

Kitchin's 'List of the Birds of Washington.'—This distributional list¹ is a credit to the author and to the Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Society which has published it. It is well printed and remarkably free from typographical errors. The total number of species and subspecies definitely recorded, on the basis of a specimen actually taken in the state, is 389, while there are added in a hypothetical list 39 others whose occurrence may be expected. There is a brief statement of character of occurrence of each form and details of distribution when necessary. The nomenclature wisely follows that of the A. O. U. 'Check-List' for, in a list such as this, uniformity is more important than personal opinion in matters of names.

Mr. Kitchin's 'Check-List' will be a valuable work of reference to ornithologists generally.—W. S.

Alvarez on the Birds of Uruguay.—In this paper² the author, a former Director of Agriculture, presents a list of 113 birds of Uruguay with brief accounts of their distribution, nesting habits, and food. It should arouse much interest among the people of the country in the value of their birds and in the importance of their protection, while it furnishes ornithologists elsewhere with additional information on the bird life of a region concerning which the literature is not very extensive.—W. S.

Eaton on the Migratory Movements of Herring Gulls.—Mr. Eaton's studies of the migration records of the several colonies of Herring Gulls of eastern North America, published in 'Bird Banding,'³ is completed in the April issue and he presents his conclusions.

He finds three well marked populations (1) the Atlantic, breeding from Massachusetts to New Brunswick, of which the first year birds tend to winter on the Gulf coast; (2) the Laurentian, breeding along the St. Lawrence, with no habit of true migration in the first year birds at least; (3) the Lacustrine, breeding in the Great Lakes region and wintering in the first year in the Great Lakes drainage system, some birds passing to the Gulf and others to the Atlantic Coast.

In attempting to explain these apparent facts the author suggests that the Gulls were in the main forced to breed much farther south during the last glacial period than at present and that the habit of migration developed when they began to reclaim their original breeding range; that as recent evidence seems to show that the St. Lawrence area was probably not completely glaciated by the "Wisconsin" ice sheet, the Herring Gulls of this area were perhaps never forced to desert their old breeding grounds. His conclusions are well worthy of careful consideration and the data that

¹ Distributional Check-List of the Birds of the State of Washington. By E. A. Kitchin. Northwest Fauna Series, No. 1, February, 1934. Pp. 1-28. Price 50 cents. (Leo K. Couch, Room 101, Old Capitol Bldg., Olympia, Wash.).

² Observaciones Biologicas sobre las Aves del Uruguay por Teodoro Alvarez, Ingeniero Agronomo, Ex Director de Agronomia. Anales del Museo de Hist. Nat. de Montevideo 2a. Serie. Tom. IV, No. 1, November, 1933. Pp. 1-50.

³ Bird Banding, IV, No. 4, V, Nos. 1 and 2. October 1933-April, 1934.

he has tabulated furnish an important basis for further work on the migration of these birds.—W. S.

Biological Survey Duck Maps.—The U. S. Biological Survey has issued a series of maps showing the breeding area and region of shooting for twenty-four of the Ducks and Geese most popular with sportsmen. These are sent out to editors of various publications with the privilege of using them as copy on condition that the statements that accompany them be also published.

This is an excellent way of disseminating accurate information regarding our water-fowl and nothing will show more convincingly the decrease in the breeding areas of these birds, and the consequent decrease in the numbers of the birds themselves, than a glance at these maps. The resultant publicity, too, should make every sportsman aware of the exact situation which the Ducks face today and enlist his support of any measures that seem necessary to save them from extinction regardless of his personal inconvenience. Let us hope that the maps and accompanying statement may receive the careful attention that they deserve.—W. S.

Teaching Units of the Emergency Conservation Committee.—The Emergency Conservation Committee has recently published two excellent "Teaching Units"¹ prepared by Ellsworth D. Lumley of the Biology Department of Great Falls High School, Great Falls, Montana. One of these deals with "Hawks" and the other with "Shortage of Waterfowl" and both are designed for school use. The former presents not only reliable data on the food of Hawks taken from Fisher's 'Hawks and Owls' and other similar publications, but emphasizes the injustice of the campaign of so-called sportsmen against these birds, the wastefulness of bounties, etc., etc.

The Waterfowl 'Unit' covers the evils of draining marshes, baiting, the ethics of sport, the wasteful methods of certain gunners, the principles of game laws, etc.

The objects of the two pamphlets are tersely stated to be: I. (a) To become acquainted with our Hawks so as to be able to identify each group; (b) To learn the true value of our Hawks to the farmer and the sportsman; (c) To learn the harm done when bounties are offered for the killing of these birds. II. (a) To come to a correct solution as to why our Waterfowl have decreased so rapidly in the last 20 or 25 years; (b) To understand the true meaning of sportsmanship.

Then there are series of "assignments" for scholars to follow up with the aid of the information presented in the 'Unit' and that to be obtained from the books and articles cited in the bibliography. The intention is to stimulate class discussion and the preparation of essays on all branches of the subject. There is a brief discussion of the Crow problem at the end of

¹ Conservation Series. Teaching Units. I. The Shortage of Waterfowl; II. Hawks; both by Ellsworth D. Lumley. Price 10 cents each. Emergency Conservation Committee, 734 Lexington Ave., New York.