

ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

BIRD STUDIES AT OLD CAPE MAY. AN ORNITHOLOGY OF COASTAL NEW JERSEY.

By Witmer Stone. Two volumes, Royal Octavo. Pp. i-xiv + 1-941. Pls. 1-120, and 270 text figures. Pub. by the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, Philadelphia (19th St. and the Parkway). 1937. Price, \$6.50 postpaid.

A very adequate review of this work comes in a letter from the author himself, who refers to these handsome volumes as a "‘field study’ covering my experiences in ‘days off’ since 1890 and those of my fellow members. The ‘studies’ of behavior and life history are mainly from observations at Cape May but the records cover the whole New Jersey coast. I have tried to picture the environment of the various species and to get the atmosphere and the spirit of the Cape as I know it. (But have not been led into *verse*!)"

Here we give the reader the story and the background, even including a facetious reference to current BULLETIN editorial. Dr. Stone tells us that "It has been a great pleasure to personally plan and manage the production of such a work and to see it take form just as I had planned."

Probably during the greater part of the half century (forty-eight years) of his studies in this region he was playing with visions of such a work. Can one visualize all this in terms of human life! It becomes the more interesting when we recall the short period of time which Alexander Wilson had for the execution of his ornithological work. What can be more inspiring to the scientific tyro than such a life-long devotion to a purpose, and what can be more satisfying than its final materialization! Dr. Thos. S. Roberts with his "Birds of Minnesota" gives us a very similar picture in the field of contemporaneous ornithology. Both men are Nestors in present-day North American ornithology.

The first seventy pages are devoted to an "introduction", which describes the geography and ecology of the region, the changes in bird life which the author has noted, the migration phenomena, and the monthly calendar. The remaining pages of the two volumes are devoted to the author's annotations of the species treated. The two volumes are bountifully illustrated, there being three colored plates, more than a hundred plates of halftone photographs, and innumerable line sketches. And all of these illustrations have been contributed by Dr. Stone's colleagues in the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club. Thus we record another stately addition to the literature of American ornithology.—T. C. S.

THE BIRDS OF AMERICA. By John James Audubon. With an Introduction and Descriptive Text by William Vogt. The Macmillan Co., New York. 1937. 500 col. pls. Price, \$12.50.

Some years ago one of the large Chicago newspapers reproduced in color for its Sunday edition a great many of the Audubon plates. Many people attempted to preserve a complete set of these newspaper reproductions—a futile effort, probably, for most of those who attempted it. Now the complete set of bird portraits has been issued in book form by one of the large publishing houses of the country. There can be no doubt of the beauty of these plates, nor of the privilege of possessing them in one cover. Yet, beautiful as they are, they only enhance the esteem for the work of our modern bird artists. It ought to be possible to award a full measure of praise and credit to this great pioneer artist without indulging in futile hero worship.

As one turns the pages of plates it is comparatively easy to note glaring faults in the coloring. It is not possible, however, to assign the fault. Was it in the original painting, or was it in the hand coloring of the original reproductions? Or is it in the present printed reproduction? We have never had the opportunity of placing two of the elephant folio plates side by side for comparison. But it seems reasonable to suppose that they must have varied to some extent in the color shades. Recently in Indianapolis we did have the opportunity of comparing the first fifteen printed plates (1937) with the elephant folio in the possession of the William Henry Smith Library in the State Historical Library Building. Plate No. 1 of the Wild Turkey (1937) is too yellow on the upper back, too bright on the tip of the tail, the primaries are too light, the leg feathers are too yellow; the iris lacks in color, and the blue bars on the lower back are not as bright as in the original; the details of feathering on the wattle are obscured. Of the fifteen plates compared four were considered to be copied closely enough, while the others deviated in greater or less degree. There is the possibility of variation in the plates of the original elephant folio edition, that is, difference between the plates of the set now in Indianapolis and those used for copying. There is also the possibility that the Indianapolis plates may have become faded or soiled. Or the printer may have erred in selecting his shades of ink.

The names of the birds which appear on the 1937 plates are those authorized by the A. O. U. Check-List, while the full legends of the elephant folios are collected in a "Transcript" at the end of the volume. There is also an index of common names. It is also noted that Mr. Vogt, in the Preface, makes a fair enough mention of Alexander Wilson. And, we may be grateful that there is no derogatory reference to Wilson. An article in a May, 1938, magazine refers to Wilson as "the dour Scotch weaver... who... in his blundering way came to know birds that Audubon never saw until much later", and also refers to his "bitter Scotch soul" and his "ill-directed life"—all of which we have failed to gather from his biographies.

