

On April 20, while on a ramble, I discovered a Migrant Shrike's nest. The nest consisted of coarse grass lined with feathers, and was placed in a tall hedge about seven feet from the ground. When approached she would fly from the nest or perch on the nearby hedge or light on the ground in the distance, never ceasing to watch my every move. When I left the nest she would return immediately. Their favorite food (mice) was impaled all along the fence on the thorns. Though I visited the place frequently I saw only the female bird.

KATIE M. ROADS.

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## Election of Members

The following names are proposed for membership in the Wilson Ornithological Club:

FOR ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP.

Edward J. Brown, Division of Birds, U. S. Nat. Mus., Washington, D. C.

George Seth Guion, Napoleonville, Louisiana.

Alexander Walker, Box 436, Armour, South Dakota.

O. E. Baynard, Clearwater, Fla.

FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP.

Frances Stillman Davidson, 1392 W. S. Grand Ave., Springfield, Ill.

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## Publications Reviewed

Observations on the Yellow-billed Tropic-Bird (*Phaethon americanus* Grant) at the Bermuda Islands. By Alfred O. Gross.

Contributions from the Bermuda Biological Station for Research No. 23. With nine plates. From the Auk, Vol. XXIX. No. 1, pp. 49-71.

This paper represents intensive studies of this species during two summers. It is as complete a life history as could be expected, with some interesting additions from the observations of those who live on these isolated islands. The accompanying pictures give a graphic account of the growth of the young and their development of feathers. We welcome it as another addition to the literature on life histories.

L. J.

Our Mid-Pacific Bird Reservation. By Henry W. Henshaw,

Chief of Biological Survey. From Yearbook of Department of Agriculture for 1911. Pp. 154-164.

The place is Laysan Island, but the other islands of the reservation are also mentioned. The paper is a short resume of the Nutting expedition, with a comparison of the conditions then and previously. It is so interesting that the reader is gripped with the desire to visit the island in person.

L. J.

The Shore Birds of Santa Barbara. By J. Hooper Bowles and Alfred B. Howell. With three photos by Bowles and one by Dawson. Reprinted from *The Condor*, Vol. XIV, Jan. 1912. Pp. 4-11.

There are here listed twenty-nine species, which is a remarkably large list for any locality of such restricted area. In the whole of Ohio, to make comparisons, there have been but 36 species of Shore Birds recorded. This list also well illustrates the cosmopolitan character of many of the species of this order. While the list is largely concerned with times of occurrence there are some other interesting notes relating to the habits of the birds.

L. J.

The Relation of Birds to an Insect Outbreak in Northern California During the Spring and Summer of 1911. By Harold C. Bryant, Fellow in Applied Zoölogy on the Fish and Game Commission Foundation in the University of California. With four photos by the author. Reprinted from *The Condor*, Vol. XIII, Nov. 1911. Pp. 195-208.

The insect outbreak here referred to was a "remarkable plague of caterpillars, followed by a pest of butterflies, that has existed the past spring and summer (1911) in the northern counties of California, especially in Siskiyou County." The insect was *Eugonia californica*, and the birds found feeding upon it were Brewer's Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Western Kingbird, Blue-fronted Jay, and Say's Phoebe. Of these Brewer's Blackbird was the most efficient check, both on account of the numbers of individuals and because its food consisted of 95% of butterflies. Domestic birds also helped greatly in reducing the pest. We have here a concrete case upon which to base conclusions as to the value of birds to agricultural interests.

L. J.

The English Sparrow as a Pest. By Ned Dearborn, Expert Biologist, Biological Survey. *Farmers' Bulletin* 493, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Issued April 20, 1912.

The discussion covers 24 pages, a considerable of the space being occupied with cuts of traps and a discussion of their uses.

The paper is a practical one and of both interest and value. The author summarizes the paper: "English Sparrows are abundant in most of the towns in the United States and in many suburban districts. They are noisy, filthy, and destructive. They drive native birds from villages and homesteads. Though they are occasionally valuable as destroyers of noxious insects, all things considered, they do far more harm than good. Practicable methods of dealing with them include destruction of nests, shooting, trapping, and poisoning. Of these, trapping is unquestionably the best. English Sparrows are good to eat, and their use as food is recommended because of their nutritive value and as a means of reducing their numbers."

L. J.

Some Common Game, Aquatic, and Rapacious Birds in Relation to Man. By W. L. McAtee and F. E. L. Beal. Assistants, Biological Survey. Farmers' Bulletin 497. Department of Agriculture. Issued May 6, 1912.

Besides the interest which this 30-page pamphlet elicits on account of its practical value to the interests of agriculture, there is the unusual interest which attaches to the appearance of figures from the pencil of a new bird artist. In this case none other than the writer's acquaintance and friend, Robert J. Sim. We say "new bird artist," but we remind the reader that Mr. Sim is not an entire stranger to readers of *The Wilson Bulletin*, for it contains reproductions from his hand. Of the fourteen figures in this pamphlet ten bear the signature of Mr. Sim. We heartily welcome him to the arena.

L. J.

The Flight of Birds. By F. W. Headley. With sixteen plates and many text-figures. Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, London. 12mo. 163 pages. Price 5s., net.

