

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

BIRDS AND MAMMALS OF THE STIKINE RIVER REGION OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA AND SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA. By H. S. Swarth.

This paper is a report upon the results of an expedition sent out by the Museum of Vertebrate Zoölogy of the University of California which penetrated the Alaskan interior for a hundred miles or so. This expedition was made possible by the generous support of Miss Anne M. Alexander, who has financed similar explorations on previous occasions. The present trip was undertaken for the purpose of studying the distribution of birds and mammals and of supplementing the collections of coastal species already possessed by the Museum.

About thirty pages are devoted to a geographic and ecologic account of the region traversed. An annotated list of mammals takes up nearly forty pages, and the remaining hundred pages are devoted to an annotated list of birds.

The account of the Bohemian Waxwing is especially interesting. A number of nests were found, some of which, with eggs, were collected. Not the least of value in this account is the historical summary of previously discovered nests of this species. A detailed description is given of the juvenal plumage, which very closely resembles that of the adult, except that the underparts present a somewhat streaked pattern that lacks the black throat patch. A beautiful colored frontispiece of two young Waxwings illustrates these facts.

A flight song of the White-winged Crossbill is described. One nest of the Pine Siskin containing three eggs was found. The author presents a full discussion of the systematic relationships of the Juncos of this region, which we would judge is a very scholarly treatment of the subject.

For the most part the notes relate to distribution, though in a few cases results of the examination of stomach contents are given. The paper is illustrated with numerous well-executed halftones. The high quality of workmanship in the typography and printing of this series of publications deserves notice and commendation.—T. C. Stephens.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE OKLAHOMA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, Volume II, 1922.

This volume contains several short ornithological articles, among which the following may be mentioned: A note on the incubation period of the Dickcissel, by Ed. D. Crabb. A Third Christmas Bird Census, by Mrs. M. M. Nice. The Sykes Alaskan Expedition of 1921, by Ed. D. Crabb; this paper gives a list of all specimens collected, including seventy birds. A note on the economic status of the Bald Eagle in Alaska, by Mr. Crabb. This volume is somewhat handicapped by the omission of a table of contents. The preceding volume I of the same periodical contains about eight ornithological notes, including one rather full article on Mourning Doves by Mrs. M. M. Nice.—T. C. Stephens.

Extracts From the Diary of Otto Widmann. Transactions of the Academy of Science of St. Louis. Volume XXIV, No. 8. Issue December, 1922.

The titles are "Nesting Habits of the Purple Martin," "How Young Birds are Fed," "Where Martins Roost," "The Crows' Winter Roost at St. Louis," "Our Birds in Winter," "Chaetura pelagica (Linn.) Chimney Swift," "Birds of the Ozarks," "Reminiscences of a Visit to Branson and White River, Spring of 1906."

The second and third papers are reprinted from *Forest and Stream*, 1884, and the third from the *Ornithologist and Oologist*, Feb., 188. The first paper bears the date of "Old Orchard, Mo., January 24, 1890," while the rest are papers which have been read before the St. Louis Naturalists Club at various times. The gathering together of these papers under one cover is a happy plan, and we hope that others will follow in regular procession. Mr. Widmann has been an indefatigable worker in the field, and no one has a keener sense of proportion nor a happier literary style. Scientific facts are so woven into the tale that they stand out prominently and yet without any loss of interest on the part of the unscientific reader.

L. J.

We are pleased to note that more than half of the formal matter in the January Auk is given to intimate studies of the life history of birds. In the first article Alfred O. Gross makes a distinct contribution to the life history of the Black-crowned Night Heron, illustrated with well chosen pictures. We are also pleased to note that this paper is to be concluded. Charles A. Urner follows with "Notes on the Short-eared Owl" in which additions are made which add to our knowledge of this species. Mrs. Margaret Morse Nice concludes her paper on "A Study of the Nesting of Mourning Doves," which all the way through shows rare discrimination in the interpretation of facts discovered as well as showing how much remains to be learned by a careful study of one of our most abundant species. We hope that these papers, along with others that might be cited, are an indication that students of birds are beginning to turn to a study of the activities of birds rather than the compilation of lists merely. Lists are necessary, to be sure, until we have covered the whole land in exploratory studies, but we can see no reason why such lists may not be accompanied with some notes, however few they may be, on the activities of the species noted in the lists. There is no field of inquiry that is wider open than this one.