

gestion of winter the ducks began to drop into the Oberlin water-works reservoir. For the first time in the history of the reservoir Hooded Merganser has stopped in the southward migration. On November 19, a flock of four males and three females arrived about the middle of the forenoon and were gone shortly after dinner. Two females came and remained all day on the 21st. The males were in full dress. They seemed to be feeding upon the vegetation at the water's edge, and were not seen to catch any of the very numerous fish.

**American Golden-eye (*Clangula clangula americana*).** One in immature plumage appeared on November 19, and remained for several days, feeding upon the Cara at the edges of the reservoir. It has never before been seen during the fall.

Earlier in the season **Pied-billed Grebes** and **Coots** were unusually numerous at the reservoir for two or three weeks. A dozen grebes on the reservoir at one time was not unusual. One Coot, scarcely larger than a grebe, fed constantly at the edge of the water, with no apparent fear of persons standing within a few feet of him, watching him dive down to the bed of Cara, bring up a large mouth-full, and proceed to swallow as much as he could before it sank out of reach. The clear water permitted a perfect study of his motions while under water.

LYNDS JONES.

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#### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

**The Birds of Ohio.** By Rev. W. Leon Dawson, A.M. Published by the Wheaton Publishing Company, 1216 The Hayden, Columbus, Ohio. Sold only by subscription.

This is the most notable book upon popular scientific ornithology which has appeared since Nehrling's "Our Native Birds of Song and Beauty." While it treats only the 320 odd birds which have been found in Ohio, its treatment of these species is so thorough that little remains to be said about them. The species are among the most common which will be found in any locality east of the Great Plains, and the book will therefore find a ready sale outside the state where it will prove as useful as within the state. The book is an imperial quarto of about 720 pages exclusive of 80 colored plates, printed on fine paper, and with some 200 cuts of birds and nests in the text. These cuts are almost wholly from photographs from nature, and are therefore new—made expressly for this book. The author has combined accuracy of statement with good literary style, making facts interesting to the casual reader. The brief, but accurate descriptions of the birds have been taken directly from Ohio specimens of each species, and are therefore not rehashes of other descriptions. A brief statement of the range of the species at large is followed by its range in Ohio. A concise description of the nest and eggs is also given for such species

as breed in Ohio. Then follows, at greater or less length, a general account of the habits of the species for the popular reader. We bespeak for this book a wide field of usefulness.

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**The Zoological Quarterly Bulletin, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Division of Zoology.** Vol. 1, No. 1, Birds Around the Farm; No. 2, The Economic Value of Our Native Birds. Edited by H. A. Surface, M.S., Economic Zoologist.

In the first number of this new quarterly, Professor Surface gives descriptions and cuts of bird houses which may be erected for the accommodation of various species of birds, points out their economic value, notes their decrease and makes a plea for their preservation, and discusses the value of bird study, giving methods. In the second number an analytical key to the orders and families of North American birds is given, followed by a discussion (to be continued) of the larger groups. We understand that this Quarterly contemplates covering the whole field of Zoology ultimately, but will probably confine itself to birds for the present. We bespeak for it a useful mission in the field of popular education.

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**Osteology of the Limicolæ.** By Dr. R. W. Shufeldt. Reprint from the American Naturalist, Vol. 37, No. 442, pages 697-725.

**Osteology and Systematic Position of the Kingfishers (Halcyones).** By Dr. R. W. Shufeldt. Reprint from Annals of the Carnegie Museum, Vol. 2, pp. 15-70, 1903.

In these two papers Dr. Shufeldt gives us the results of a great amount of painstaking study and comparison of skeletons, with the object of more definitely showing the relationships of these two groups of birds. They have never been quite satisfactorily disposed of, different authors differing in their opinions as to their proper position in the scheme of classification. In a tentative scheme of classification Dr. Shufeldt places "the Charadriiformes between the Lariformes and the group containing all the ralline forms." The Dr. regards the present knowledge of the structure of the kingfishers and their affines as too meager for even a tentative classification. We trust that this comparative study of osteology may go on until that phase of systematic work has been completed, enabling us to use the skeletal features intelligently.

L. J.

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**Birds of a Maryland Farm. A Local Study of Economic Ornithology.** By Sylvester D. Judd, Ph.D. U. S. Department of Agriculture, Division of Biological Survey. Bulletin No. 17.

In this extensive study of the 230 acre Bryan Farm, opposite Mount Vernon, on the Potomac river, Dr. Judd brings home to us the real value of local study of the birds. Any bird student who

mourns his lack of opportunity to get away where there are birds should read and study this admirable account of field work.

