

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 paper¹ 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,

¹ 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.

so this Death Valley region is cut off from the rest of the Colorado Desert area by the "higher" Mohave Desert belt which surrounds it and this barrier has prevented many species characteristic of the Colorado Desert from entering, although there is no doubt but that they could flourish in the Death Valley had they been able to spread into it. The region is therefore an extremely interesting one from the standpoint of zoogeography.

The Furnace Creek Ranch presents another interesting feature. It consists of about sixty acres which are kept under cultivation by irrigation and forms a green oasis in the desert, like an island in the sea, which attracts migrant birds just as does the island of Heligoland in the North Sea, and Dr. Grinnell thinks that if regular observations could be maintained here during the migratory flights the results might be quite as interesting.

The main part of the report consists of an annotated list of 124 species based upon two trips by the author in April and May, 1917 and April 1920, and all published and unpublished matter that could be found. Of the list 25 species are regarded as casuals, 45 as regular transients, 32 winter visitants, 10 summer visitants and 12 residents. The last consist of the Prairie Falcon, Burrowing Owl, Road-runner, Say's Phoebe, Western Raven, California Linnet (House Finch), Leconte's Thrasher and Rock Wren, all wide-ranging in the area, the Killdeer and Western Meadowlark which depend upon the maintenance of the ranch, and the introduced Desert Quail and English Sparrow. Only one of the summer visitants is known to breed, namely, the Bullock's Oriole, which is also dependent upon the ranch; so that there are now only 13 species known to breed in the below-sea-level area. Other interesting features of the paper are the lists of actual censuses which, as the author truly says, give one the best idea of relative abundance of species; and the weights of specimens which we are informed are as useful as measurements in distinguishing closely related forms.—W. S.

Bailey on Birds of the Santa Rita Mountains, Arizona.—As is well known to the readers of 'The Auk,' who have read Mrs. Bailey's delightful contributions on the birds of the Santa Ritas, she and her husband, Vernon Bailey of the U. S. Biological Survey, spent the period from November 1920 to May 1921 at McCleary's Ranch in this range. The interest thus aroused in the avifauna of these mountains and the fact that no satisfactory account of it had been published, have induced Mrs. Bailey to review the ornithological history of the Santa Ritas, to examine critically the several collections made there and to prepare a comprehensive account of the bird life which has just been published by the Cooper Club as Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 15.¹

¹ Birds Recorded from the Santa Rita Mountains in Southern Arizona. By Florence Merriam Bailey. Pacific Coast Avifauna Number 15. Cooper Ornithological Club. Berkeley, Calif., November 8, 1923. pp. 1-60, figs. 1-4. Price \$1.50 (W. Lee Chambers, Bus. Mgr., Eagle Rock, Calif.)