

Or the Thrasher:

“Pickereel, pickereel, pickereel,
Stickle-back, stickle-back,
Sculpin, sculpin.”

“Kittiwake, kittiwake, kittiwake,
Curlew, curlew
Bobolink, bobolink, bobolink,
Whippoorwill, whippoorwill.”

Many of the other poems too will appeal to the lovers of out-door life and nature. We congratulate Dr. Weeks upon his little volume which can well find a place on the shelves of any naturalist's library.—W. S.

Birds and the English Whitethorn.—Rev. E. A. Woodruffe-Peacock gives¹ a list of 22 species of English wild birds that feed on and disseminate the seeds of whitethorns (*Crataegus oxyacanthus* and *C. oxyacanthoides*). The Hawfinch and Greenfinch open these thick shelled seeds for the sake of the endosperm, hence do not come in the list of distributors. It is stated that seeds which have traversed the alimentary canal of a bird germinate a year ahead of those gathered by man and that formerly they were fed to turkeys before being sown in order to gain this advantage.—W. L. M.

Sapsuckers distributing diseases of trees.—The work of the true Sapsuckers (*Sphyrapicus*) is of such a character that it must be an important means of transmission of diseases of trees. Little has been recorded on this subject because these diseases themselves have been little studied. In the reviewer's bulletin on Woodpeckers in Relation to Trees and Wood Products (Biol. Surv. Bul. 39, 1911, p. 25) was recorded the occurrence of galls caused by the fungus *Peridermium cerebrum* in connection with Sapsucker work. During the study of the chestnut blight (*Diaporthe parasitica*) in Pennsylvania it was noted that Woodpecker work was associated with about one-tenth of the older lesions of this devastating disease.² Prof. M. B. Waite says³ he has observed several cases where Sapsuckers were responsible for the transmission of the highly destructive pear blight (*Bacillus amyliivorus*). These are the previously recorded instances of the distribution of plant diseases by Sapsuckers, that have come under the reviewer's eye. Now appears another relating to the red stain (*Fusarium negundi*) in the wood of boxelder. This stain which results in wood containing it being relegated to a lower grade also has been found to be carried from tree to tree by Sapsuckers.⁴ In departing from

¹The Naturalist, Nov. 1919, pp. 353-355.

²Fulton, H. R. Proc. Chestnut Blight Conference, 1912, p. 56

³Official Rep. 31st Fruit-growers' Convention Calif., 1906, p. 144.

⁴Hubert, Ernest E. Journ. Agr. Research, 26, No. 10, Dec. 8, 1923, pp. 447-457, ls. 1-3.

the habits of their tribe the Sapsuckers have not only deviated from a standard of solid economic worth but have assumed risks in the way of tree disease transmission the extent of which can scarcely be foretold.—W. L. M.

Mathews' 'The Birds of Australia.'¹—Two additional parts of Volume XI of this work have appeared since our last notice. Four species of Pardalotidae and the single Australian Sun-bird are considered in the first pages of Part 4 while the rest of this and the whole of Part 5 are devoted to the great Australian family, the Honey-eaters—Melithreptidae, with which good progress has been made. Mr. Mathews contends that this represents a "composite unnatural group" "with one remarkable feature, in this instance the brush tongue."—W. S.

The Ornithological Journals.

Bird-Lore. XXVI, No. 3. March–April, 1924.

The Phoebe. By Mrs. H. N. Henderson.—Detailed account of nest building and rearing of two broods.

The Great Horned Owls of Buffalo Creek. By F. J. Pierce.—No locality mentioned.

My Robins. By M. B. Salmon.—Rearing a brood by hand.

Herding Domestic Turkeys in the West. By Charles Barnum.—Became perfectly accustomed to the presence of the herder and responded regularly to the human voice.

Excellent photographs of Mourning Dove brooding and feeding young. By Dr. F. N. Wilson.

The colored plate is by Fuertes and presents the Ruby-throated, Black-chinned and Calliope Hummingbirds.

The Condor. XXVI, No. 2. March–April, 1924.

Nesting of the Wood Duck in California. By Joseph Dixon. The most important contribution that has ever appeared on the life history of this Duck. In three instances where the young were seen to leave the nest they did so entirely without aid from the parent, fluttering down to the water eight to ten feet below, and the entire brood were out of the nest in two to three minutes after the first one left. Eighty per cent of the nests were over water. The paper is abundantly illustrated.

The Birds of the Todos Santos Islands. By John Van Denberg.

The Wilson Bulletin. XXXVI, No. 1. March, 1924.

Birds Observed in Southeastern Texas in May, 1923. By A. C. Bent. Annotated list of 198 species.

Ornithological Impressions of Fiji and New Zealand. By Dayton Stoner.

Nesting Birds of Lake County Oregon. By Dr. A. G. Prill.

¹The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews, Vol. XI, Part 4, February 20, 1924, Part 5, April 2, 1924.