It may be truly said that among all the bird books now available there is no other like this one.—T. C. S.

A MONOGRAPHIC STUDY OF THE RED CROSSBILL. By Ludlow Griscom. Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. 41, No. 5, pp. 77-210. Boston, 1937.

The goal of taxonomy is perfect classification, but fortunately for the taxonomist there are still categories that defy him. Therein lies the joy of the work, for it tests one's mettle to bring comparative order out of a chaotic family or genus or species. It is easy to share vicariously the satisfaction of a task well done that must have come to Mr. Griscom with the completion of his study of the Red Crossbill.

In all taxonomic studies opinion must still be the ultimate basis of a scientist's conclusions. The individual is fortunate who can eliminate this factor as far as possible from his analysis. Abundant material is a great aid to this end, but far more important is the innate scientific attitude that enables the individual to recognize the significance and limitations of his materials, and to refrain from unsupported assumptions. This monograph is a fine example of all these attainments. In his introductory pages the author makes clear the strangely contradictory and baffling nature of the data accumulated through field observation and presents logical conclusions regarding the erratic migrations of the crossbill subspecies and the overlapping of their ranges. In the following systematic dis-

cussion he lists a truly imposing total of 2447 specimens examined in private and museum collections throughout the United States. The evaluation of this material as to the condition of the birds when taken also seems judicious, an important point when the bearing of the breeding period on the distribution is taken into consideration.

As is always the case, the taxonomist who makes such a study is so much better informed than any of his readers on the technicalities involved that it would be ridiculous to criticize his arrangement without equally detailed research. The integrity of the author's effort must be the hallmark of his results, and here one can not but feel that nothing is lacking. Whatever changes this fine revision may suffer in the future can only be the results of the gradual progress to which all scientific work is subject.

A final sense of approval arises from the author's opening comments on the Old World races of crossbills. What taxonomist worthy of the name has examined material in any group of animals or plants from the vast expanses of Eurasia without a feeling of diffidence! Yet the Old World forms often aid materially in the analysis of allied Nearctic species, hence such conclusions as are presented are reassuring evidence that the author has left no stone unturned in his attempt at thorough and comprehensive study of these interesting birds.

In conclusion, this paper seems an admirable example of the detailed study of abundant material, and the keen comprehension and admirable restraint through which, alone, the difficult problems of taxonomy seem likely to be solved. Perhaps in the distant future we can find absolute criteria for classification. Until that Utopian day may we have many more monographs like the study of the Red Crossbill.—A. W. LINDSEY.

LES OISEAUX DE FRANCE. Volume III. By A. Menegaux. Published by Paul Lechevalier, 12 Rue de Tournon, Paris, VI. About 317 text pp. plus 64 colored plates and some black ones. Price, 60 francs.

The third volume in this series on the birds of France is now available. It treats of the rollers, kingfishers, bee-eaters, hoopoes, goatsuckers, swifts, swallows, flycatchers, wrens, waxwings, shrikes, thrushes, warblers, and all other passerine birds. About one hundred pages of keys and taxonomic material form Part I, while Part II is the Atlas including the colored plates with descriptive texts. In format this volume conforms to its two predecessors, being $4\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{4}$ inches in dimensions, and cloth-bound. Announcements of the earlier volumes of this series appeared in the WILSON BULLETIN for June, 1933, and December, 1934. These pocket-size books are admirably adapted for the use of travellers in Europe.—T. C. S.

THE BLUE-WINGED TEAL, ITS ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT. By Logan J. Bennett. Collegiate Press, Ames, Iowa. 1938. Pp. i-xiv + 1-144. Price, \$1.50.

The frontispiece of this book is a very beautiful colored plate of a pair of blue-wings, the male standing erect with outspread wings. Sidney H. Horn is the artist. The text by Dr. Bennett presents an account of the complete life history of this species. The summer studies were made chiefly in north central Iowa, while the winter studies were made in Mexico. The book contains nineteen chapters, with a bibliography and an index. The usual topics concerned in a life history study are treated in these chapters. Considerable attention is given to the ecology of these birds in an agricultural community, such as Iowa.—T. C. S.

BIRD NOTES FROM THE JOURNAL OF A NATURE LOVER. By William Graham Ross. Edited by Ella Lamson Clark. Privately published. Burlington, Iowa, 1938. Pp. i-xiv + 1-169. Price, \$1.00 (Shriner and Johnson, Fairfield, Iowa).

