

### ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

LIFE IN AN AIR CASTLE. By Frank M. Chapman. D. Appleton-Century Co. New York, 1938. Pp. 1-250. Pls. I-XXXI. Price, \$3.00.

Dr. Chapman here continues the record of his observations and experiences on Barro Colorado, the first instalment being given in his "My Tropical Air Castle". The present book deals with birds in part, but also relates experiences with a few mammals, and one chapter deals with a tree. Perhaps the most interesting chapter in the book is the one on the Turkey Vulture, or Buzzard. Here Dr. Chapman reverts to the old controversy on whether the vulture locates its food through the sense of sight or the sense of smell, and takes the latter view. He set up several experiments to test the birds in this behavior, and called them, for example, the Empty-house Test and Box-on-the-hill Test. From the results he reached the conclusion that the birds depended on the sense of smell in locating food, thus taking a view contrary to what we would consider the current opinion. Apparently, this controversy, which began with Audubon, has not been closed.

The book closes with a chapter on "The Past and Present" of the Barro Colorado Island and Laboratory, with many interesting bits of history and reflections. We notice that the last line on page 202 is, apparently, misplaced—an error in proof reading which is seldom found in an Appleton book. And on page 85 occurs the line: "The movements of their head seem independent of those of their body". But only a hyper-critic will notice such things. The undoubted verdict will be that the book is good reading for those who are in the least interested in outdoor life.—T. C. S.

THE LOC OF TANAGER HILL. By Marie Andrews Commons. Baltimore, 1938. Price, \$2.50.

This volume will stand as a memorial to Frank Watkin Commons and his work in banding birds in Minnesota. Mrs. Commons, the author, was equally interested in the progress of the work upon which the book is based. In looking over the book several things are impressed upon the mind: a) the care and accuracy with which observations were made and recorded, especially considering the fact that the workers would be classified as amateurs; b) the wonderful opportunity in bird banding work for yielding relaxation and great pleasure to the man of the business world.

The bird banding work at the Tanager Hill Station was carried on for eight years (1923-1930, inclusive). The experiences of these bird banders from day to day are recorded in narrative form, and will be readable to bird banders as well as to many who may not be banders. At the close of the narrative the banding results in twenty-six species are summarized. And twenty-eight tables give the dates of banding and returns for as many species. The book contains a goodly number of original illustrations from photographs. A pocket map enables the reader to visualize the text descriptions. So we have here a noteworthy addition to the growing literature of bird banding lore.—T. C. S.

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF MAGPIES. By Jean Linsdale. Pac. Coast Avifauna No. 25, pp. 1-234. Cooper Ornith. Club, Berkeley, Calif., 1937.

This publication adds another to the growing list of monographic studies, since it treats both the taxonomy and the natural history, and gives a review of

the literature. Though it is doubtless unnecessary we may mention that it gives a reasonably full discussion of the subspecies, distribution, food, migration, courtship, nest, eggs, young, plumages, molt, populations, and ecological relations. From his examination of the literature the author concludes that the use of mud in the magpie nest is the normal thing. From an editorial point of view we are interested in the author's incidental comments on local faunal lists. He thinks such lists have been useful in the past, and that in the future every encouragement should be given to the publication of such lists by those "whose preference or opportunity dictates" this line of effort. We are inclined to think that such lists will always be useful for comparison, if for no other reason, but where they should be published is another question.—T. C. S.

AVIAN HOSTS OF THE GENUS *ISOSPORA* (COCCIDIIDA). By Donald C. Boughton, Ruth B. Boughton, and Joseph Volk. *Ohio Journ. Sci.*, XXXVIII, No. 3, May, 1938, pp. 149-163.

In recent years considerable study has been given to the internal parasites of birds, among other animals. The paper here mentioned gives a list of 177 bird forms which are known to be hospitable to the seven known species of avian *Isospora*. One interesting observation is to the effect that parasites belonging to the genus *Isospora* seem, in general, to be associated with the "higher" orders of birds; while similar coccidians belonging to the genus *Eimeria* were found associated, in general, with the "lower" bird orders.—T. C. S.

