

here for some valuable observations and it is strange that a field which lies open to every student of bird life has been so universally neglected.

In another paper the same author discusses young doves learning to drink and concludes that the first drinking is an involuntary reflex act when the bill becomes accidentally submerged and the inside of the mouth is moistened. The difference in the method of drinking in pigeons and domestic fowls is emphasized.— W. S.

Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen on Austrian Ornithological Literature for 1911.¹— A bibliography of about 400 titles, many of them local and popular, and many from journals not readily accessible in America. The list is carefully prepared and forms a valuable paper of reference while it impresses one with the enormous amount of ornithological literature that is being put forth in the world today.— W. S.

Mrs. Myers' 'The Birds' Convention.'²— This attractively printed little book is designed to interest young folk in birds and bird protection. For very little children a book of this sort, in which the birds are personified, will no doubt prove attractive, but as they grow older boys and girls, we think, soon prefer something that is not quite so obviously intended for the young. The half-tones with which the work is illustrated are excellent.— W. S.

Grinnell on Conserving the Band-tailed Pigeon as a Game Bird.³— Mr. Grinnell treats at length of the distribution, food, nesting, economic status etc., of this valuable bird in California. He concludes from the evidence collected that though widely scattered in the breeding season, in winter all the individuals inhabiting the Pacific coast gather in the valleys and foot hills of west, central and southern California. It is obviously during the latter season that the species is in danger of extermination and Mr. Grinnell considers that the decimation has gone so far that a close season of five years is the only way to bring the birds back to a status that will warrant an annual open season. Up to the present time the Band-tailed Pigeon has been left practically unprotected and its slow rate of increase— only one young being reared by each pair— has failed to keep pace with the winter slaughter, which in 1911-12 was very heavy.

¹ Ornithologische Literatur Österreich, Bosniens, und der Herzegowina, 1911. Von Viktor Ritter von Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen. Verhandl. der k. k. zool.-botan. Gesellsch. in Wien. 1912. pp. 260-289.

² The Bird's Convention. By Harriet Williams Myers, Secretary California Audubon Society, with Illustrations from Photographs by the Author. Western Publishing Co., Los Angeles, Cal., 1912, pp. 1-81. 75 cents, postage 6 cts.

³ The Outlook for Conserving the Bend-tailed Pigeon as a Game Bird of California. The Condor, January, 1913. pp. 25-40.

California should take heed of Mr. Grinnell's timely warning and not repeat on the Pacific slope the ever-to-be-regretted folly that was perpetrated in the case of the Passenger Pigeon in the east.— W. S.

Henshaw's 'Fifty Common Birds of Farm and Orchard.'— This admirable publication is designed as an 'Educational Leaflet' to aid people, especially in the more remote parts of the country, to become familiar with their more important bird friends. It will undoubtedly reach hundreds of persons who are quite out of touch with more general works on ornithology and do a world of good.

The great desideratum in such a pamphlet *i. e.* colored illustrations which will render unnecessary the tedious and bulky printed description, has been met by fifty excellent color figures from paintings by Fuertes, which are run into the text, two on a page, somewhat after the style of Reed's 'Bird Guide.' The accompanying text which is of necessity very limited is admirably compiled. The length of the bird is given, sometimes with a line or two on color or form; and then come two paragraphs covering 'Range' and 'Habits and Economic Status,' with frequent reference to other publications of the Biological Survey. An introduction of six pages covers forcibly the principles of economic ornithology.

Taken in its entirety we doubt if so much sound ornithology has ever been presented in such a small space and the pamphlet should not only enlist a multitude of recruits in the cause of bird protection but it should develop a number of ornithologists as well. It is to be hoped that this 'Bulletin' will not be allowed to go 'out of print.' Perhaps by coöperation between the Agricultural Department and the Audubon Societies it might be kept always available.— W. S.

Three Important Economic Reports.— In this annual report as Chief of the Biological Survey, Mr. H. W. Henshaw² presents the usual interesting summary of the work of this important division of the Department of Agriculture. The relation of birds to the Alfalfa and Boll Weevils, and the Chestnut-bark Disease, have been investigated, and publications continued on the food habits of various common birds. The bird-life of Porto Rico and Alabama has been studied as well as the status of the English Sparrow and European Starling and means of trapping the former.

Under importations it is interesting to know that upwards of 457,000 live birds were brought into the United States during the year 1912, of which 362,604 were canaries, 50,086 were game birds and 44,387 non-game birds other than Canaries.

The California Associated Societies for the Conservation of Wild Life³ have issued a pamphlet entitled 'Western Wild Life Call' which contains

¹ Fifty Common Birds of Farm and Orchard. Farmer's Bulletin 513. U. S. Dept. Agriculture, 1913. pp. 1-31.

² Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey for 1912. By Henry W. Henshaw. Annual Reports of the Dept. of Agriculture. 1912. pp. 1-24.

³ Western Wild Life Call. Published by the California Associated Societies for the Conservation of Wild Life. Feb. 7, 1913. pp. 1-16.