Mr. Headley is clearly well posted in aeronautics, and it is therefore fitting that he should find the flight of birds an interesting subject. The book is interestingly written and the illustrations are selected to bring out certain points in the discussion. We have seen pictures that seemed to better illustrate the flight of birds, or at least appealed to the eye more strongly. On the whole the book is a valuable contribution to the discussion of bird flight.

L. J.

Birds of North and Middle America. By R. Ridgway. (Part V.)

The fifth volume of this monumental work treats of the Families Pteroptochidæ (1 species), Formicariidæ (66 species and sub-

species), Furnariidæ (29 forms), Dendrocolaptidæ (41 forms), Trecilidæ (174 forms), Micropodidæ (25 forms), and Trogonidæ (23 forms), the number of specimens examined during the preparation of this volume being 14,358. The families worked up in this volume include some very difficult species and these have been handled with Mr. Ridgway's well known accuracy and ability, the author's personal trips to Costa Rica being a great aid in his work. The criticisms of Oölogists are disposed of in the preface in a very satisfactory manner. It is altogether absurd to apply the ordinary manner of criticism to this gigantic Birdwork, for in almost every single instance it is simply *above* criticism and deserves nothing but the highest praise that words can bestow.

W. F. H.

Michigan Bird Life. By W. B. Barrows. Spec. Bull. of the Dep. of Zoölogy and Physiology of the Mich. Agri. College.

We welcome this work on the Birds of Michigan as an important and valuable addition to Bird Literature. It is a well illustrated volume of 822 pages, of which unfortunately pages 705 to 737 are missing and the latter part of which is badly jumbled up by the exceptionally bright (?) binders. In the preface due acknowledgements are made to the contributors and the number of species is stated to be 326, and as every record has been carefully scrutinized it is of a far greater value than Cook's former list of 336 species, which was altogether too loosely constructed. The Introduction gives much information about the Topography, Climate, Distribution of Plant Life and Animal Life, Bird Life in Michigan, Changes in Bird Life, the study of birds, the use of keys, migration, etc. Under each species are given the recognition marks, the distribution, the status as a Michigan Bird with the records in chronological order, nidification, economic status, and finally the technical description in smaller print. Altogether Professor Barrows and the Michigan ornithologists can be congratulated upon the splendid work they have done and the splendid book they have produced.

Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America. By Frank M. Chapman. Appleton. \$3.50 and \$4.00.

This new edition of Mr. Chapman's valuable "Handbook" is greatly improved over the first edition, both in appearance and in workmanship. From the colored map of the life zones of North America, which occupies the front cover and first page of the fly-leaf to the last cover page, on which is a six-inch scale with the Metric scale also, there is evidence of painstaking revision work on the part of the author. The enlargement of the Introduction

alone makes it a book in itself. Here one finds not only an introduction to the study of birds but an introduction to the science of Ornithology. The body of the book gives evidence of careful revision both as to nomenclature, which has been brought down to date, and in descriptive matter. The student of birds who wishes to have at hand a work of usable size and of entire reliability, one with which he may be certain to identify any bird which may reasonably be expected to visit the eastern half of North America, will make this the book of first importance for his library — for, as far as a book can, it combines the local list, migration dates, nesting times and distribution with that which goes to make up a "Key." We are surprised that such a book with eight full page colored plates and two double page colored plates, not to mention the other fourteen full page plates and the 136 text figures, could be made for the price asked per copy. It is entirely deserving of the wide sale which it has had and is sure to have in this new form.

L. J.

A History of the Birds of Colorado. By William Lutley Schlatter, M.A. (Oxon.), M.B.O.U., Hon. M.A.O.U. (Lately Director of the Colorado College Museum). With seventeen plates and a map. Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, London. 1912. Published price, \$5.

Twenty-four pages of prefatory matter and 576 pages, in which are included a Bibliography of 20 pages, a map of Colorado, a Gazetteer of 10 pages, and an Index of 14 pages. In his "Analysis of the Bird Fauna," the author says: "The number of Colorado birds included in the present work is 395. Of these 225 may be considered regular breeders within the state. I have divided these into three categories, viz.: (A) Those resident throughout the year, 67 in number. (B) The strict migrants which, so far as we know, never winter within the limits of the state, 118 in number. (C) Those birds which breed within the state and in winter are undoubtedly less numerous, so that they may be considered partly migrant and partly resident, 40 in number.

"The non-breeding birds number 167. Of these the largest category by far are the Casual or rare species, which have only been recorded on very few occasions; these number 106. The other two groups, which are not always easy to separate satisfactorily, are the winter residents, numbering 28, and the birds which pass through the state on the spring and fall migrations; these are 33 in number."

The body of the work begins with a key to the orders, then there is a discussion of each order, a key to the families and genera of

the order, a discussion of the family, a technical description of the genus, the vernacular and scientific names of the species, the number of the A. O. U. Checklist, the Colorado records, a description of the species, general distribution of the species and something more about the occurrence in Colorado, and under many of the species a discussion of the habits. The book is avowedly a compilation rather than the result of the author's own field work. It could not be otherwise, because of the author's short residence in Colorado. As a compilation it is remarkably well done. It strikes us as a little odd that a book relating to the birds of one of our own states should come to us from across the water, but it is not less welcome for that.

L. J.