We might say that this book is written by a gentleman of the "old school". And by that we would mean that in the generation preceding ours there were men here and there who were gifted with a deep appreciation of nature, yet whose enjoyment had to be taken alone. There were no bird clubs to bring like-minded folks together. In spite of their isolation they made observations and recorded them. They had few opportunities for publication—perhaps never thought of publication. The present title seems to be the diary of such a man. The preface states that the notes "cover some thirty years, but largely come from the memoranda made between the years 1898 and 1910". It may be doubtful whether this book adds any facts to the science of ornithology, for precise dates are not given. But it is pleasant reading, and is evidently a partial record of an interesting life. Mr. Ross was a lawyer. It is our impression that fewer lawyers than doctors find relaxation in nature. At the end of the book there is an unannotated list of birds for the vicinity of Fairfield, Iowa, a town which, by the way, is one of the active bird study centers of the state.—T. C. S.

A DESCRIPTIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WEST VIRGINIA ORNITHOLOGY. By Earle Ames Brooks. Privately lithoprinted by the Author (166 Plymouth Road, Newton Highlands, Mass.). 28 pp. Price, \$1.00.

A vast amount of valuable bibliographic information is contained in the few pages of this work. It is offered only as a "fairly complete list of all ornithological publications referring to the Birds of West Virginia". The list begins with Alexander Wilson's work in 1831, and runs through to the date of publication, in 1938. This particular effort is well done and is a service to the ornithologists of West Virginia. We are most impressed, however, by the idea that something of a similar nature might, and ought, be done for nearly every state. Such a bibliography as this one might well serve as a model, both in format and mode of reproduction.—T. C. S.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSES OF VERTEBRATES IN THE GREAT BASIN. By Jean M. Linsdale. Rep. from Amer. Mid. Nat., XIX, No. 1, Jan., 1938, pp. 1-206.

This study was carried out in the Toyabe Mountains in the south central part of Nevada. The paper gives a list of 3 amphibians, 13 reptiles, 152 birds, and 47 mammals, with ecological notes on each. The author found, among other things, that flight songs were frequent, and considered this due to the scarcity of high perches.—T. C. S.

NATIVE BIRD SONG. By A. R. Brand. Price, 75 cents, any Victor dealer.

This is a Victor phonograph record. Our readers are already familiar with the four discs of bird songs previously issued under Mr. Brand's direction. They were issued under the title, "Songs of Wild Birds" and "More Songs of Wild Birds". (See WILSON BULLETIN for June, 1934, and for December, 1936). The present Victor disc records on one side the songs of the Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, Brown Thrasher, and Whip-poor-will; on the other side are the songs of the Field Sparrow, Phoebe, Black-capped Chickadee, and Loon.—T. C. S.

LOGBOOK OF MINNESOTA BIRD LIFE, 1917-1937. By Thomas S. Roberts, M. D. Univ. Minn. Press, Minneapolis, 1938. Pp. i-xii + 1-355. 23 figs. Price, \$3.50.

Dr. Roberts has here gathered together his communications to *Bird-Lore* under the heading, "The Season". The book contains twenty chapters—one chapter for the letters of each year from 1917 to 1937. Since these letters are based quite largely upon reports from Dr. Roberts' correspondents in most parts of the state, it amounts to a history of the important ornithological events in Minnesota during the twenty-year period. In the Preface Dr. Roberts states that he has compiled and published this Logbook "primarily as a mark of appreciation to all those who have by their contributions made possible the compilation of these articles"—an unusual but most thoughtful mode of expression.—T. C. S.

THE HOME-LIFE AND ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT. By Howard L. Mendall. Univ. Maine Studies, 2d series, No. 38. Univ. Maine Press, Orono, 1936. Pp. i-iv + 1-159.

This paper gives a very full account of the reproductory habits of the Double-crested Cormorant, but distribution and migration are discussed by a chapter on each. Considerable attention is given to the matter of food and feeding habits, and the conclusion is reached that, "except in scattered, local instances, it is largely neutral if not actually beneficial in its relationship to man".—T. C. S.

THE BIRDS OF BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS. By Josselyn Van Tyne and George Miksch Sutton. Misc. Publ. Mus. Zool., Univ. Mich., No. 37. Ann Arbor, Mich. 1937. Pp. 1-119. Pls. I-V. Col. frontispiece. Price, \$1.25.