BIRDS AND MAMMALS OF MOUNT MCKINLEY NATIONAL PARK, ALASKA. By Joseph S. Dixon. Fauna series No. 3, Nat. Park Service. Washington, D. C. 1936. Pp. i-xiv+1-236. Price, 35 cents.

The bird list includes 107 species (plus five in a hypothetical list), fully annotated as to "general appearance", "identification", "distribution", and "habits". The entire paper is illustrated with eighty-five halftone reproductions of original photographs, and one map. There is a good summary of the facts known concerning the nesting of the Surf-bird. The introduction gives the information that the records are based mainly on two expeditions—one in 1926 by Messrs. Dixon and Wright, and one in 1932 by Mr. Dixon. Mr. Dixon states that he has hiked about 750 miles in Mount McKinley National Park in his field studies there. The material is well organized but is entertaining nevertheless.—T. C. S.

LETTERS BY RAFINESQUE TO DR. SHORT IN THE FILSON CLUB ARCHIVES. By S. E. Perkins III. *Filson Club History Quart.*, Vol. 12, No. 4, Oct., 1938. Pp. 200-239.

This bit of biographical material presented by our fellow member may be of interest to many of our readers. While Rafinesque was primarily a botanist, yet he is now credited as being the first to describe and name the Cliff Swallow. The Filson Club is a historical society with headquarters at Louisville, Ky.—T. C. S.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LINNAEAN SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, FOR 1937. No. 49. Pp. 1-104. Price, 75 cents.

Contents: A biographical sketch of Charles Anderson Uerner, by J. L. Edwards; Preliminary notes on the Behavior and Ecology of the Eastern Willet, by William Vogt; Black-crowned Night Heron colonies on Long Island, by Robert Allen; general notes, and reports of officers.—T. C. S.

BIRDS OF ALGONQUIN PROVINCIAL PARK, ONTARIO. By D. A. MacLulich. Cont. No. 13 Roy. Ont. Mus. Zool. 1938. Pp. 1-47. Price, 25 cents.

A list of 169 species of birds with annotations. It is too much to expect that all readers will know the geographical location of the area treated, hence it should be given in the text. The annotations are full and instructive.—T. C. S.

A FAUNAL INVESTIGATION OF WESTERN RAINY RIVER DISTRICT, ONTARIO. By L. L. Snyder. Cont. 14, Roy. Ont. Mus. Zool. 1938. Pp. 157-213. Price, 25 cents.

A series of papers on the animals of this region, including a list of 138 species recognized as "summer birds". The list uses binomial nomenclature exclusively, although in many cases the subspecific possibilities are discussed in the annotations—a procedure which we heartily approve.—T. C. S.

INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY YEARBOOK, 1938. Vol. XVI. Pp. 1-105. Price \$1.00 (Harold Zimmerman, 915 W. Gilbert St., Muncie, Ind.).

As usual this annual contains a wide assortment of material. Mr. Donald H. Boyd discusses the bird life of the Indiana Dunes region. Mr. Frank Johnson discusses the Bewick's Wren in Indiana. Many additional short items are included—all of local interest.—T. C. S.

The following short papers are listed by title:

PRELIMINARY NOTES ON THE BEHAVIOR AND THE ECOLOGY OF THE EASTERN WILLET. By William Vogt. Proc. Linn. Soc. N. Y., No. 49, 1938.

RECORD OF BIRD TEMPERATURES. By Dayton Stoner, Ph. D. Circ. 19, N. Y. State Mus., Albany, N. Y., 1937.

CHECK LIST OF THE BIRDS OF MICHIGAN. By Josselyn Van Tyne. Occasional Paper No. 379, Mus. Zool., Univ. Mich. 1938.

THE BREEDING BIRDS OF TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS. By George Miksch Sutton. Ann. Carnegie Mus., XXVII, 1938.

PHYSIOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE FEATHER. II. General Principles of Development with Special Reference to the After-Feather. By Frank R. Lillie and Mary Juhn. Physiol. Zool., XI, No. 4, October, 1938.

