

style, setting forth his careful observations without ornamental embellishment. The first three treat of the Purple Martin, its nesting habits; the feeding of the young; and the roosting place near St. Louis, Mo. The latter is in a willow thicket along the Mississippi, the birds assembling at first on a sand bar, thus differing materially from the habit of the species as we know it at Cape May, N. J., where they roost in a grove of rather tall maples with no previous place of assemblage except on rooves of buildings or telegraph wires.

There is also an account of a Crow roost at St. Louis; a sketch of the winter bird life of that region as well as a review of the bird life of the Ozarks and of parts of Taney County, Mo.; and an account of the Chimney Swift.

In the Ozark paper attention is given to a much neglected species, the Bewick's Wren, which here, as in the mountain foot-hills of south central Pennsylvania, occupies the rough country to the exclusion of the House Wren.

Mr. Widmann's sketches are delightful reading and form a contribution of no little importance to the ornithology of Missouri.—W. S.

Figgins' 'Additional Notes on *Branta canadensis*.'¹—Mr. Figgins after a lapse of several years returns to the controversy with Mr. Harry S. Swarth on the status of *Branta canadensis hutchinsi* and *occidentalis* which he still contends are hybrids, while the forms *canadensis* and *minima* he thinks should be regarded as species. The old points of difference are gone over again at some length and some additional data presented, notably measurements of specimens from the Arctic Coast and Hudson Bay supplied by Dr. R. M. Anderson. Such questions are purely matters of personal opinion until adequate series of breeding birds are secured, a condition which does not, in the present case, seem to have been reached. Meanwhile the varied interpretations of older writers and the question of what measurements shall and shall not be used does not seem to get us nearer to a solution. Hybridism however, we might add is a very difficult thing to prove.—W. S.

Abbott's 'What Comes from What.'²—This little pamphlet consists of charts representing graphically the relationship between all groups of plants and animals from the lowest moulds and bacteria to the flowering plants, and from the infusoria to the vertebrates. They are of course mainly compiled and while ingenious, cannot be taken too seriously because individual opinion as to lines of descent differ so greatly.

¹ Additional Notes on the Status of the Subspecific Races of *Branta canadensis*. By J. D. Figgins. Proc. Colorado Museum of Natural History. Vol. IV, No. 3. December 15, 1922, pp. 1-19.

² What Comes from What, or the Relationships of Animals and Plants. By Charles L. Abbott. Published by the Author. 600 Ivy Street, St. Paul, Minn. pp. 1-48, Price \$1.00.