The field work on which this paper is based began in 1928 and was continued in 1932, 1933, and 1935. The authors credit 239 living forms of birds to Brewster County. Of these, four subspecies are new, five forms are new to the United States, and eleven are new to Texas. Extensive annotations are accorded most of the forms included in the list. The colored plate, drawn by Sutton, portrays the new subspecies known as Fuertes' Red-tailed Hawk.—T. C. S.

THE AUDUBON YEAR BOOK, 1937. Pub. by the Indiana Audubon Society. Vol. XV. Pp. 1-98. Price, \$1.00.

Nearly a hundred pages of readable material are presented in this edition of the Indiana Year Book. Dr. L. A. Test offers a discussion of "Color in Feathers". A list of 173 species of birds of Jay County, Indiana, is presented from the notes of the late Hal B. Coffel. Interesting reminiscences of sixty years ago are offered by Elmer R. Waters, under the title, "The Farmers' Attitude Towards Bird Protection". Teachers will find much information in Esther Boal's paper on "Bird Study for Indiana". Dr. Earl Brooks is the Editor.—T. C. S.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LINNAEAN SOCIETY OF NEW YORK. No. 43 for 1936. Published by the Society at the American Museum of Natural History, New York. Issued in October, 1937. Pp. 1-112. Price, 75 cents.

The first article is on "The Great Wisconsin Passenger Pigeon Nesting of 1871", by A. W. Schorger. This is a vivid account of the vast numbers of wild pigeons which formerly bred in Wisconsin. The author describes the nesting area as being approximately seventy miles long by ten to fifteen miles wide, amounting to 850 square miles. He estimates that no less than 136,000,000 birds nested in that area that year. The birds were enabled to thrive in such numbers

because of the vast abundance of the oak tree with its fruit. Dr. Schorger was able to bring to light a great amount of factual material by a thorough search of the local newspapers of that period. A. L. Rand presents a paper on the life of two young Blue Jays in captivity, including many interesting notes on behavior. Allan D. Cruickshank gives a report on "The Ornithological Year 1935 in the New York City Region".—T. C. S.

CHECK-LIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE NATIONAL PARKS. Compiled by various observers and issued in mimeographed form by the National Park Service, Washington, D. C. December, 1937.

It is expressly stated that the list is tentative. Perhaps many of the Parks have not been studied thoroughly enough to obtain a complete list of the birds present. The lists of the older and larger Parks may doubtless be considered reasonably complete. Separate lists are given for twenty-three national parks. Each species is very briefly annotated. Considerable variation seems to prevail in the extensiveness of the bibliography for different parks, the one for the Yellowstone Park being especially meager, with too little credit being given to the earlier work of M. P. Skinner, and perhaps others. The authorities of the National Park Service propose to issue this work in printed form when it has reached a satisfactory state of completion.—T. C. S.

We are listing below a considerable number of papers and reports concerning which we assume our readers will wish to know, all of which would have been more fully reviewed except for the limitations of space and time.—Ed.

THE GREAT WISCONSIN PASSENGER PIGEON NESTING OF 1871. By A. W. Schorger. Repr. Proc. Linn. Soc. N. Y., No. 48, 1936, published October, 1937.

BIRDS OF THE YOSEMITE. By M. E. Beatty and C. A. Harwell. Yosemite Nature Notes, XVII, No. 1, Jan. 1938. Pp. 1-34. Price, 25 cents. Number of species listed is 202.

A STUDY OF THE DISTRIBUTION AND MIGRATION OF THE GREAT HORNED OWLS IN THE MISSOURI VALLEY REGION. By Myron H. Swenk. Repr. with revision of page 100 from Nebr. Bird Rev., V, October, 1937.

NESTING BIRDS OF IOWA. By Thos. G. Scott and George O. Hendrickson. Extension Circ. 247, Iowa State College, Ames. March, 1938. Pp. 1-64. Figures of common birds are to be colored by the pupil.

THE PTERYLOSIS OF THE FALCONIFORMES WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE TAXONOMIC POSITION OF THE OSPREY. By Lawrence V. Compton. Repr. Univ. Calif. Publ. in Zool., Vol. 42, No. 3, pp. 173-212. Berkeley, Calif., 1938. On the basis of the pterylosis the Osprey is found to be more closely related to the American Vultures (Cathartae) than to the Falcones.

TERRITORY, ANNUAL CYCLE, AND NUMBERS IN A POPULATION OF WREN-TITS (CHAMAEA FASCIATA). By Mary M. Erickson. Repr. Univ. Calif. Publ. in Zool., Vol. 42, No. 5, pp. 247-334. Berkeley, Calif. 1938. A full life history study of this western species.

