

Chasen on 'Birds of Christmas Island.'—This paper¹ contains a great deal of interesting information on the birds of this isolated island of the Indian Ocean. Of the seven forms of land birds four of the species of which they are races are Austro-Oriental in their relationship and are not found in Malaysia, while the other three, while they extend to this region, are also closer to Austro-Oriental forms. The author is more concerned with the distribution of the Boobies, Man-o'-war Birds and Tropic Birds which breed on the island and presents much information on them. In examining specimens of the last he finds differences in the development and age of the two long tail feathers and suggests that here may be another case similar to that found in the Hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*) by Dr. A. Wetmore, or at least a tendency to alternate molt. The successive plumages of *Fregata* are also discussed.—W. S.

'Indiana Audubon Year Book—1934.'—This annual publication² of the Indiana Audubon Society contains, as usual, a varied assortment of papers of interest both to conservationists and ornithologists. Among these we may mention an appreciation of Mr. Alden H. Hadley, with portrait and a list of his collection now at Earlham College; W. S. Blatchley contributes an account of the Indiana sand dunes; S. R. Esten discusses bird portraits on postage stamps; W. L. McAtee, the mutual relations of farms and birds; M. L. Fisher, the European Starling in Indiana; and G. Henderson presents an interesting account of bird studies in Franklin and Decatur Counties. A paper by Erastus Test is presented by his son describing a Wild Pigeon hunt in 1860 and Earl Brooks discussed the winter distribution of Robins. There are numerous local notes.—W. S.

Williams's 'Nest Building—New Style.'—In this interesting paper³ Mr. Williams describes ten years experiments with birds on his home grounds at Roxbury, Connecticut, by supplying them with abundant nesting material in the form of bright colored woolen yarns. The Baltimore Orioles, especially, accepted the new material with avidity and not only substituted it for the usual plant fibers but built more bulky nests and eventually abandoned plant material even for the inside bottom lining. Kingbirds, Robins and Waxwings also later adopted the new material but seem to have draped it on the nest structure instead of substituting it entirely. The author discusses the matter of discrimination in colors and the apparent imitation practised by the other species after the Orioles had shown the way, also the question of instinct versus intelligent choice.

The paper is illustrated with numerous paintings and drawings by the author, some of them reproduced in colors.—W. S.

¹ Notes on the Birds of Christmas Island, Indian Ocean. By F. N. Chasen. Bull. Raffles Museum, Singapore, No. 8, December, 1933. Pp. 55-87.

² The Audubon Year Book 1934. Published by the Indiana Audubon Society for Conservation of Bird Life. Pp. 1-84, numerous text cuts. Price \$1.00, to Miss Margaret R. Knox, 4030 Park Ave., Indianapolis, Indiana.

³ Natural History, September 1934, pp. 431-446. Journal to be had at the American Museum of Natural History, Price 50 cents.