

'California Fish and Game'¹ for April contains an article of the insectivorous habits of the Herring Gull, by A. C. Burrill, a convincing argument in favor of the bird, while in 'Fins, Feathers and Fur,'² Thaddeus Surber has an interesting paper on the Pine Co. Minnesota Game Refuge as a playground, and there is a remarkable photograph of Mallards at Crane Lake, Illinois. Taking the opposite view from that expressed in the 'Audubon Bulletin' this journal unhesitatingly condemns the Crow and endorses the national crow shoot.—W. S.

Report of the National Zoological Park.³—The second annual report of superintendent Ned Hollister shows a slight increase in the collections, notwithstanding the restrictions of war times. The birds include 190 species, represented by 706 individuals in comparison with 182 species and 683 individuals in 1917. Among the more notable acquisitions of the year were six Keas (*Nestor notabilis*) and eight Wekas or flightless Rails (*Ocydromus*) from South Island, New Zealand; a pair of Straw-necked Ibis (*Carphibis spimicollis*) from Australia; a pair of Thick-billed Parrots (*Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha*) from the Chiricahua Mountains, Arizona; and a Santo Domingo Parrot (*Amazona ventralis*). Forty-five birds were hatched during the year, including several American Coots. This is apparently the first record of the breeding of this species in captivity, at least in this country. Waterfowl (Anseriformes) constitute the largest group in the collection. Of the 40 species represented, two-thirds are North American. These birds are kept in an enclosure provided with a large pond, where they can be readily seen, and thus form one of the most attractive exhibits in the Park. A noteworthy feature of the report is the complete list of mammals, birds, and reptiles by species and individuals and the care exercised in the use of correct scientific names.—T. S. P.

Annual Report of the New York Zoological Society.⁴—The report for 1918 shows commendable progress in the various activities of the New York Zoological Society in spite of adverse conditions due to the war. Two sections of this report contain notes of ornithological interest. The Department of Birds, in charge of Lee S. Crandall, Curator, and William Beebe, Honorary Curator, has maintained its collections "somewhat reduced in numbers but still rich in rare and unusual forms." Only 16 species new to the collection were added during the year. Of these, the most important

¹ California Fish and Game. Published quarterly by the California Fish and Game Commission, Sacramento, Calif.

² Fins, Feathers and Fur, Official Bulletin of the Minnesota Game and Fish Department, Carlos Avery, Commissioner, St. Paul, Minn.

³ Report of the Superintendent of the National Zoological Park for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1918. Reprint from Ann. Rept. Smithsonian Institution for 1918, pp. 66-81, Washington, Govt. Printing Office, 1919.

⁴ Twenty-Third Annual Report of the New York Zoological Society, 1918, 8vo, pp. 156, 1919 (Dept. of Birds, pp. 67-70, Tropical Research Station, pp. 84-86). Office of the Society, 111 Broadway, New York.