- A PICTORIAL GUIDE TO THE FAMILIES OF BIRDS, INCLUDING A LIST OF THE BIRDS OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN WITH THEIR MIGRATION DATES. By Edward Boardman and Elizabeth Barto. Bull. No. 9, Cranbrook Inst. Sci., Bloomfield Hills, Mich. Pp. 1-48. 1937. Price, 50 cents. An illustrated key to the families of birds.
- SOME EARLY BIRD RECORDS OF WISCONSIN AND NEIGHBORING TERRITORY TO THE WEST AND NORTH (1896-1900 AND OF INDIANA (1876-1877)). By M. E. Pinney and J. F. MacNaughton. Repr. Trans. Wis. Acad. Sci. Arts & Letters, Vol. 30. 1937.
- THE BIRDS OF BOULDER COUNTY, COLORADO. By Gordon Alexander. Repr. Univ. Colo. Studies, Vol. 24, No. 2, March, 1937. A list of 250 species given with brief annotations.
- FAUNAS OF CANADA. By R. M. Anderson. Repr. from Can. Year Book, 1937. Mainly an elaboration of Merriam's system of life zones.
- MAMMALS AND BIRDS OF THE WESTERN ARCTIC DISTRICT, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, CANADA. By R. M. Anderson. Repr. from Canada's Western Northland. 1937. An account of relatively unexplored country, with chief attention to mammals.
- BEAUTIFUL BIRDS OF THE SOUTHERN AUDUBON SANCTUARIES. By Alexander Sprunt, Jr. Bull. No. 8, Nat. Ass'n Aud. Soc. New York, 1938. 7½x11¾ in. Pp. 1-39. Price, \$1.00. Eleven beautiful colored plates adorn this pamphlet: about seventeen subtropical American birds are popularly described. All of these birds are large and spectacular in appearance. They are the birds which the Audubon Society has concentrated upon especially in protective efforts.
- THE MIGRATION OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS. By Frederick C. Lincoln. Circ. 363, U. S. Dept. Agric., Washington, D. C. 1935. Price, 10 cents.
- THE AMERICAN EGRET IN THE ALBANY REGION. By Dayton Stoner. Bird Day number, Bull. to Schools, Univ. State N. Y. March 15, 1938. Price, 5 cents. Other articles on birds are included.
- THE POSTJUVENAL MOLT OF THE GRASSHOPPER SPARROW. By George Miksch Sutton. Oc. Papers Mus. Zool., Univ. Mich., No. 336. Ann Arbor. 1936. 1 col. pl.
- THE JUVENAL PLUMAGE AND POSTJUVENAL MOLT OF THE CHIPPING SPARROW. By George Miksch Sutton. Oc. Papers Mus. Zool., Univ. Mich., No. 355. Ann Arbor, Mich. 1937.
- ARE THEY VERMIN? Cornell Rural School Leaflet, Vol. 31, No. 2, Nov., 1937. Pp. 1-32. A useful compilation of facts concerning hawks, owls, and mammals commonly classed as "vermin".
- FACTORS AFFECTING YEARLY ABUNDANCE OF PASSERINE BIRDS. By S. Charles Ken-deigh and S. Prentiss Baldwin. Repr. Ecol. Monog., Vol. 7, pp. 91-124. 1937.
- THE BIRDS AND MAMMALS OF THE WESTERN SLOPE OF THE AZUERO PENINSULA, REPUBLIC OF PANAMA. By John Warren Aldrich and Benjamin Patterson Bole, Jr. Sci. Publ. Cleveland Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. VII, pp. 1-196. 1937.

