

Stilt and Buff-breasted Sandpipers and Sanderling, although of some only a very few were seen, the majority stopping farther north. Apparently the only land bird migrating as far as Argentina is the Bobolink which is in much favor as a cage bird.

Dr. Wetmore's attitude on genera will be regarded with interest as he has anatomical reasons for all of his actions. He fails to distinguish generic characters for the two species of Yellow-legs or for separating some of the Godwits as *Vetola*. His classification moreover is original and will be found to conform pretty closely with that which he and Mr. Miller have prepared for the new A. O. U. 'Check-List' (see antea p. 337).

To those familiar with the bird life of Argentina through the works of Hudson, Dr. Wetmore's account of its present status will be most interesting, while to all of us the description of the birds of a foreign country, by one who goes out from our own country, is always interesting and satisfactory, as his impressions and reactions are in all probability those that we ourselves would experience. Dr. Wetmore is to be congratulated upon another important contribution to ornithology.—W. S.

Shelford's 'Naturalist's Guide to the Americas.'¹—Botanists and zoologists have long since ceased to be content with the making of collections and the purely systematic study of a fauna or flora, and today a floral or faunal report must needs consider the region in its relation to other regions and its reference to definite zones or to special climatic or ecologic subdivisions. For information as to the physiography or climate of a region in any state or province of North or Middle America, or the make up of its wild life one hardly knew where to turn.

In order to meet this need there has recently been prepared by a committee of the Ecological Society of America, under the editorship of Dr. V. E. Shelford, a 'Naturalist's Guide to the Americas.' The other members of the committee and the numerous aids and contributors make up such an array of talent as could not help but bring together a vast amount of valuable and instructive data which together with the numerous lists of reference works should put the reader in touch with much of the information he desires concerning any region between the American Arctic Archipelago and the Amazon Valley.

Naturally with such a host of contributors specializing in various branches and with varying amounts of personal experience in the regions of which they write, the treatment must be decidedly uneven. Some sketches like that of Mexico, by Nelson and Goldman, are admirable but others are extremely weak and one-sided, while in some cases, as the Bahamas, there is no account at all. After studying a number of the sketches we are impressed with the fact that botany has been exploited in most cases at the expense of zoology, indeed some of the authors seem absolutely unacquainted with the zoology of their regions and have resorted to compilations or omitted the subject almost entirely. It seems a pity, considering the amount of labor expended on the work, that the

several accounts could not have been arranged upon a common plan and the missing information supplied from standard works or by other specialists able to furnish it.

Considering the ornithology of several states with which the writer is somewhat familiar, we find in New Jersey that the "common birds" of the northwestern mountain section were the "Passenger pigeon, quail, partridge, wild turkey and egret"—surely a sad selection. Further on we are informed that some of these are extinct and to this class is added a bird called the "water hen" the identity of which we are at a loss to surmise. Of the low ground area to the southeast no birds whatever are given. And yet there is a work on the birds of the state, not cited in the list of reference works, in which the characteristic birds of the several zones of the state are listed. The mammals of northern New Jersey are also listed but that is all of the zoology except "that the Spadefoot Toad is common in this area"! In the South Carolina sketch the only bird mentioned is the Ruffed Grouse which is said to be abundant throughout the State except near the large cities, a statement which is wholly erroneous since it occurs only in the limited mountain region and is apparently rare even there. Again we find the Wilson's Warbler and Mountain Vireo given as breeding birds in the higher mountains of Maryland whereas the former does not breed south of Maine and New Hampshire while the Vireos are really referable to the Solitary Vireo. We are curious too to know how *Pinus banksiana* came to be listed as a characteristic tree of this region. The technical nomenclature has been revised according to standard authorities and made uniform, but curiously enough while in some cases whole pages are devoted to lists of scientific names, in others only vernacular names are used.

We fully realize the difficulty of gathering information on such a wide scope but it seems hopeless to expect a botanist to present an accurate summary of the zoology of a region or vice versa. The general accounts of the physiography of the various states and countries and the data on parks and reservations will be of the greatest value and will make the book an important work of reference and the detailed information on the flora appears in the main accurate; the zoological portion, however, in many of the reports is unfortunate and cannot, we regret to say, be taken as authoritative except where a well known zoologist appears as the author.—W. S.

¹ Naturalist's Guide to the Americas. Prepared by the Committee on the Preservation of Natural Conditions of the Ecological Society of America, with assistance from numerous organizations and individuals. Assembled and edited by the chairman Victor E. Shelford. Publication Editor, Forrest Shreve, Associates and Special Editors, E. Lucy Braun, Lee R. Dice, Lynds Jones, Clarence F. Korstian, Robert B. Miller, Helen T. Gaige and Frank C. Baker. Baltimore, The Williams and Wilkins Company, 1926. pp. i-xv + 1-761. Numerous maps and piece plate. Price, \$10.00.