

**Silloway on Summer Birds of the Adirondack Forest.**—This report<sup>1</sup> on the relation of summer birds to the western Adirondack forest is the result of studies carried on under the auspices of the Roosevelt Wild Life Forest Experiment Station at the camp at Cranberry Lake. There is a list of 101 species preceded by a detailed consideration of the birds definitely associated with each species of forest tree a rather novel method of treating the subject.

The author concludes that each species of forest tree exerts its own particular influence upon bird life and to some extent each component of a vegetative association is effective in attracting one or another of the group of birds recognized to be closely related to it. The paper is illustrated by Mr. E. J. Sawyer's attractive little groups of birds printed in colors, representing in the present report birds of the hard wood forest, the burned forest, the bog coniferous forest and the virgin mixed forest.—W. S.

**Van Oort's 'Birds of the Netherlands.'**—We have just received a large instalment<sup>2</sup> of this notable work consisting of forty-one beautiful plates illustrating the Skuas, Gulls, Terns, Auks, Pigeons, Cuckoo, Swift, Roller, Kingfisher, Bee-eater, Hoopoe and some of the Woodpeckers. These we understand are from paintings by M. A. Koekkoek and as heretofore all of the plumages due to season or age are pictured so that there are often from five to nine figures of a single species. These will prove very valuable to American students in the case of the Gulls and Terns many of which are identical with, or very close to, American forms. This instalment practically completes the plates of the third of the proposed five volumes, the text of which is to follow shortly, which leaves only the Passerine birds with 140 plates to be issued. We congratulate the author and publishers upon the excellent progress which they are making with this work which as we have said before has an interest extending far beyond the borders of Holland.—W. S.

**McAtee on Local Names of Migratory Game Birds.**—This publication<sup>3</sup> lists and indexes the vernacular names that have been used for American Waterfowl, Shorebirds, Pigeons, Doves and the Bobolink, a subject that was covered, in part, by Gurdon Trumbull in his 'Names and Portraits of Birds Which Interest Gunners' and the fact that Mr.

<sup>1</sup> Roosevelt Wild Life Bulletin Vol. I, No. 4, of the Roosevelt Wild Life Forest Experiment Station of the New York State College of Forestry, Syracuse, N. Y. pp. 387-526. March, 1923.

<sup>2</sup> De Vogels van Nederland door Dr. E. D. Van Oort. 's-Gravenhage. Martinus Nijhoff. Afl. 20-23. November, 1923. pl. 190-196, 209-210, 215-232, 234-236, 238, 248-250, 252-256, 258-259. Price per part of ten plates and text 15 guilders. (sold only by subscription to the entire work. Vol. I bound in half morocco 244 pp. and 87 pls. 160 guilders.)

<sup>3</sup> Local Names of Migratory Game Birds. W. L. McAtee, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture Miscellaneous Circular No. 13. October, 1923. pp. 1-95 with 52 text figures. Price 20 cts. Supt. Documents, Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

McAtee has been enabled to use the illustrations which were made for that work by Edwin Sheppard makes his publication all the more like a second edition of Trumbull. But for the families covered Mr. McAtee has treated nearly three times as many species, and lists more than twice as many names.

Under each species is given its range; then, names in general use; names in local use; and finally a rearrangement of both under states and Canadian provinces considered alphabetically. The list the author tells us is for the information of sportsmen, naturalists, wardens and others interested in the identification of migratory game birds, and he makes an appeal for any additional names that those who read the list may be able to furnish, as well as vernacular names for any other birds. The list represents an immense amount of work and is admirably arranged. We especially appreciate the foot notes which explain the scientific names used by the U. S. Biological Survey in terms of the A. O. U. 'Check-List.'

We often hear our scientific nomenclature criticized for its changeableness and the recommendation is made that the more stable vernacular names be adopted. If anyone seriously thinks that vernacular names are uniform let him study this list in which, if we count correctly, the Ruddy Duck has no less than 92 names, while we estimate that the pamphlet lists about 4800 names distributed among about 180 species. Having gone so far Mr. McAtee richly deserves assistance from anyone who can add to his list. Many of the names originated with the old market gunners who "were men of originality and force of character and names invented by them had interest, charm or humor—a tang of the boisterous out-of-doors in which they were conferred." With the laws stopping professional gunning these men will soon be gone forever, and if the names they proposed are not collected now they will be lost.—W. S.

**Grinnell on the Birds of Death Valley.**—Thirty years have now elapsed since the appearance of Dr. Fisher's report on the birds of the Death Valley Expedition conducted by the U. S. Biological Survey, and as practically nothing has been published in the interim on bird life in this interesting region, Dr. Grinnell's paper<sup>1</sup> is most welcome. He has restricted the area covered as compared to that included in Dr. Fisher's account, and considers only the portion of the valley which lies below sea-level, (0 to -280 ft.). This is Lower Sonoran in its zonal affiliation and belongs to the Colorado Desert subdivision while it is completely surrounded by the Mohave Desert subdivision of the same zone. We have therefore as Dr. Grinnell suggests a desert mountain range inverted, the area below sea-level being analogous to a boreal island on the top of a high mountain and just as the latter is cut off from any communication with similar areas on the tops of other mountains, or from the main boreal area to the north,

<sup>1</sup> Observations upon the Bird Life of Death Valley. By Joseph Grinnell. Proc. Calif. Acad. Sciences. Fourth Series. Vol. XIII, No. 5, pp. 43-109, 1 text figure. November 6, 1923.