- CROW-WATERFOWL RELATIONSHIPS. By E. R. Kalmbach. Circ. 433, U. S. Dept. Agric. Washington, D. C., 1937. Price, 10 cents.
- THE DISTRIBUTION OF BREEDING BIRDS IN ONTARIO. By James L. Baillie, Jr. and Paul Harrington. Repr. Trans. Roy. Can. Inst., Vol. XXI, 1936-1937.
- A TEN YEAR STUDY OF A BIRD POPULATION IN CENTRAL OHIO. By Lawrence E. Hicks. Repr. Amer. Midl. Nat., Vol. 16, No. 2, pp. 177-186. Notre Dame, Ind. 1935.
- THE BIRDS OF THE LAKE ST. MARTIN REGION, MANITOBA. By T. M. Shortt and Sam Waller. Contr. Royal Ont. Mus. Zool., No. 10. Pp. 1-51. Pub. under the Reuben Wells Leonard Bequest. 1937.
- BAIRD'S SPARROW. By B. W. Courtwright, T. M. Shortt, and R. D. Harris. Contr. Royal Ont. Mus. Zool., No. 11. Pp. 153-199. Repr. Trans. Roy. Can. Inst., XXI, Pt. 2, 1937. This paper gives the latest summary of the known distribution of this species.
- ONTARIO AND ITS AVIFAUNA. By L. L. Snyder. *And* THE MUSEUM'S BIRD COLLECTION. By J. L. Baillie. Pub. under the Reuben Wells Leonard Bequest. 1938.
- THE RESIDENT BIRDS OF SOUTHERN MICHIGAN. By William Henry Burt. Bull. No. 7, Cranbrook Inst. Sci. Bloomfield Hills, Mich. 1936. Price, 50 cents. Twenty-eight resident species of birds are popularly described by the author and illustrated in black and white by George Miksch Sutton.
- WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT IN THE NATIONAL PARKS. By George M. Wright and Ben H. Thompson. Fauna series No. 2. Pp. i-viii + 1-142. Washington, D. C. 1935. Price, 20 cents. A little confusing on the title page, but an excellent report, well illustrated.
- THIRST ON THE LAND. By William Vogt. Circ. No. 32, Nat. Ass'n Aud. Soc. New York. No date. A pretty full elucidation of the drainage problem.
- SMALL REFUGES FOR WATERFOWL. Pub. anonymously by the More Game Birds in America Foundation, 500 Fifth Ave., New York. 1933. Those who would like to have wild ducks even within the city limits should read this pamphlet.
- WILDLIFE CYCLES IN RELATION TO THE SUN. By Leonard William Wing. Repr. Trans. 21st Amer. Game Conf. 1935.
- BEHOLD—THE INNOCENT BLATTER! Reprint of editorial by Harry McGuire in Outdoor Life for Feb. 19, 1934. A stirring appeal for the removal of sheep from the National Forest areas. If every conservationist in the country could read this valiant appeal surely something would be done.
- BIRDS OF THE EASTERN ARCTIC. By P. A. Taverner. Repr. from Canada's Eastern Arctic. 1934.
- A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGY. By Jesse M. Shaver. Repr. Journ. Tenn. Acad. Sci., VI, No. 4, October, 1931. A collection of 237 bibliographic citations on Tennessee ornithology, arranged alphabetically.

- A HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE HABITS AND ANATOMY OF THE WOODCOCK. Compiled from the earliest drawings and accounts to those of the present day. By Henry Mousley. Repr. Canadian Field-Nat., XLIX, January, 1938. A valuable source of early information.
- NESTING COLONIES OF THE DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA. By J. A. Munro. Repr. Prov. Mus. B. C. Pp. 26-30. 1936.
- THE AMERICAN MERGANSER IN BRITISH COLUMBIA AND ITS RELATION TO THE FISH POPULATION. By J. A. Munro and W. A. Clemens. Bull. No. 55, Biol. Board of Canada. Pp. 1-50. Ottawa, 1937. Price, 35 cents.
- MAN'S FRIEND: THE CROW. Publ. No. 65, Emergency Conservation Com. New York, 1937.
- OWLS. TEACHING UNIT No. 5. By Ellsworth D. Lumley. With Introduction by Paul L. Errington. Pub. No. 67, Emergency Conservation Com. New York. 1937.

Review of Local or State Periodicals Printed

The *Nebraska Bird Review* for October (V, No. 4, 1937) presents an exceedingly illuminating article on the distribution and migration of the Great Horned Owls in the Missouri Valley Region, including a discussion of the taxonomy and nomenclature. No one interested in this species in the interior can afford to overlook this paper. The same serial for January-June (VI, No. 1, 1938) appears in a brand new dress, featuring a new figure of the Burrowing Owl by Dr. Sutton. At the same time the magazine becomes a semi-annual instead of a quarterly publication. The new cover makes a decided improvement. This issue contains a short paper on the birds of the Crescent Lake Migratory Bird Refuge (in the sandhills), and more than eighteen pages of "general notes"—quite a remarkable collection of material.

The *Kentucky Warbler* (XIV, No. 1, 1938) now appears in a new cover, with a design by Mr. Ganier. Dr. J. J. Murray, of Virginia, contributes the leading article on some breeding birds of Letcher County, Kentucky, fifty-six species being listed. Short notes and minutes fill the remainder of the 12-page number.

