

Collinge's 'The Food of Some British Wild Birds.'¹—With the subtitle "A study in economic ornithology" and the limiting word 'some' in the main caption, it would appear that this little book deserved to escape censure because it does not absolutely settle the economic status of British birds. But it has nevertheless been rather pointedly criticised² evidently by someone with a bias in favor of uniform protection of all birds. A few words of truth uttered by Professor Collinge about certain injurious species, apparently are all this critic was able to see in the book and his prejudice is such that these could not be endured. This censorious reviewer states "it cannot be said that his (Collinge's) book greatly advances knowledge on this debated subject."

This statement, which serves chiefly to manifest the ignorance of this reviewer, is not only untrue but slanderous. Professor Collinge's book reports on the original examination of more than 3,000 stomachs of British birds, and is therefore by far the largest single contribution to its subject thus far made. The facts that the author includes digests of the researches of other works and gives a comprehensive bibliography are also held up against him by the afore-mentioned censor. The work has simply been done in modern and excellent style, and these inclusions make it immensely more valuable to all really interested in its subject matter.

Professor Collinge's book includes besides 4 general introductory and 3 concluding chapters, detailed reports on the food of 29 species of birds, besides chapters on "Birds as destroyers and distributors of weed seeds" and "Birds in relation to forestry."

The treatment by species includes an abstract of previously published evidence, tabulation of contents of stomachs examined, field observations by the writer, notes on the food of nestlings (when studied), examination of faeces (when made) and conclusions. The conclusion is preponderately favorable to 18 species and more or less unfavorable to 11. Professor Collinge elaborates upon and reiterates his previously expressed opinion as to the lack of beneficial influence in the case of seed-eating birds. He states that birds on the whole are praiseworthy in their relations to forests. All in all this is the best handbook of the food of British Birds in existence and should be in the hands of everyone who desires reliable information on economic ornithology in this particular field.—W. L. M.

Bigglestone on Nesting Behavior of the Yellow Warbler.³—This paper is based upon a continuous study of a nest of young Yellow Warblers from the time of the hatching of the eggs, and irregular earlier observations, the observer occupying a blind situated close to the nest. With the cooperation of eleven assistants it was possible to record the actions of parents

¹ London 1913, 109 pp.

² Bird Notes and News, Vol. V, No. 6, June, 1913, pp. 93-94.

³ A study of the Nesting Behavior of the Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva aestiva*.) By Harry C. Bigglestone. Wilson Bulletin, Vol. XXV, No. 2, June, 1913, pp. 49-67

and young on each day, from the beginning of feeding about 4.30 A. M. to its cessation at about 8 P. M. without interruption, aggregating 144 hours and 53 minutes. Such cooperation renders studies of this sort much less irksome. During this time the parents fed the young 2373 times and a table shows roughly the different sorts of food that were provided. There was no feeding by regurgitation. The egg shells were devoured by the parents as were the excreta during the earlier part of the nestling period. Later they were carried away. The female did all the brooding and both birds had a stereotyped method of approaching the nest. The incubation period was eleven days.

This paper will take its place with a number of similar studies that have appeared in recent years and which we trust may increase in number until all of our common species have been similarly investigated. A comparative study of such records will eventually yield most valuable generalizations.—W. S.

Stone on Venezuelan Birds.¹—This paper treats of the birds secured by the Francis E. Bond Expedition of 1911, in the Paria Peninsula and the Orinoco delta, all the collections there secured having been presented by Mr. Bond to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. After a summary of the movements of the expedition and some comments on the faunistic relationship of certain of the species found at Cariacito on the Paria Peninsula, the paper gives an annotated list of the one hundred and seventy-three species collected. As stated by the author "it is not surprising that no new forms were obtained. . . . in a region so long familiar to bird collectors as the Orinoco delta," although the collection, which comprises five hundred and four skins, accompanied by full data, is of considerable value, "in view of the lack of definite localities in the case of early collections made in the Orinoco region." The two regions examined are quite different in character, forty-eight species having been taken at Cariacito which were not secured in the delta country, although the author does not consider the collection "sufficiently comprehensive to warrant any general deductions on distribution." Field notes on the coloration of the tarsi, irides and other soft parts, made by Mr. Thomas S. Gillin who prepared the specimens, and notes on distribution and abundance supplied by Mr. Stewardson Brown, who was also a member of the expedition, add value to the paper.—J. A. G. R.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Linnæan Society of New York.²
—The Abstracts which cover the first 56 pages are full of bird records of

¹ On a Collection of Birds obtained by the Francis E. Bond Expedition in the Orinoco Delta and Paria Peninsula, Venezuela. By Witmer Stone. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1913, pp. 189-212. Issued July 14, 1913.

² Abstract of the Proceedings of the Linnæan Society of New York for the years ending March 10, 1908; March 9, 1909; March 8, 1910; and March 14, 1911. Nos. 20-23, February 8, 1913, pp. 1-122, pl. I-XIV.