The period of study upon which this paper is based began July 30, 1895, and closed July 24, 1902, during which time "visits were made at frequent intervals and including every month in the year except January." As a basis for determining the food of the birds, the available food supply was carefully studied. Observations upon the food habits were supplemented by the examination of 698 stomachs. The conclusions drawn prove that the English Sparrow, Cooper and Sharp-shinned Hawks and Great Horned Owl are always injurious, the Crow usually so, and the Purple Grackle frequently. The other species are mainly beneficial.

The numerous illustrations are both valuable and instructive. A map of Bryan Farm, and photographs of localities and special conditions of vegetation and crops convey concrete ideas of the conditions of study. Figures illustrating the percentages of different kinds of food eaten during the stages of growth of the young are a valuable contribution to the life history of the several species so treated.

Dr. Judd is to be congratulated upon this valuable work, which opens the way for similar studies everywhere. L. J.

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**Birds of Fergus County, Montana.** By P. M. Silloway, Principal Fergus County High School. Issued by the authority and direction of the Board of Trustees, Fergus County Free High School. Lewiston, Mont., 1903.

This pamphlet of 77 pages "is intended primarily to aid any worker in this branch of natural history, and to extend the knowledge of the common birds of this region. It is further hoped that it will be a help to any person who may be interested in forming the acquaintance of some of the birds which escape common observation. While possibly not free from errors, the list is believed to be as complete as present information can make it, and hence will serve as a basis for more detailed and extensive investigation."

"In order to make the list usable to general observers, brief descriptions have been included, given in such terms as the ordinary reader may understand."

The frontispiece of an American Magpie is one of the seventeen illustrations of birds or nests and eggs taken from life, the character of which is good throughout. The pictures were taken by Mr. E. R. Warren and Prof. M. J. Elrod, and speak well for the skill and ability of these men.

A small map of Fergus county is followed by a brief account of the topography, giving the reader a good idea of the varied character of the county with its 6762 square miles—a small state in itself. A partial bibliography of Montana birds proves that while

it is generally considered to be a wild and little visited region, it has not been neglected ornithologically.

The annotations treat of the mode of occurrence, region, migration, and distinguishing features of each of the species enumerated. The annotations are well chosen, and add not a little to our knowledge of the life history of the birds in that region. The paper closes with a "Review," listing each of the resident 30, summer resident 101, migrant 31, winter resident 13, and other species 4, showing a total of 179 species which have been found in the county.

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**The Birds of Wisconsin.** By L. Kumlien and N. Hollister. Bulletin of the Wisconsin Natural History Society, Vol. 3, Nos. 1, 2, and 3. January, April, July, 1903.

The delay in the appearance of this catalogue of birds was occasioned by the death of the senior author just before the completion of the manuscript, and later, by the absence of Mr. Hollister in Alaska on business for the national Biological Survey. It is a paper of 147 pages which makes no pretensions to being more than an annotated catalogue of the birds of Wisconsin. Nor have the authors claimed for it more than a conservative list of the birds of their state. It contains no "light" records which have not been relegated to the Hypothetical List, where they belong. This safe conservativeness has reduced the number of species from 365 to 357, and thereby made their reputation for accuracy. The feeling of security which this list gives the one who wishes to know for a certainty what birds have been found in Wisconsin is cause for congratulation. Few of the annotations are concerned with more than records, but there are occasional glimpses of life histories. The note in regard to the finding of a hybrid *Helminthophila pinus*+*H. rubricapilla* adds another to the list of hybrids which *H. pinus* seems capable of forming. It is to be regretted that it was not possible to await the appearance of the young to determine the form assumed by those hybrids in embryo.

Eight full page half-tones from photographs by F. E. Burrows from life add interest to the paper. We cannot but regret deeply the untimely death of Mr. Kumlien, while we congratulate Mr. Hollister upon the completion of the work under such trying circumstances.

Amateur Sportsman, Vol. XXIX, No. 6, Vol. XXX, No. 1.  
American Ornithology, Vol. III, Nos. 10, 11, 12.  
Bird-Lore, Vol. V, Nos. 5, 6.  
Condor, The, Vol. Nos. 5, 6.  
Fern Bulletin, The Vol. VI, Nos. 7, 8.  
Journal of Applied Microscopy, Vol. VI, Nos. 7, 8.  
Maine Sportsman, The, Vol. XI, Nos. 122, 123, 124.  
Naturaliste Canadien, Le, Vol. XXX, Nos. 9, 10.  
Plant World, The, Vol. VI, Nos. 7, 8, 9.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE.

The editor wishes to revise the mailing list for the new year, and calls the attention of every member and subscriber, and all exchanges to the address upon the wrapper of this copy. If it is the correct address nothing need be done, but if it is in any way faulty, kindly correct it by postal to the editor at once. Any changes of address during the year should be promptly reported.