*,—it needs no eulogy here—which should have been forced upon the attention of every farmer and sportsman in the country, has lapsed into the position of a prize for the ornithological bibliophile! As such it now fails of useful service to any important degree.

On the other hand, there are popular magazines of wide circulation on whose pages may be seen advertisements of ammunition dealers, showily placed and attractively illustrated, calling upon the sportsman to go forth and shoot "hawks", propaganda that reach scores of people where there is one who ever hears a word on the other side. Audubon societies as a rule seem to have paid but scant attention to this phase of bird protection, the members thereof doubtless having for the most part but hazy notions of the true character of most predaceous birds; and Federal and state biologists have lately found all-engrossing occupation in the destruction of "noxious" animals—some of which used to be kept in bounds through the assistance of the formerly abundant Raptores. So, with most people lacking the knowledge to discriminate between harmful and beneficial species, usually in ignorance even that there are any useful kinds, and with the ever-present irresponsible gunner eager to shoot at such a mark, even should there be laws against doing so, the hawks suffer in consequence. For all of these reasons it is a pleasant privilege to call special attention to Mr. Taverner's excellent paper, and to urge the desirability of the broadcast distribution of reports such as this one is.—H. S. SWARTH.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

AUGUST.—The regular meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at 8 p. m., August 15, 1918. Dr. Evermann presided and the following members were present: Messrs. Carriger, Grinnell, Lastreto, Loomis, Noack, Swarth and Trenor; Mesdames Allen, Grinnell, Kluegel, Schlesinger; visitors, Miss Daniels, Miss Guthrie, Mr. Kelly, Mrs. Swarth, and Miss Hittell.

By special request the program preceded the business meeting. Mr. Leverett M. Loomis read an instructive paper on bird migration, in which he ascribed conflicting observations as due to reports of delayed migration rather than actual flight, and