

lishing it in revised form in a single list as a number of 'The Austral Avian Record,' or in some journal where it would be generally available.— W. S.

Wetmore on Lead Poisoning in Waterfowl.¹— This is a report of especial interest to gunners and gun clubs. The birds that are affected pick up shot about the shooting grounds, where a considerable amount has naturally accumulated. In one marsh in Utah it was estimated that 75,000 shot gun shells are used each season, each of which contains about an ounce of shot, so that the accumulation is very great, and experimental sifting of the mud where the ducks fed discovered shot always present. Experiments on captive birds showed that six pellets of No. 6 shot were sufficient to cause the death of a Mallard. While magnesia sulphate acts as a cure there is apparently no way to check the poisoning, and attention of gunners is called to the lead poisoning so that the symptoms may be understood by persons finding birds so affected. The general results of this investigation have already been published in the *Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences*, June 4, 1918.— W. S.

French's 'The Passenger Pigeon in Pennsylvania.'²— The title of this little book is slightly misleading, as fully half of the text is occupied with Indian and forest lore of Pennsylvania and accounts of the Passenger Pigeon in other parts of the United States, from Wilson, Audubon, Cooper, etc., as well as accounts of pigeons in general compiled from not very accurate sources. The portions devoted to the Passenger Pigeon in Pennsylvania are scattered through the volume, separated by chapters and paragraphs dealing with other topics, with a total lack of system or plan. They are of very unequal value, some from old pigeon hunters written in their declining years when memory is not always to be trusted, others consisting of newspaper articles reprinted verbatim and open to the usual criticism that attaches to such publications.

The best chapter is that by Col. H. W. Shoemaker on 'The Passenger Pigeon — Its Last Phase,' in which the final disappearance of the species is sketched and the last alleged observations enumerated. Even here, however, no mention is made of the last specimens actually secured in the state.

Some of the information contained in the book is absolutely erroneous, as for instance, the statement that two eggs constituted a clutch, when we have the testimony of reliable ornithologists from the time of Alexander Wilson down, that only one egg was laid.

¹ Lead Poisoning in Waterfowl. By Alexander Wetmore. Bulletin 793, U. S. Department of Agriculture. pp. 1-12. July 31, 1919.

² The Passenger Pigeon in Pennsylvania. Its Remarkable History, Habits and Extinction, with Interesting Side Lights on the Folk and Forest Lore of the Alleghanian Region of the Old Keystone State. By John C. French. Altoona, Pa. 1919. pp. 1-257, numerous half-tone illustrations. For sale at the Franklin Bookshop, 920 Walnut St., Philadelphia. Price, \$4.00.

While Mr. French's work contains much interesting reading, it cannot be considered in the same class as Mershon's well-known work or even Col. Paxson's little pamphlet, as an accurate account of the Passenger Pigeon.

There are two valuable historical illustrations, one of a stool-pigeon basket and the other of a pair of pincers used for twisting the necks of the birds caught in the nets. The other plates are portraits of old pigeon hunters or others mentioned in the book.— W. S.

Economic Ornithology and Bird Protection.—The U. S. Department of Agriculture has issued the usual synopsis of the Game Laws for 1919, compiled this year by G. A. Lawyer and F. L. Earnshaw,¹ while another pamphlet² by the former author explains the present status of the Federal protection of migratory birds and the Canadian treaty. Another important treatise on this same subject is U. S. Attorney, Francis M. Wilson's brief in the court action against the Treaty in the St. Joseph Division of the western district of Missouri, a masterly summary of the arguments which convinced a confessedly antagonistic judge of the validity of the law.

'Bird Notes and News'³ and the annual report of the Royal Society for the protection of Birds are full of details of bird protection in England after the war.

'The Audubon Bulletin,'⁴ winter 1918-1919 issue, is as usual one of the most attractive publications of its kind, well printed and well illustrated. The need of forest and game protection in southern Illinois is discussed by Robert Ridgway and shows both in text and illustrations his well known love of trees as well as birds. Other articles deal with the scenic beauty of the Mississippi, Theodore Roosevelt as a conservationist, the bird protective laws of Illinois, etc.

'The Alabama Bird-Day Book'⁵ abounds in good bird poems and interesting sketches suitable for school use compiled from various sources, while several of the Mumford colored plates of birds serve as illustrations. Few, if any, other States have publications so well suited to the purpose as this.

The West Chester Bird Club of Pennsylvania, organized some years ago for local bird study under the leadership of Dr. C. E. Ehinger, has issued an attractive little pamphlet⁶ giving an account of its activities, with some very creditable original bird poems.

¹ Game Laws for 1919. By Geo. A. Lawyer and Frank L. Earnshaw. Farmers' Bulletin 1077, U. S. Department of Agriculture. August, 1919. pp. 1-80.

² Federal Protection of Migratory Birds. By George A. Lawyer. Separate from the Yearbook of the Department of Agriculture. No. 785, pp. 1-16.

³ Bird Notes and News. Issued quarterly by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, 23 Queen Anne's Gate, London, S. W. I., England.

⁴ The Audubon Bulletin. Published by The Illinois Audubon Society, 1649 Otis Building, Chicago.

⁵ Alabama Bird Day Book, 1919. Issued by the Department of Game and Fish, John H. Wallace, Commissioner. pp. 1-103.

⁶ West Chester Bird Club, Historical Sketch, Summary of Year's Work, 1918-1919, July 1, 1919. pp. 1-20.