

blurred figures. The general make-up of the book is excellent but we do not like to see bird names, especially in a bird book, printed with lower case initial letters.—W. S.

**Wood's 'Birds of North Dakota.'**—It is always a pleasure to welcome a State list<sup>1</sup> for a state that has hitherto been without such an ornithological necessity, as has been the case with North Dakota; and especially welcome is a list prepared with the care that Mr. Norman A. Wood has devoted to the publication before us. He has modestly entitled it a "Preliminary Survey" and doubtless much additional field work will be necessary before the bird-life of every part of this state is known, but it is safe to say that the present list will serve the purposes of the ornithologists of North Dakota for some years to come.

The field work was carried on by Mr. Wood under the joint auspices of the Biological Station of the University of North Dakota and the Museum of Zoology of the University of Michigan, the report being published as Miscellaneous Publication No. 10 of the latter institution. Collecting trips were made to half a dozen counties in widely separated parts of the state, various collections have been examined and many unpublished records secured, while the literature bearing on the birds of the state has been most carefully examined.

The bibliography seems very complete and we can find at the moment only two additional titles: a record of the capture of a Band-tailed Pigeon in the state (Shufeldt, 'Auk' 1912, pp. 539-540) which may perhaps have been purposely omitted by Mr. Wood on the basis of additional information though it should have been in the list of papers, and a popular article on 'Some Lakeside Waders of the Northwest,' by H. K. Job (Outing, September, 1906). It may also be worth while to mention that the collection made at Pembina by Dr. W. L. Abbott was presented by him to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia where it is still preserved and available for consultation.

Mr. Wood presents a brief historic summary of early ornithological work in North Dakota and an account of the physiographic features of the state, then follows the annotated list of 321 species and subspecies.

Under each is a brief statement of its occurrence from the earlier writers and a fuller account of the experiences of Mr. Wood and his correspondents, so that one has here in concise form a summary of our present knowledge of the occurrence of the bird in the state.

In the preliminary pages the author emphasizes the rapidity of the changes which man has wrought. In twenty years time the whole character of the country has been altered and with cultivation and drainage many species of birds have left or become very scarce while others of different types have increased.

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<sup>1</sup>A Preliminary Survey of the Bird Life of North Dakota. By Norman A. Wood. University of Michigan, Museum of Zoology, Miscellaneous Publication No. 10. Ann Arbor, Michigan. Published by the University, July 2, 1923 [received October]. pp. 1-96 with six plates and a map.

Six half-tone plates illustrate many nests and nesting birds and show several characteristic types of North Dakota scenery.—W. S.

**Mathews' 'The Birds of Australia.'**—The first part of Volume XI<sup>1</sup> contains the genera *Falcunculus*, *Oreoica*, *Aphelocephala*, *Sphenostoma*, and one species of *Neositta*. Part 2 completes the Nuthatches and Creepers. No new forms are described in either instalment.—W. S.

**Kirke Swann's 'Chronological List of British Birds.'**—This brochure<sup>2</sup> which is published as a supplement to Mullen's and Swann's 'A Bibliography of British Ornithology' aims to present the names of all the species and subspecies of British birds arranged in the order of their description in scientific literature. There is also a list of genera on the same plan and of the principal generic and specific names which have been discarded.

All bibliographic works have their interest and while the reviewer has in the past considered the advisability of such a list of American bird names he came to the conclusion that if effort were to be expended on such a list it would be better to make it a chronological list of the first mention of each bird in literature rather than a list of the accepted names. A list of the latter type is always subject to change. For example the British Bullfinch naturally does not appear in Mr. Swann's work until 1917, when it was first given a distinctive trinomial name, but it was known in literature at least 200 years earlier and had Mr. Swann written ten years ago when it was regarded as identical with the continental form it would have been entered at 1758.

However these remarks in no way reflect upon the excellence of this little book and the care that has been bestowed both upon its compilation and printing. It is but fitting that a bibliography should be a fine piece of printing and this is distinctly so in the present case.—W. S.

**Finley on Hunting Birds with a Camera.**—When bird photography is mentioned one naturally thinks of Mr. Finley and in the August issue of the 'National Geographic Magazine' he has published an account<sup>3</sup> of his experiences in hunting birds with a camera that will interest all bird students especially such as "take pictures."

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<sup>1</sup> The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Volume XI, Part I. H. F. and G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, London W. C. 1. October 8, 1923. pp. 1-56, Plates 491-496. Part 2. November 21, 1923. pp. 57-120, plates 497-502.

<sup>2</sup> A Bibliography of British Ornithology from the Earliest Times. Supplement. A Chronological List of British Birds. By H. Kirke Swann, F. Z. S., M. B. O. U., & c. Corresponding Fellow of Amer. Orn. Union. London, Wheldon and Wesley, Ltd., 2, 3 & 4 Arthur Street, New Arthur Street. 1923. pp. i-xvii + 1-42. Price 5 shillings net.

<sup>3</sup> Hunting Birds with a Camera. A Record of Twenty Years of Adventure in Obtaining Photographs of Feathered Wild Life in America. By William L. Finley. With Illustrations from Photographs by H. T. Bohlman, Irene Finley and the Author. Reprinted from the National Geographic Magazine, August, 1923.