

of text by Mr. Brook describing the habits of the birds and his experiences in photographing them. The whole forms an attractive and interesting contribution to the life history of this hawk, likely to lead others into the field of bird photography and the study of the living birds in which the author seems to be an adept.—W. S.

The Nebraska Waterfowl and their Food.²—This contribution from the Biological Survey consists of two parts, 'Waterfowl in Nebraska, by Dr. Harry C. Oberholser and 'Wild Duck Foods of the Sandhill Region of Nebraska' by W. L. McAtee.

The sandhill region of Nebraska, containing as it does innumerable small lakes and marshes is a natural resort of various species of waterfowl and the object of the present publication is to place those who may be interested in the conservation of these birds, data on their relative abundance and habits and the methods by which this region may be made more attractive for them. Dr. Oberholser visited most of the lakes and obtained a wealth of information regarding the birds which inhabit them as well as data on past and present conditions there. He has given lists of the species found on the more important lakes and an annotated list of all of the species observed, their habits, relative abundance, etc., together with warnings as to the dangers attending the draining of the lakes in the consequent extermination of the wildfowl.

Mr. McAtee has reported upon collections of the marsh vegetation gathered about a number of the lakes, pointing out the relative value of the various plants as duck food and suggesting other species which would probably thrive there if introduced.

As a whole the pamphlet, which we trust may have a wide circulation in the region of which it treats, gives to the sportsmen of Nebraska all of the data required in any effort that they may be inclined to make for the conservation of this natural breeding ground for the ducks. And in view of the rapid destruction of the former breeding grounds farther north, it is none too soon to take every opportunity to save all such regions as this, which still remain in the United States, from thoughtless destruction. It would be a fine thing if the Legislature of Nebraska would make this lake region a permanent State preserve for the breeding of waterfowl, which could apparently easily be done without any inconvenience to the grazing or farming interests as it is not suitable for either.—W. S.

Bartsch on the 'Bird Rookeries of the Tortugas.'¹—Among the contributions to the 'Annual Report' of the Smithsonian Institution for

² Waterfowl and Their Food Plants in the Sandhill Region of Nebraska. Part I. Waterfowl in Nebraska. By Harry C. Oberholser, Assistant Biologist. Part II. Wild-Duck Foods of the Sandhill Region of Nebraska. By W. L. McAtee, Assistant Biologist. Bulletin 794, U. S. Department of Agriculture. March 23, 1920, pp. 1-77, plates I-V.

¹ The Bird Rookeries of the Tortugas. By Paul Bartsch. Smithsonian Report for 1917, pages 469-500 (with 38 plates). Washington, 1919.

1917, which has recently appeared, is a paper on 'The Bird Rookeries of the Tortugas' by Paul Bartsch. Dr. Bartsch is familiar with the islands and gives us an account of their physical features from his personal observations and a series of thirty-eight plates from original photographs of the bird colonies. The Tortugas are by no means unknown ground to the ornithologist for from the time of Audubon's visit in 1832, many bird students have visited them and described their bird life; while it was on these islands, that Dr. J. B. Watson conducted his now famous experiments on the homing of wild birds. From all of these writings, Dr. Bartsch has compiled interesting accounts of the various species of birds which inhabit the group, adding personal observations as well, and concluding with a table of the species observed or collected by such ornithologists as have visited the islands since 1857. The pamphlet makes a handy summary of our knowledge of the bird life of this interesting island group. Dr. Bartsch has also published in diary form some observations on the birds of the Florida Keys and southern Florida in the 'Year Book of the Carnegie Institution' for 1919, pp. 205-210, including notes on 97 species.—W. S.

Bangs and Penard on 'Two New American Hawks.'¹—In studying the birds of prey in the Lafresnaye collection at the Museum of Comparative Zoology the attention of the authors was attracted to the existence of two races of *Accipiter superciliosus* and the form inhabiting Costa Rica southward to Colombia has been named *A. s. exitiosus* (p. 45) type from Carrillo, Costa Rica. The difference in the size of the White-tailed Kites from the United States and Middle America as compared with those of South America has also prompted the naming of the former as new, and it appears as *Elanus leucurus majusculus* (p. 47), type from San Rafael, California. The difference in the average wing length is only 15 mm., however, and the individual specimens overlap by 10 mm.—W. S.

Kuroda on New Japanese Pheasants.²—In this review of the Japanese pheasants of the genus *Phasianus*, printed in Japanese, the descriptions of the new forms are also given in English. These are *P. versicolor robustipes* (p. 299), Sado Island; *P. v. kiusiuensis* (p. 300), Kiusiu Island; *P. v. tanensis* (p. 300), Tanegashima Island; *P. soemmerringi subrufus* (p. 303), warmer districts on the Pacific side of Hondo, type from Oisan, Prov. Suruga; *P. s. intermedius* (p. 304). Shikoku and southwestern Hondo, type from Yunoyamamura, Prov. Iyo.—W. S.

¹ Two New American Hawks. By Outram Bangs and Thomas Edward Penard. Proc. N. E. Zool. Club, Vol. VII, pp. 45-47. February 19, 1920.

² Descriptions of Five New Forms of Japanese Pheasants. By Nagamichi Kuroda. Dobutsugaku Zasshi (Zoological Magazine) Vol. XXXI, 1919, pp. 309-312.