#### *Review of Local or State Periodicals Printed*

The *Nebraska Bird Review* for July-December (VI, No. 2) is the second number as a semi-annual publication. The leading article is on the Prairie Chicken, and is by Glenn Viehmeyer. The author gives a thoughtful review of the various exterminative factors applying to this species in the Nebraska Sandhills. The picture as painted is not bright for the future of this bird. Seven pages of general notes, a table of migration dates, and minutes of the annual meeting last spring, make up the number.

The *Iowa Bird Life for June* (VIII, No. 2) contains a very instructive article on the European Partridge in Iowa, which, however, overlooks an earlier paper on the same subject by Chas. J. Spiker, which appeared in the WILSON BULLETIN of March, 1929. The remaining pages include the minutes of the Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union last May, general notes, bibliography of Iowa literature, and reviews.

The *Migrant* for June, 1938 (IX, No. 2) reports the nesting of a pair of Prothonotary Warblers in the cavity of an empty water pitcher. These birds have taken a liberal share of ornithological attention during the past year. Messrs. Ganier and Clebsch report in the September number (IX, No. 3) the results of a week's field work in June on the top of the Great Smoky Mountains. They found eighty-seven species, which was eighty-seven more than we saw in driving over these mountains in August. But probably one must make several trips into that wonderland before one can expect to see anything but the mountains and the vast, timbered gorges.

The *Kentucky Warbler* for the summer of 1938 (XIV, No. 3) in a new cover has for its leading article a list of the waterfowl of Kentucky, by Robert M. Mengel. Following we find a detailed account of the Audubon Museum in the new Audubon State Park near Henderson, Ky. Not many months ago we read the announcement of such a proposed institution, and we are now surprised to learn that it has been built, and that it was to have been opened to the public "some time in July" last. It is stated that many relics of Audubon have already been sent to this museum for preservation, and among other things a set of Wilson's Ornithology "with Audubon's notations throughout". A note by Mr. Maslowski reports that the Least Terns were found nesting in Fulton County, Ky., as early as June 13.

In the *Florida Naturalist* for July, 1938 (XI, No. 4) Mr. Donald Nicholson offers a critique of a previously published Florida list. A short note by Mr. O. E. Baynard reports an Arkansas Kingbird in Florida. This species has been making a remarkable expansion in its range in recent years. An interesting note is to the effect that the chief of police in one Florida town has ordered the destruction of shrikes on the ground that these birds annoy the cats and dogs. This sounds a little like a joke but it may not be. Can a police officer abrogate a state law in Florida?

#### *Review of Local or State Periodicals Mimeographed*

The *Raven* is the virile and healthy offspring of the Virginia Society of Ornithology. The April-May number (IX, Nos. 4-5, 1938) gives a list of 120 birds of Chesterfield County, Va. A membership of fifty-eight is listed in the June number. Dr. Murray's "Recent records and new problems in Virginia ornithology" is the type of literature which aids greatly in promoting the scientific study of birds locally. (Lest we never have a better opportunity, we wish to say here that we telephoned Dr. Murray as we passed through his town last August, and regretted his absence). The August number (IX, No. 8) is a list of sixty-four species of summer birds of Middle Mountain, Highland County, Va., by Dr. Murray. The September number (No. 9) is devoted wholly to an annotated list of birds of Amelia and Brunswick Counties, Va., by John B. Lewis.

The *Redstart* is issued monthly by the Brooks Bird Club, of Wheeling, W. Va. The July-August number (V, Nos. 10-11) gives a list of 198 species of birds known to occur in the eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. In the September number (V, No. 12) Messrs. Frank Conner and John Pattison record the finding of a Raven's nest with five eggs in Monongalia County, W. Va. William A. Lunk

reports in the November number (VI, No. 2) on the finding of Brewster's Warbler near Fairmont, W. Va.