The *Flicker* for December (IX, No. 3-4, 1937) contains a list of 1937 nesting birds in Minnesota, and an account of an ornithologist's trip afoot in Northern Minnesota, both by G. N. Rysgaard. Another article by Dr. C. Evans gives a description of the mating of the American Bittern.

The September number of the *Migrant* (VIII, No. 3, 1937) publishes an article reporting a flight of Mississippi Kites. As many as thirty-four were counted at one time, all feeding on the periodical cicadas in a woodland area. In the number for December (VIII, No. 4) Mr. Arthur Stupka reports Pine Siskins in the Great Smoky Mountains from March to December, 1937. Mr. Ben B. Coffey writes on his work in banding Chimney Swifts, 2,375 being banded in 1937. In the March number (IX, No. 1, 1938) Mr. Frank Belrose contributes a list of birds seen in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park during about a week in early September, 1937. Mr. E. D. Schreiber reports on the results of fifty-three nest boxes erected

during the seasons of 1936 and 1937. Several observations on the destruction of young birds by snakes are included in this paper. Considerable space is given to Christmas census reports.

In *Iowa Bird Life* for December (VII, No. 4, 1937) Dr. L. J. Bennett and Miss Kate E. LaMar present a report of a ground-nesting colony of Black-crowned Night Herons in north central Iowa. Other papers included are, "Conclusions as to the food habits of the Barred Owl", by P. L. Errington and Malcolm McDonald, and "Birds of the Sioux City Area in 1936", by Bruce F. Stiles. The March number (VIII, No. 1, 1938) contains an account of the 1934 spring migration through Clay and Palo Alto Counties, Iowa, by Dr. Logan J. Bennett. The article on the birds of the Sioux City area in 1936, by Bruce F. Stiles, is concluded. A page and a half of general notes, with three pages devoted to the Christmas census completes the number.

Review of Local or State Periodicals Mimeographed

The *Wildlife Review*, No. 11, Feb., 1938, abstracts 104 pieces of current literature on wildlife conservation. A second number (No. 12) was issued in February for the purpose of abstracting the papers presented in the Transactions of the Second North American Wildlife Conference held in November, 1937. No. 13 was issued in March, and No. 14 was issued in May.

In the *Snowy Egret* for Spring, 1938 (XIII, No. 1) Mr. H. A. Olsen gives a history of his publishing efforts. Mr. O. M. Bryens gives an interesting account of his observations on the habits of the Ruffed Grouse. Mr. Bryens also contributes five other papers to this issue. One of the latter includes some notes on the winter movements of the Lapland Longspur, showing that the birds were present throughout the winter of 1936-1937.

The *Prothonotary* for December (1937) and January and February (1938) follow pretty closely the usual plan of reviewing the preceding month's weather conditions and giving noteworthy bird records and miscellaneous notes. The March number (IV, No. 3a, 1938) features a very readable article on conservation, reviewing the situation in a way suitable to the observance of National Wildlife Restoration Week—an occasion which will doubtless recur annually hereafter.

The Editor of the *Redstart* in the December number (V, No. 3, 1937) reports his ornithological observations along the South Carolina coast. Among other things of interest he saw an Arkansas Kingbird. A note in the March number (V, No. 6, 1938) shows the regularity in the fall migration of the Nighthawk—only one day variation in five years. Members of the Brooks Bird Club do not hesitate to travel a hundred miles on a bird study trip, as was shown by their pilgrimage to the Pymatuning Lake area in Pennsylvania, and reported in the May number.

The *Bluebird* for January (V, No. 1, 1938) gives a sight record for two individuals of the Eastern Ground Dove near Columbia, Mo., on September 31 (1937?), and in support mentions that this species has been "taken both in

Arkansas and Iowa (Des Moines)". If this refers to the case reported in the *Auk* (XXXIX, 1922, p. 566) it must be emphasized that no specimen was taken, and DuMont (1934) placed it in the hypothetical list. Accompanying this issue there is "An Introduction to Bird Study in Missouri" by Prof. Rudolf Bennitt, which gives many hints for the pursuit of bird study, especially for the beginner. The April number (V, No. 4) gives a column approval for grasshopper poisoning work. Bird students in general will do well to suspend judgment on this matter for another year or two.

The *St. Louis Bird Club Bulletin* for January (VII, No. 1, 1938) consists of four pages of matter of local and general interest. Among other things the question is raised whether applicants for a hunting license should be required to pass an examination concerning the game laws and show ability to identify game which can be legally killed. It also gives, on authority of the U. S. Biological Survey, estimates of our wild duck populations, as follows: 1,000,000,000 in 1870; 100,000,000 in 1930; 27,000,000 in 1935.

