

C. vauxi, two distinct species of *Chatura* are recognized, *C. cinereiventris phæopygos* and *C. spinicauda fumosa*.—W. DEW. M.

'**Cassinia.**'—'Cassinia, A Bird Annual,'¹ "devoted to the ornithology of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware," comprises seven papers, followed by an 'Abstract of Proceedings,' a bibliography (including (1) ornithological papers for 1907 by members of the Club, and (2) additional papers relating to the birds of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware), a list of the members of the Club, and an index. The place of honor is accorded to Witmer Stone's interesting biographical sketch of Adolphus L. Heermann, M. D., who was born, it is supposed, in South Carolina in 1818, and who died at San Antonio, Texas, September 2, 1865. Dr. Heermann is well known as one of the naturalists of the Pacific Railroad Surveys, he having been surgeon and naturalist to Lieutenant R. S. Williamson's expedition, in 1853-54. Previously Heermann had made a large collection of birds in California, and is further known to bird students through the names of two species of California birds, a gull and a sparrow, dedicated to him by Cassin. Mr. Stone has been unable to present a very detailed or connected history of his life, but the facts here brought together are most welcome. The accompanying portrait of Heermann is from a daguerreotype and represents him as attired on one of his western expeditions. The titles of the other papers are: 'Some Birds of Brown's Mills, N. J.,' by Cornelius Weygant; 'Type Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey,' by Spencer Trotter,—an interesting list, with comment, of species first made known from birds obtained in this region; 'Bird Life of the Indian River Country of Delaware,' by Charles J. Pennock; 'A Pensauken Diary,' by Chreswell J. Hunt (with two half-tone plates); 'Report on the Spring Migration of 1907,' compiled by Witmer Stone (pp. 54-79). The average attendance at the sixteen meetings of the Club held during the year was 24, with a maximum attendance on one or more occasions of 51.—J. A. A.

Beebe on the Seasonal Changes of Color in Birds.²—The investigations here reported relate to the Scarlet Tanager and the Bobolink. Birds of each species in full nuptial plumage and still in the height of vocal and physical conditions were placed in small cages in a quiet room, and the supply of light gradually cut off and the amount of food increased. When the time for the autumnal moult arrived not a single feather was shed. "In brief, the birds skipped the fall moult entirely and appeared to suffer no inconvenience whatever as a result." They showed only the symptoms of inactivity produced by excessive fatness; early in the experiment they

¹ Cassinia, A Bird Annual. Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club of Philadelphia, 1907. Issued March, 1908. 8vo, pp. 98, and 3 half-tone plates. Price, 50 cents.

² Preliminary Report on an Investigation of the Seasonal Changes of Color in Birds. By C. William Beebe. American Naturalist, Vol. XLII, Jan. 1908, pp. 34-38.