The *Prothonotary* is the Bulletin of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. It has always made a specialty of local records—unusual migration records and nesting records. Its purpose has been to gather as complete information as possible concerning the local birdlife. This society is to be credited with successfully conducting long field trips. They have, for instance, taken one or more field trips to the Pymatuning Swamp region of western Pennsylvania. On such occasions their party was joined by interested persons from neighboring states. The number for June (IV, No. 6, 1938) reports a successful jaunt to this region covering the dates of May 28, 29, 30; and another trip was projected for October 8-9. In the September issue (IV, No. 9) Mr. Harold D. Mitchell, in reviewing the work of the Society, suggests that a bird club is likely to succeed best by encouraging its members to specialize and to adopt ornithological projects. This suggestion is worthy of consideration by many local societies.

In the *Bluebird* for September (V, No. 9, 1938) Brother Hubert Lewis presents an original and very strong indictment of the Blue Jay. He cites three observations of the Blue Jay's predation on nestling song birds, namely on the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, on the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and on the Wood Pewee. Another note gives a little information about the distribution of the European Tree Sparrow in the St. Louis region. In practically each issue of the *Bluebird* one finds a delightful original poem relating to nature—usually by Editor G. E. Moore, but occasionally by another of Missouri's poets.

The *Chat* for May-June (II, Nos. 5-6, 1938) first gives a fitting tribute to Mr. C. S. Brimley, followed by articles on herons and terns. In the July-August number Dr. Brimley has a brief, but most interesting, discussion of Brewster's and Lawrence's Warblers in terms of Mendelian inheritance. Another contributor tells of seeing Red-headed Woodpeckers devour an unidentified nestling. In the September-October issue (II, Nos. 9-10) Dr. J. J. Murray reports finding two young of the Least Tern at Oregon Inlet (Va. or N. C.?) on August 18, 1938. From it we also learn that the Georgia Ornithological Society has been in existence for some time, and that Mr. Earle R. Greene is the present President.

*Bird Calendar of the Cleveland Bird Club* for October, 1938, (No. 3) contains a report of census work in the Cleveland area. The bird students of this region are doing some very creditable field work and keeping records of it.

The *Snowy Egret* (Vol. 13, No. 2) for the Autumn of 1938 is now issued from 172 Manchester St., Battle Creek, Mich. These pages contain local bird lists mainly, but Mr. O. M. Bryens presents a diary of observations on the Warbling Vireo.

*Game Research News Letter* for May and November, 1938, give reports on wildlife management researches being carried on at the University of Wisconsin.

*North Dakota Bird Notes* (March to June, 1938) is a stapled series of weekly reports on local ornithological events in that state during the migration season. These sheets are distributed regularly to the newspapers of North Dakota for such

use as they may care to make. The project is carried out by Prof. O. A. Stevens, of Fargo.

*News from the Bird Banders* for May (XIII, No. 2, 1938) presents a detailed report of the banding activities of the W. B. B. A. for the year, 1937. It shows that a total of 46,828 birds were banded by the Society during that year. The number for September (XIII, No. 3) carries an important paper entitled "The unseen Roads of Bird Migration", by Kenneth C. Alexander. The gist of this paper is to emphasize the ordinary physical factors of the birds environment to explain the cause of migration routes, as well as of local routes; or that local fly-routes are caused by ordinary physical factors, such as heat radiation, winds, etc., while a migration route is simply the summation of the local routes. Mr. Alexander is preparing an elaboration of his ideas in book form.

The *Inland Bird Banding News* for June (X, No. 2, 1938) carries an announcement of the death of Mr. W. I. Lyon, the well-known leader of the Inland Bird Banding Association. Mr. Lyon was well known for his banding work with gulls and terns, but his later work with Cowbirds seems to us to have been more productive of interesting results. We believe that no paper has been published embodying all of the data and conclusions in Mr. Lyon's work, and would urge that some one undertake to collect and present the material.

The *Wildlife Review* (No. 15, July, 1938) is issued by the U. S. Biological Survey under the direction of Mr. W. L. McAtee. The issue for November (No. 16) has also appeared. This serial gives abstracts of articles in the field of conservation and wildlife management, the originals of which are widely scattered.