

nomenclature. However, this does not affect the value of Dr. Grinnell's admirable "Summation."—W. S.

Sutton's 'Introduction to the Birds of Pennsylvania.'—Mr. Sutton in his work for the Pennsylvania Game Commission has found a wide-spread need throughout the state, especially among school teachers, for a book that would furnish information on the distribution, abundance, etc., of the birds of the Commonwealth, and he has prepared this little volume¹ to meet the want. That he has successfully accomplished his task I think all will agree.

He has prepared brief but adequate descriptions of the various species with details of distribution in Pennsylvania and accounts of their nesting, while there is a paragraph or two on habits, song, etc. There are also, and this is a most important feature, line drawings by the author, of most of the species. Mr. Sutton, as is generally known, is primarily a bird artist, one of the best in America, and his ability to present an identifiable portrait of a bird without the use of colors is well shown in these admirable sketches. In every case he has caught a characteristic pose and has brought out the color values in black and white in a remarkable manner. Would that all who try to draw birds possessed this ability.

While the details of distribution for the western parts of the state with which Mr. Sutton is most familiar, seem to be excellent, it is unfortunate that he could not have had the benefit of the assistance of some one equally familiar with the eastern counties as some of the ranges for this region might have been improved.

While many very rare species, for some of which we lack definite state records, are included, curiously enough, no mention is made of the King Eider, several of which were killed on the Susquehanna River near Harrisburg in December 1920 (*Auk*, 1921, p. 270) and some of them, we understand, mounted for the State Museum.

Mr. Sutton's little book will, we feel sure, be of the greatest benefit to beginners in the study of Pennsylvania ornithology and to teachers who are in search of reliable information to use in instructing their classes.—W. S.

Phillips' 'A Sportsman's Scrapbook.'—Lovers of the great outdoors always enjoy a sportsman's reminiscences and this volume² of disconnected accounts of Dr. Phillips' hunting experiences in various parts of the country, will prove well worth reading. There are boyhood recollections, and

¹ *An Introduction to the Birds of Pennsylvania.* By George Miksch Sutton, State Ornithologist of Pennsylvania, etc. J. Horace McFarland Company, Harrisburg, Pa. 1928. pp. i-viii + 1-169, numerous cuts and frontispiece, color plate. Price \$1.00. (Mrs. L. A. Lutringer, Jr., 1724 Herr St., Harrisburg, Pa.)

² *A Sportsman's Scrapbook.* By John C. Phillips with illustrations by A. L. Ripley. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston and New York. pp. 1-212, many illustrations. Price \$5.00.

accounts of camp life in the wilder parts of New England; fishing and ducking anecdotes and fuller and more serious accounts of grouse shooting. Dr. Phillips' experiences however are not limited to New England. There is a chapter on Currituck memories and others on Moose hunting in New Brunswick, on the pursuit of the Chamois in the Alps, on shooting Reindeer in Greenland and Bighorn Sheep in what is now Glacier National Park.

The author's comments on ducking methods in the past and present are both interesting and amusing. He describes pot hunting among moonlit ice cakes on the Ipswich meadows, shooting the birds "sitting if we could and flying if we couldn't, and yet we did not get as many ducks in an entire season as a present day shooter can kill at a baited blind on Currituck in a week or even a day, and where neither weather-wise lore nor hardihood is necessary to kill the limit!"

It is, no doubt, the increase in hunters and the improved facilities rather than the old methods that have threatened our duck supply but we must have stringent laws nevertheless if we are to save the game birds for posterity. Dr. Phillips' attractive book is beautifully printed on heavy paper and illustrated with wonderfully delicate reproductions of drawings of birds, dogs, gunners, etc., by A. L. Ripley. In all respects it is the sort of book that lovers of handsome publications like to have.—W. S.

Linsdale on Variation in the Fox Sparrow.—This¹ is primarily a study of variation and since the author considers that more significant results might be obtained by a study of the smallest discernable deviations within a species, rather than by studying larger groups, which are less similar, he has selected the Fox Sparrows which have already been divided upon external characters into a large number of subspecies. With 465 skeletons of Fox Sparrows representing fourteen of the sixteen subspecies he has made measurements of three skull dimensions, two of the ramus, the length and breadth of the sternum, length of the pelvis, femur, tibia, tarsus, humerus, radius, ulna, coracoid, scapula and furcula.

There are also discussions of variation in the food, habits, distribution, migration, song, and nesting of the several subspecies.

Several well marked tendencies to vary geographically in habits and in response to environment are found in Fox Sparrows, and these follow a definite order so that it is possible to point out parallels between them and tendencies to vary in features of structure. The author was unable to find any advantage to the bird in the possession of the enlarged bill and skull characteristic of some subspecies, but some other skeletal characters did appear to have a definite value.

After arguing that it is desirable for the persons who work in systematics to understand the phases of variation of the objects with which

¹ Variation in the Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*) with Reference to Natural History and Osteology. By Jean M. Linsdale. Univ. Calif. Publ. in Zool. Vol. 30, No. 12, pp. 251-392, pls. 16-20, and 38 text figures. Univ. of Calif. Press, Berkeley, California. 1928.