

Farley on 'Birds of the Battle River Region' (Alta.)—The region covered by this well gotten-up list¹ comprises an area of 200 x 40 miles in Central Alberta with which the author is evidently well acquainted. After a "foreword" in which the country is briefly described, with some small photographs of typical spots, the list of birds comprising 238 species and subspecies is presented, usually with brief annotations, though in the case of a few species much longer notes are attached.

Only two forms of Canada Goose seem to pass through this country; *Branta c. canadensis* and *B. c. leucopareia*, and the Blue Goose is not recorded. The Goshawk is regarded by the author as "the most destructive bird of prey in the west, and is the only one that I habitually shoot," while of Swainson's Hawk he says "a ruthless slaughter of these unwary hawks is being constantly carried on by thoughtless and cruel hunters * * * grim reminder of the terrible ignorance of man and his utter disregard for the country's valuable wild-life"; he moreover has no criticism of the Marsh Hawk which Major Brooks, a little farther west, condemns so heartily.

The Crow has vastly increased since the author's arrival in Alberta in 1892 and he regards it as a great menace to the ducks through its destruction of their eggs and young, especially on reservations. His plea that "a whole hearted policy on the part of Canada and the United States for the destruction of Crows would help materially in bringing the ducks back to their former numbers" seems to be a rather extravagant statement. Crows, as we have pointed out, are as useful as they are harmful in various parts of the United States and extermination is not the answer in such cases but rather control in areas where the birds are a nuisance.

Mr. Farley wisely follows the A. O. U. 'Check-List' as to nomenclature and sequence but insists on dropping the apostrophe in the case of personal names. This excellent pamphlet will go far to educate the people of Alberta in the value and interest of their birds.—W. S.

Wetmore on Hummingbirds, Swifts and Goatsuckers.—'The National Geographic Magazine' has in the past published some notable series of colored plates of birds which have been of the greatest educational value and it now begins a still more pretentious undertaking: the reproduction in colors of paintings by Major Allan Brooks illustrating some 500 familiar land and sea birds of North America, to be accompanied by suitable text by notable ornithologists. The first of these articles² is by Dr. Alexander Wetmore describing his experiences with hummingbirds, swifts and goatsuckers in various parts of the world, and detailed accounts

¹ Birds of the Battle Creek Region With Notes on their Present Status Migrations, Food Habits and Economic Value. By Frank L. Farley. Camrose, Alberta. First Edition, July, 1932. Published by the Institute of Applied Art, Limited. 10042, 109th St., Edmonton, Alberta. Price 50 cents.

² Seeking the Smallest Feathered Creatures. By Alexander Wetmore. Hummingbirds, Swifts, and Goatsuckers. By Allan Brooks. Nat. Geog. Mag., LXII, No. 1, July, 1932, pp. 64-89.