

micus are intentional or accidental deviations we cannot say as they are used without comment.

It would have been better perhaps if the 'distributions' had been quoted more exactly from the A. O. U. list as some of them as they stand are rather misleading, the Western Grebe for instance is said to breed south to central Mexico. Some other remarks are rather startling as the statement that the Thrasher gets its name from "its habit of beating or thrashing the insects it catches until dead and deprived of wings and legs," while the 'double moult' as a character of the Sylviidæ does not seem to apply to any of the Colorado species. By a curious *lapsus* Mr. D. D. Stone is constantly referred to as Mrs. Stone! These however do not detract from the general excellence of Mr. Sclater's volume which certainly provides Colorado ornithologists with an admirable basis for future work.— W. S.

Howell's Birds of Arkansas.¹ — There are to-day but few states without adequate bird-lists. One of the most neglected in this respect has been Arkansas, but thanks to Mr. Howell we have now an admirable annotated catalogue of the 255 species and subspecies hitherto taken in the state or reported by competent observers.

The data upon which the report is based were largely collected by the author during a collecting trip in the spring and early summer of 1910, while additional information was gathered by other members and correspondents of the Biological Survey. The dearth of publications on the birds of Arkansas may be realized when we find that the author is able to quote only four titles in his bibliography and that prior to 1902 only 48 species had been reported from the state.

The distribution, time of occurrence and relative abundance of the various species are well discussed by Mr. Howell while the breeding ranges of several species are carefully mapped, those of the Whip-poor-will and Chuck-will's-widow proving to be almost exactly complementary. Several excellent halftone plates from drawings by Fuertes and photographs of characteristic scenery and a faunal map add to the attractiveness of the report.— W. S.

Burns on the Broad-winged Hawk.² — Mr. Burns has brought together in this monograph a vast amount of information. It is based upon "twenty-two years of personal observation and five years of close study of the literature." Those portions which are based upon the author's personal observations form the most valuable part of his work. Mr. Burns has

¹ Birds of Arkansas. By Arthur H. Howell, Assistant Biologist, Biological Survey. U. S. Department of Agriculture. Biological Survey Bulletin No. 38. 1911. pp. 1-100.

² A Monograph of the Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*, by Frank L. Burns with the co-operation of over one hundred American Ornithologists and the compilation of the World's Literature. Wilson Bulletin, XXIII, Nos. 3-4, Sept.-Dec., 1911, pp. 141-320.

for years made a special study of the Broad-wing and his accounts of its plumages, molt, flight, food, voice, action and disposition, both wild and in captivity, migration, mating, nidification, etc., form a valuable contribution to ornithological literature. The numerous quotations appended from the publications and manuscripts of others are of rather unequal value and trustworthiness.

In the treatment of the literature the desire to include mention of every scrap of published information regardless of its value has led to the accumulation of a mass of detailed data and titles that is bewildering in its extent and could have been reduced into well digested summaries which would have been of far more benefit to the reader. The lengthy bibliography too, gives scarcely a clue to the contents of the papers and fails to distinguish important titles from those containing mere casual mention of the subject of the monograph. A shorter list of the really valuable papers with a line or two of comment would have been of far greater service. These matters, however, in no way detract from the value of the main text.

A new race *Buteo platypterus cubanensis* from Cuba is described, but in such an obscure manner as readily to escape notice and with no designation of a type specimen. It is just such loose methods as this which have caused names to be overlooked and have led later to necessary changes in nomenclature and unfortunate complications.

A number of excellent halftones mainly from photographs by Mr. Alfred C. Redfield illustrate this valuable paper.—W. S.

Bent on Birds of the Aleutian Islands.—Mr. Arthur C. Bent accompanied by Messrs. Rollo H. Beck, Alexander Wetmore and Fred B. McKechnie spent the last three weeks of June, 1911, in a hurried survey of the islands of the Aleutian chain. Mr. Wetmore represented the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the expedition had in mind the securing of data for Mr. Bent's continuation of the Life Histories of North American Birds to be published by the Smithsonian Institution. The party travelled, through the courtesy of the Treasury Department, on the revenue cutter 'Tahoma' and cruised the entire length of the chain, landing on Atka, Kiska, Attu, Tanaga and Adak and the western end of Unalaska. The stops were necessarily very short, as the 'Tahoma' was due at Unalaska, July 1, and exploration was limited to the immediate vicinity of the harbors.

Mr. Bent's first publication¹ dealing with the results of the trip was a description of a new race of Ptarmigan, *Lagopus rupestris sanfordi*, from Tanaga. On each one of the more remote islands a peculiar form seems to have been differentiated. This one is said to resemble *L. r. chamberlaini* and *L. r. alchensis* from Adak and Atka Islands to the eastward, but is lighter than either.

¹ A New Subspecies of Ptarmigan from the Aleutian Island. By A. C. Bent. Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, Vol. 56, No. 30. pp. 1-2. Jan. 6, 1912.