

There are no Pleistocene species although a few bones show some slight petrification.

The collection is fully discussed and many tables of measurements given along with a number of drawings of the bones.

Miss Howard has entered a rather novel field and has produced a paper of much interest both ornithologically and anthropologically.—W. S.

Prof. Patten's 'The Story of the Birds.'—This volume¹ of some 500 pages consists of nineteen radio lectures given by the author, who is professor of anatomy in Sheffield University, to the school children of England. These have been elaborated to some extent and an abundance of excellent illustrations has been added. While the subtitle includes the "habits" of birds we find that that part of the text not concerned with bird structure is entirely devoted to bird song and migration, and the grouping of birds with regard to the time of occurrence, with little or nothing regarding nests and eggs or food habits, which we might expect in a work of this scope.

While the work deals, as is to be expected, with British birds, nevertheless the chapters on the anatomy, structure of feathers, etc., apply equally well to the birds of all countries and present in an easily understood manner a great amount of information. The portion devoted to migration, while presenting the general problem in an attractive manner, still adheres to the love of home as the inducement to spring migration and the failure of food as the incentive in the autumn. As the book has been written essentially for, and addressed to, young people the author has endeavored to impart a considerable amount of "light and shade" to his exposition and so we find some chapters written in an extremely popular vein and in conversational form while others smack of the technical college lecture.

A good word is said for birds in general and their economic importance while "Birds of Prey" says Prof. Patten "lay claim to far more consideration than is usually meted out to them. Like other predatory animals, they are, in truth *'the salt of the earth.'* Their wholesale destruction by game keepers and farmers has more than once recoiled upon the heads of the destroyers." American Game Commissions should take heed to this and guard against the whirlwind that they seem bent on preparing for future generations to harvest.

Prof. Patten's book should prove of wide interest, presenting in a more or less popular way a vast amount of information not usually included in popular ornithologies.—W. S.

Wetmore on New Birds from Haiti.—Continued study of the birds of the island of Haiti discloses the presence of two additional distinguish-

¹ The Story of the Birds. A Guide to the Study of Avian Structure and Habits. Founded on a Series of Broadcast Addresses Delivered to the Schools in Sheffield. By Charles J. Patten, M.A., M.D., Sc.D., Professor of Anatomy, Sheffield University. Pawson & Brallsford, Sheffield 1928. pp. i-xxvii+1-478, 82 text figures and 29 plates.

able races which Dr. Wetmore describes in the present paper¹ as *Dulus dominicus ovedo* (p. 117) from Gonave Island and *Coereba bananivora nectarea* (p. 118) from Tortue Island.—W. S.

The Ornithological Journals.

Bird-Lore. XXXI, No. 4. July–August, 1929.

Among the Bulrushes. By Frank N. Wilson.—Photography of Pied-billed Grebe and Red-winged Blackbird, presumably near Ann Arbor, Mich.

Birds' Eyes. By Thos. H. Shastid.—Structure and powers of sight discussed. Pigeons were able to detect a small particle of a wheat grain and fly to it at a distance of 70 feet while a human eye could barely distinguish it at a distance of a foot.

The Last Heath Hen. By Alfred O. Gross.—Photographs of the last individual which was seen from December 8, 1928 to May 11, 1929; after which none has been observed.

The colored plate by Sutton represents the Arizona and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers with plumage notes by Chapman and migration dates by Oberholser.

In the Audubon Department is an excellent account of the life of the Green Heron by Dr. Arthur A. Allen.

The Condor. XXXI, No. 4. July–August, 1929.

Nesting of the Laughing Gull in Southern California. By Loye Miller and A. J. vanRossem.

Roadways as they affect Bird Life. By Jean M. Linsdale.—As an offset to the complaints of the number of dead birds found on roadways the author calls attention to the many factors that tend to increase bird life along roadways, increased food supply, shelter, presence of water in ditches or puddles, nesting sites offered by hedges and resting places on wires, etc. He concludes that roadways have been responsible for the increase in the numbers of many species over what they were before the roads were established.

The Function of the Oil Gland. By J. Eugene Law.—An important paper in which Chas. Waterton's claim that the function of the gland is not to lubricate the feathers is upheld with very strong evidence. Mr. Law presents evidence to show that oil is absent from the contour feathers of birds, that the plumage furnishes a waterproof covering without the assistance of oil, and suggests that the function of the oil gland is the lubrication of the beak which is subject to hard usage and would be likely to crumble and wear if not kept in good condition.

The Whooping Crane Continues to Visit Louisiana. By E. W. Nelson.

Notes on Oömetry. By Griffing Bancroft.—A discussion of the value of egg measurements.

¹ New Races of Birds from Haiti. By Alexander Wetmore. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. 42, pp. 117–120. March 25, 1929.