

man's accounts of his experiences with the shore-birds and other wild-fowl and his numerous sketches of them are extremely interesting, while his style is pleasing and attractive, and even though we do not agree with all of his theories, we can glean pleasure and profit from a perusal of his observations.

In considering the sense of smell he cites numerous cases of Vultures in Africa devouring the waste portions of carcasses of game left by hunters, but being absolutely unable to detect the store of meat carefully covered with grass and boughs close at hand.

In the chapters on modern zoölogy "the tendency of professional science to neglect the direct study of life in the field" is scored, and the suggestion is made that the term "zoölogy" might well be changed to "dermatology" or "necrology." While we agree with Mr. Chapman in part, we do not think that he realizes the extent to which the study of wild life is carried on today, and we cannot see the justice in criticising those who devote themselves exclusively to the study of skins and anatomical specimens any more than in censuring those who prefer to be exclusively field naturalists. Had he studied plumage variation from skins, and determined the age of specimens by dissection he would have altered his views, we think, on some of the points on which he speaks so positively, as, for instance, the long adolescence of certain Limicolæ.

In considering modern nomenclature and trinomialism we find only destructive criticism with no suggestion as to how to remedy a condition which the author clearly does not understand. The main reason for the chaos and confusion in nomenclature is the carelessness of our predecessors in naming the same species many times, and in preparing inadequate descriptions, and yet we find Mr. Chapman giving a brand new name (*Charadrius calceatus*, p. 126) to the Black-bellied Plover which has enjoyed the unique distinction of having only two specific names in 150 years, both bestowed by Linnaeus, until our author complicates matters by proposing another, simply because he does not like the old ones—and proposing it without adequate diagnosis at that! If every one of us adopted the same plan, nomenclature would indeed be the "comedy of errors" that he calls it.

Field and closet ornithology are two equally important branches of the subject and it is unfortunate to try to mix them or to criticise one from the standpoint of the other. We therefore recommend Mr. Chapman's book as a *field* study most heartily and would not take too seriously his strictures on the professional zoölogists. The color plates by Mr. Riddell and the author's own sketches are excellent.—W. S.

Heinroths' 'Birds of Middle Europe.'—We have received the first part of a work,¹ in German, on the birds of middle Europe by Dr. Oscar

¹ Die Vögel Mitteleuropas herausgegeben von der Staatl-Stelle für Naturdenkmalpflege in Preuszen von Dr. Oskar u. Frau Magdalena Heinroth. R. Friedlander & Sohn, Berlin N.W. 6, Karlstr. 11. Subscription price 2.50 Goldmarks for each part. Pp. 1-16, col. pll. I, XXXVII, LXXIV, plain pll. 1, 2, 86, 125, 212.

Heinroth and Frau Magdalena Heinroth. The unique feature of this publication is the wealth of photographic illustration which shows the bird shortly after hatching from the egg and in various stages afterward to maturity. The egg is also figured and diagrams of the coloration of the inside of the mouth of the nestling are added. The colored plates are apparently reproduced from hand colored photographs and are not so pleasing as the uncolored ones. Large numbers of single portraits, sometimes a dozen or more are presented on one quarto plate, which detracts very much from their artistic beauty, though they are just as valuable for study and comparison.

There is in this part a brief introduction on the Passeriformes and then a series of accounts of the birds of the first 'group', "Erdsanger" including the Nightingale, Robin, Blue-throat and Wheat-ear. The text includes measurements of birds and eggs, with an account of the distribution and life history of each species. The plates in Part I, which are loose, include some of Owls and Plover and other species not mentioned in the text, and apparently no attempt is made to have plates and text in each installment correspond. The completed work is to form two volumes with 125 colored plates and 275 in uncolored halftone, and will be issued in 35 parts.

It should be an invaluable work of reference to students living in the region of which it treats and to others as well, especially those interested in successive plumage development.—W. S.

Recent Publications of the U. S. Biological Survey.—Besides the annual synopsis of the game laws¹ and the directory of officials and organizations² concerned with game and bird protection, the U. S. Biological Survey has recently issued two important papers.

One of these by Ira N. Gabrielson deals with the food habits of some winter bird visitants.³ These comprise the Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, the Crossbills, Redpolls, Siskin, Snow Bunting, Longspurs and Pipits. The conclusions of the author amply confirm our present attitude of protection to all of these species. Most of them do not figure prominently as either beneficial or injurious birds, their food being for the most part of little or no economic importance but they should be rigidly protected on account of their beauty and attractiveness as in the case of all wild life not directly injurious.

The other publication⁴ is by Mr. F. C. Lincoln and is entitled 'Returns from Banded Birds 1920-1923.' It includes tabulated records of 1746

¹ Game Laws for the Season 1924-25, Farmers' Bulletin No. 1444. U. S. Dept. Agriculture, August 1924. By Geo. A. Lawyer, pp. 1-38. Price 5 cents.

² Directory of Officials and Organizations Concerned with the Protection of Birds and Game: 1924. By Geo. A. Lawyer and Talbot Denmead. October, 1924. pp. 1-16.

³ Food Habits of Some Winter Bird Visitants. By Ira N. Gabrielson. Department Bulletin No. 1249. October 27, 1924. pp. 1-32. U. S. Dept. Agriculture.

⁴ Returns from Banded Birds, 1920 to 1923. By Frederick C. Lincoln. Department Bulletin, U. S. Dept. Agriculture No. 1268. October 15, 1924. pp. 1-56. Price 10 cents.