

and fast method by which they may decide which to accept and which to reject. The editor of such a journal is in the same predicament and even though he exercises what he considers to be the utmost discretion he will inevitably err in accepting some erroneous "records." However, the reputation and ability of the observer is after all our best basis for judgement. If, for instance, Mr. Lincoln, with his wide experience, should see a rare bird, such as a Wilson's Phalarope, in the country about Washington, where it is unrecorded, and should send an account of his observation to 'The Auk' we should unquestionably accept it, but if some beginner unfamiliar with shore birds should submit a similar observation we should decline it with thanks.

Sight records must, we fear, involve the personal equation and certain other considerations. We must not forget, moreover, the part that binoculars play in practically putting a bird in arms' reach which formerly was far away, and also the greatly increased opportunity of correctly identifying birds which the numerous popular books and accurate pictures of today offer. At the same time the over ambitious amateur should be extremely careful. If he sends one fantastic "record," that cannot be substantiated, to a reputable journal, his future contributions are likely to be looked upon with suspicion for some years to come. With all their incentives the competitive "daily lists" and the "life list" seem to be deadly menaces to accurate observation.

**Metcalf, Maynard M.**—Parasites and the Aid they Give in Problems of Taxonomy, Geographical Distribution and Palaeontology. (Smithson. Misc. Collns. Vol. 81, No. 8, pp. 1-36, February 28, 1929.)—The presence of the same species of mallophaga on related European and American species of birds, and of closely related or identical forms on various species of Ratitae are cited in the general discussion of the subject, usually from papers by Vernon L. Kellogg and Launcelot Harrison.

**Meylan, O.**—Notes sur les Oiseaux des environs de Genève. (Bull. de la Societe Zool. de Geneve, Vol. IV, Fasc. 1, February, 1929.)—An annotated list of the birds of Geneva with dates of observation and notes on habits.

**Mitchell, Charles A. and Duthie, R. C.**—Tuberculosis in Crows. (Amer. Review of Tuberculosis, Vol. XIX, No. 2, 1929.)—Account of an epidemic in western Ontario and experiments to see if infection is likely to be carried by the birds to other animals.

**Peters, Harold S.**—Mallophaga from Ohio Birds. (Ohio Jour. Science, Vol. XXVIII, No. 4, July, 1928.)—An account of the habits of these "lice" and methods of preserving and studying them. There are today about 1700 described species representing some 70 genera, of which 94 species and 24 genera have been found on Ohio birds. A list of these species and their hosts is appended. The importance of the study