The *Chickadee* for December (VII, No. 1, 1937) features a list of 179 species of birds locally observed.

The September-October number of the *Raven* (VIII, No. 9-10, 1937) contains: "Birds of Chatham, Virginia", by Eleanor E. Herrick, it being a list of 106 species; and "Hérons and Egrets on the Potomac River near Alexandria, Va.", by William B. McIlwaine, Jr., besides many brief items. In the November-December number (VIII, No. 11-12) Dr. J. J. Murray discusses "The Extension of the Range of the Black Vulture". He finds that there has been an actual northward extension, and accounts for it by a diminution of the regular food supply in the South. This, in turn, is thought to be due to progress in sanitary practice, such as burial of dead animals and discontinuance of the practice of the markets of throwing the waste meat into the streets. Dr. Murray also gives some very interesting facts relative to changes in the distribution of other species. Dr. Murray's writings are substantial.

The September-October number of the *Chat* (I, No. 7-8, 1937) consists of an extensive article on the birds of Lake Mattamuskeet, N. C., by Earle R. Green. It is accompanied by a map, a plate of two photographs, and a bibliography. The number for November-December (I, No. 9-10, 1937) gives an account of several rather northerly located rookeries of the Little Blue Heron. This seems to be another case of extension of range. There is also a report of a sight record of two American Flamingoes on Pea Island in June, 1937. "Learn a bird a week" is a novel feature in which four common birds are roughly illustrated and accompanied by a list of field marks. The January number (II, No. 1, 1938) summarizes the Club's accomplishments for the preceding year, thus: Six issues of the *Chat*, including 72 pages, 1200 copies mailed to 19 states and Cuba, with other figures on various matters. In the February number (II, No. 2) Dr. T. G. Pearson reports some observations which he thinks may confirm Mr. McAtee's account of certain birds placing live ants (or other insects) in their plumage (see the *Auk* for January, 1938). A very thoughtful discussion of bird conservation philosophy by the State Ornithologist of Massachusetts, Joseph H. Hagar, is also found in this number. The March-April number (II, No. 3-4) records the Proceedings of the Second Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Bird Club,

and reports 32 new members, making a total membership of 133. Mr. C. S. Brimley, well-known zoologist throughout the country, contributes a short biographical sketch. A paper by Mr. T. M. Carter reports three large Robin roosts in North Carolina, with an estimated total population of about six millions of the birds. The account is brief, but indicates an opportunity for an intensive study.

The *Bird Calendar* of the Cleveland Bird Club for June-July-August, 1937, continues on the same plan as before, but gives special attention in this number to census work.

The *Inland Bird Banding News* for December (IX, No. 4, 1937) contains the minutes of the Annual Meeting and reports of the officers. There is also a note on the "Feeding habits of the Black Tern", by Paul W. Hoffman. This paper makes some observations on the food of this species, and on the manner of securing it. It is stated that the Black Terns "rarely plunge into the water for food as do other members of the tern family". It is also found that Forster's Terns occasionally "adopt" the young of the Black Tern. The March number (X, No. 1, 1938) reports some good work in endeavoring to secure support in South American countries in bird banding and protection. Mr. M. J. Magee reports results of his banding work on Purple Finches.

In *News from the Bird Banders* for January (XIII, No. 1, 1938) we find an article entitled "The Herring Gull: An Experiment in Co-operation". This undertaking was carried out in gull colonies along the Atlantic coast, and a total of 6,140 birds were banded in nine colonies from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to New York. All birds received an aluminum band and one or more colored celluloid bands, the combination being the same for each colony but different from the other colonies. Thus, birds may be identified with one of the nine colonies without capture.

North Dakota Bird Notes for 1937 (March to June). Under this heading we have thirteen dated sheets of bird notes on the migration season in that state. These notes were compiled by Prof. O. A. Stevens, at Fargo, and have appeared annually for a long period.

The *Fifth Annual Bulletin* (1937) of the Toledo Naturalists' Club consists of thirty-seven mimeographed pages enclosed in an artistic cover produced by the silk screen process. Among the articles we find instructive accounts of the habits of several species, e. g., the Chimney Swift, by Miss A. A. Vandenburg; the Great Blue Heron, by John J. Stophlet; and on the Bank Swallow, by F. J. Flickinger. Mr. L. W. Campbell reports the unusual bird records for the year 1937. Such a volume affords an excellent method of preserving the Club's activities.