
EDITORIAL.

PINE SISKIN.—There seems to have been a decided movement of Pine Siskins southward during the early weeks of the fall. They were found to be not uncommon as far south as central Missouri during late September and early October. Mr. B. T. Gault records a company of some 200 of this species near Glen Ellyn, Ill., September 26. The first were noticed at Oberlin on the same date, and individuals were seen nearly every day until November 16, when the last were recorded. It would be interesting to learn just how extensive this movement has been. Will all members who have noted the Siskins this fall kindly drop the editor a card, stating date of occurrence, numbers, etc.

It is with keen regret that we note the suspension of *The Observer*, and the misfortune of the Editor, Mr. E. F. Bigelow. Not only will the Agassiz Association be deprived of its official organ and its means of inter-communication, but the reading public will also feel an unsupplied want when this excellent periodical no longer appears. We hope and trust that the suspension will be but temporary.

A comparison of the second edition of the Check List of the A. O. U. with the first impresses one with the fact that there is a wide field for investigation in determining the exact geographical distribution of a long list of species of birds. An organization like our own, with its widely scattered membership and co-operative methods, is in a position to do much toward solving many of these perplexing questions. Mr. Truman R. Taylor, 200 N. Union St., Rochester, N. Y., has consented to take charge of a committee on *Geographical Distribution of Species*. Mr. Taylor has been for some time with Prof. Henry A. Ward, and is well qualified to do this work. He should have the enthusiastic support of every member.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Life Histories of North American Birds, by Major Charles E. Bendire. This, the second volume of Maj. Bendire's excellent *Life Histories*, which are issued by the U. S. National Museum as Special Bulletins, "intended to illustrate the collections belonging to, or placed in charge of the Smithsonian Institute," shows the same painstaking care and discrimination in the selection of notes from many different sources, and the same

conscientious attention to details, which characterizes the first volume.

The second volume begins with the well known but now nearly extinct Carolina Parakeet and ends with the Boat-tailed Grackle, thus comprising the orders Psittaci, Coccyges, Pici, Macrochires, and the families Tyrannidæ, Alaudidæ, Corvidæ, Sturnidæ and Icteridæ of the Passerine birds. The first volume treated of the Gallinæ, Columbæ and Raptores. The present volume is hence some hundred pages larger than the first volume. In execution it is, if anything, superior to the first volume.

The descriptions of eggs are supplemented by seven lithographic plates on which are 201 excellent figures of eggs, all natural size. These alone make a volume of inestimable value to the working ornithologist, and when supplemented as they are, by detailed accounts of habits and haunts and the description of notes and song, form a basis for intelligent field study of characteristics of the birds which it would be impossible for a work of this sort to touch upon. We congratulate Maj. Bendire on the success of his great work, and we congratulate ourselves in having this illustration of the possibilities of aiding our fellow workers in science.

The Osprey. November, 1896. Vol. I, No. 3. The present number fully sustains its high character both in a scientific and literary sense, and in the excellence of the illustrations. It seems certain of success.

Transactions of the Texas Academy of Science. Vol. I, No. 4, 1895. Contains the following valuable papers: The Law of Hypnotism, R. S. Hyer; County Roads, Charles Corner; The Soil of Texas, E. T. Dumble; Genesis of Certain Ore Veins, W. H. von Streeruwitz; Bio-geography of Texas; C. H. Tyler Townsend.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

An unofficial note from Mr. Fank L. Burns, Judge of Elections, announces the election of the following officers:

President.—R. M. Strong.

Vice-President.—Ned Hollister.

Secretary.—J. E. Dickinson.

Treasurer.—Lynds Jones.

Announcement of the members elected to the Executive Council is deferred, on account of a close vote between two members.