

of the last two groups, and the usual pertinent text figures, including interesting diagrammatic sketches of the vultures in flight as viewed from below. While the nomenclature is in the main in accord with that of the A. O. U. 'Check-List' we notice that the egrets are all referred to *Egretta* and the swans to *Cygnus*, a treatment which we would heartily endorse. The snow geese are united with *Anser*, with perhaps less warrant, and the validity of *Anser albifrons gambeli* and *Branta bernicla glaucogaster* are questioned.—W. S.

California Hawks: How to identify them.¹—This is a commendable attempt by Dr. H. C. Bryant to make possible the field identification of hawks by the average citizen. One key is given which is based on mode of flight, habits and general appearance, illustrated by outlines of flying birds of the four principal groups of hawks, and another, taking into account size and general coloration. The habits and economic value of hawks are concisely discussed with a modicum of illustration from California instances. The page of bibliography given will enable those so desiring to pursue the subject further. It is to be hoped that wide distribution of separates of this paper can be secured, and similar publications are much needed in all States. The general antipathy to hawks seems almost ineradicable, witness the fact that today bounties on these birds are specifically authorized in five of the States of the Union and may be paid in as many more.² Under the circumstances the more truth disseminated about these birds, the better.—W. L. M.

The Ornithological Journals.

Bird-Lore. XXIII, No. 4. July–August, 1921.

The Yellow-breasted Chat and the Cowbird. By Wilbur F. Smith.—Describes a nest in which two young Cowbirds were raised by a pair of Chats. Usually Chats are supposed to desert a nest if a Cowbird's egg is deposited in it. The author voices the general condemnation of the Cowbird. Its peculiar parasitism is however one of the provisions of nature and why mankind should be expected to interfere in such cases is not quite clear. It would seem to be quite as cruel to kill a young Cowbird as a young Warbler or Sparrow.

The Mockingbird of the Arnold Arboretum. By C. H. Early.—Carries the history of this notable bird so fully described by the late Horace W. Wright (*Auk*, July, 1921) on for another year.

The Bird Bath in Molting Time. By Craig S. Thoms.—Considers an abundance of water a necessity at this time in the bird's life. A number of interesting photographs are presented.

¹ Calif. Fish and Game, Vol. 7, No. 3, July, 1921, pp. 133–147, figs. 42–49. 2 colored plates.

² See Farmers' Bull. 1238, Sept., 1921.