

RECENT LITERATURE.

Holt on the Great White and Würdemann's Herons. This paper,¹ which, by the way, won the Walker prize in Ornithology awarded by the Boston Society of Natural History, discusses at length the much debated problem of the Great White and Great Blue Herons of Florida. Mr. Holt, as a member of the Crile Florida Expedition of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, had exceptional opportunities for the study of these birds on the Florida Keys in December 1923, and January 1924, which adds very materially to the value of his deductions from an examination of specimens and literature.

Ardea wardi, he, like other recent writers, regards as the Florida race of the Great Blue Heron, while *A. occidentalis* is considered to be a perfectly distinct species, and *A. würdemanni*, a hybrid between the two. He shows that the occipital plumes of *occidentalis* are either much reduced as compared with those of *A. h. wardi* or are absent entirely, and when present are of a different form. There are also other slight differences. He finds too that blue and white young of *würdemanni* in the same nest are the exception, and that such occurrences, as well as almost all the occurrences of *A. würdemanni*, are in the district where the ranges of *occidentalis* and *wardi* overlap.

He does not regard the blue and white phases of the Little Blue Heron as at all comparable to the Great White and Ward's Herons since the white phase of this species is almost certainly a condition of youth, and furthermore no blue young of the Little Blue has ever been found.

Some admirable photographs of the nests of the Great White Heron are reproduced as illustrations.

We heartily agree with Mr. Holt's conclusions and feel that very convincing and surprising evidence will be required to overthrow them.—
W. S.

Boyson's 'Falkland Islands.'²—An important reference book which contains many valuable observations on birds but which has apparently not been reviewed either in 'The Auk' or 'The Ibis,' is a volume on the Falkland Islands which appeared in 1924. This well illustrated hand book is divided into four parts: Pt. I, History, pp. 13-191; Pt. II, Industries, pp. 193-243; Pt. III, Geographical Notes, pp. 245-279; Pt. IV, Zoology, pp. 281-382, followed by an appendix containing Statistics, pp. 383-398, and an Index.

¹ The Status of the Great White Heron (*Ardea occidentalis* Audubon) and Würdemann's Heron (*Ardea würdemanni* Baird). By Ernest G. Holt. Sci. Publ. Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Vol. I, No. 1, pp. 1-35, pls. I-VI. July 28, 1928.

² The Falkland Islands | by V. F. Boyson | with Notes on the Natural History | by Rupert Vallentin | Oxford | at the Clarendon Press | 1924. 8vo., pp. i-xii, 2 leaves, [13]-414, 34 plates and map.