

**McAtee's Spring Bird Lists.**<sup>1</sup> Everyone in these days makes bird lists and the spirit of competition and the resulting desire to record the largest number of species are only human even though they are, as our author well says, "not for the best interests of ornithology."

Those who would counteract the tendency to inaccuracy, inevitably and unconsciously developed by competition, would do well to follow Mr. McAtee's admirable suggestions. He has insisted that the several persons making up the party on his "record walks" should *all* satisfactorily see each species before it is accepted for entry on the list, while species difficult to identify have been collected. Subspecies he wisely ignores as they are "scarcely a subject for field observation." This we consider an excellent practise for the observer who claims to be able to distinguish in the field, by sight alone, such races as the Northern and Southern Parula Warblers, the Northern and Southern Robin or the Northern and Southern Maryland Yellow-throat thereby places his entire list under suspicion.

Mr. McAtee's trip each year has been a continuous walk not a skipping from one point to another by rapid transit, and by selecting a definite route to be followed year after year the comparison of lists becomes more interesting than a comparison with lists made by others in a different section.

The actual number of species observed on these ten May walks varied from year to year from 73 to 101, while the largest lists were on May 11 and May 13, showing, as we should expect, that the height of migration of Warblers, etc., was reached about the middle of the month. The total number of species for the ten walks seems to be 146.

In commenting on the peak of the migration mention is made of the Connecticut Warbler, a species not found in any of the lists and excessively rare east of the Alleghanies in spring. We wonder if its mention was not a slip of the pen.—W. S.

**Kopman, on the Wild Life Resources of Louisiana.**<sup>2</sup>—This important contribution to the mammalogy and ornithology of Louisiana published as Bulletin 10 of the Department of Conservation is apparently the work of Mr. H. H. Kopman, although his name does not appear on either title page or cover. After preliminary remarks on the economic value of wild life there is a discussion of the natural divisions of the state and a map illustrating the extent of the marshes, prairies, and several wooded districts into which it is divided. Then follow detailed accounts of the habits, distribution, etc., of the more important mammals and game birds with nominal mention of probably all of the birds known to occur in the state.

<sup>1</sup> Ten Spring Bird Lists made near Washington, D. C. By W. L. McAtee. The Wilson Bulletin, December, 1921, pp. 183-192.

<sup>2</sup> State of Louisiana. Department of Conservation. M. L. Alexander, Commissioner. Bulletin No. 10. Wild Life Resources of Louisiana, Their Nature, Value, and Protection. Published by the Department of Conservation, New Orleans Court Building, December, 1921. Svo. pp. 1-164.

The arrangement of the ornithological matter is not very satisfactory for one seeking data upon any given species, especially in the absence of an index, as can be judged from the character and sequence of the headings, i. e. Ducks and Geese, Coot, Rails and Gallinules, Snipe, Plovers and other shore birds, Wild Turkey, Quail, Prairie Chicken, Doves, Raptores, Smaller Land Birds, Non-Game Water Birds, and as an appendix, Birds of Accidental Occurrence.

The same prominence could, we think, have easily been given the game birds, in a more systematic and better balanced grouping. However, the report places a vast deal of information at the disposal of the general reader and will do much good in the campaign for conservation, while the map and accompanying discussion will be most welcome to the student of zoogeography. A large number of half-tones illustrate the report but as a rule they do not show to advantage, probably owing to the texture of the paper. Mr. Kopman is to be congratulated upon a valuable contribution to the literature of the conservation of wild life.—W. S.

**Todd on the Genus *Pipromorpha*.**<sup>1</sup> Mr. Todd's revision of this genus of flycatchers is the first of a proposed series of 'Studies in the Tyrannidae.' After an examination of 460 specimens including the series from most of the larger museums of America, Mr. Todd is able to recognize four species, *rufiventris*; *macconnelli* (three subspecies); *oleaginea* (five subspecies) and *assimilis* (two subspecies).

*P. macconnelli amazona* (p. 179) Buena Vista, Bolivia; and *P. oleaginea pacifica* (p. 187) Bucay, Ecuador, are described as new, while four of Mr. Chubb's recently described races of *P. oleaginea* fall into synonymy in Mr. Todd's opinion. The genus *Pipromorpha* he finds is very close to *Mionectes* from which Ridgway separated it in 1907, in fact there is but one character—the shape of the ninth primary which serves to separate it! The work seems to be very carefully done and the descriptions, synonymy and lists of specimens are full and in every way satisfactory.—W. S.

**Recent Papers by Chrostowski.** Several papers on neotropical birds have appeared during 1921, by the Polish ornithologist T. Chrostowski. In one of these<sup>2</sup> seven rare or little known Brazilian birds are discussed, one of which *Nonnula hellmayri* (p. 39) from Parana is described as new. Another paper<sup>3</sup> deals with the types of neotropical birds in the Museum of the Academy of Sciences of Petrograd, the collections of F. H. von Kittlitz and Emele Menetrice being considered. Incidentally, *Planesticus bianchii* (p. 28) from "Brazil" is described, as new. In connection with

<sup>1</sup> Studies in the Tyrannidae. I. A Revision of the Genus *Pipromorpha*. By W. E. Clyde Todd. Proc. Biol. Soc., Wash., 34 pp. 173-192. Dec. 21, 1921.

<sup>2</sup> Ann. Zool. Mus. Polonici Hist. Nat. 1, Fasc. 1. September 30, 1921. pp. 31-40. [In English and French.]

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. Sept. 30, 1921. pp. 9-30. [In French.]