

## RECENT LITERATURE

**A Sand County Almanac.**—Aldo Leopold. (Oxford Univ. Press, New York) pp. xiii + 226, many ills. Oct. 27, 1949. Price, \$3.50.—This delightful book consists of three major sections: the first recounts some of the “nature experiences” of the Leopold family in its “vacation shack” in Wisconsin; the second is made up of personal illustrative examples of conservation issues in North America; and part three treats of some of the philosophical aspects of conservation. Throughout, is the theme that land is a community, that it is to be loved and respected, and that the cultural harvest of land has long been neglected and retarded by the ever present hope of the economic harvest.

Most of the material is presented in the form of personal reminiscences, each of which is replete with facts of natural history, which are presented in an easy, entertaining way. Each anecdotal account is interpreted in the light of the long experience of Aldo Leopold in forestry and wildlife work.

In sometimes barbed and pithy language he points out contradictions in our present attempts at conservation—the contour farming of hillsides to slow down runoff, and the straightening of streams to speed up runoff; the Wilderness Society wanting to exclude roads from “undeveloped” areas, to provide recreation, and the Chamber of Commerce wanting roads there, also for recreation; the hunter turned conservationist, “because the wild things he hunts for have eluded his grasp, and he hopes by some necromancy of laws, appropriations, regional plans, reorganization of departments, or other form of mass-wishing to make them stay put”; the sportsman relying on many gadgets to aid him in luring into his grasp those things he hunts, and often depending on professionals to tell him where he can get the most, with the least effort.

The ideas that this readable book sets forth are worthy of attention and review. To those who did not know Leopold, it furnishes a view into his beliefs and philosophy of life.—H. I. FISHER.

**The Life of the White Stork.**—Fr. Haverschmidt. (E. J. Brill, Leiden), pp. viii + 96, 20 pls., 4 maps, 1949.—Due to restrictions in printing, Mr. Haverschmidt was forced to eliminate much of the data available and to condense the remainder of the information to a very great extent. Nevertheless, this book presents a well balanced “Life of the White Stork.”

Ranges, population densities, nest-life, behavior, food, reproduction, migration, and the results of banding returns are discussed in clear, readable terms. To me, the more significant parts are those on behavior at the nest, on the populations, and on banding returns.

Large conspicuous birds, with prominent nests, such as this one lend themselves readily to various methods of censusing, and data from 1929 to 1945 are presented to show fluctuations in numbers. It has been found, for example, that the greatest density of breeding birds of this species in 1934 was in Lwow, Poland, where 106 nests per square kilometer were found. One may also note that 12 to 20 per cent of the occupied nests never contain young and that the reproductive coefficient (here defined as number of young reared divided by number of nests occupied by pair of birds) varied from 0.3 to 2.7 from place to place and year to year.

Detailed data from banding experiments are used in defining migratory routes.

Observations on behavior at the nest are presented in easily read, interesting fashion and include much that has not been published previously. They are supple-

mented by 38 excellent photographs taken by the author. Each chapter has a substantial list of references.—H. I. FISHER.

**An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Malaya.**—An annotated list of the birds occurring, or known to have occurred, in the territories of the Federation of Malaya and the Colony of Singapore.—C. A. Gibson-Hill. Bull. Raffles Mus., Singapore, No. 20, pp. 3–299, 3 maps, September, 1949.—This publication appears, at first glance, to be a reissue of the late F. N. Chasen's 'A Handlist of Malaysian Birds' (Singapore, 1935). But whereas the latter was a check-list in the narrow sense of the word, listing simply the names and broad geographical ranges of the birds occurring in the whole area of the Malaysian Subregion (excepting the Philippine Islands), Gibson-Hill's work treats of but a single Province, the Malayan, and gives us information, so far as possible for each form, on status, habitat, migration dates, breeding, etc.

It is pleasing to note that much previously unpublished information on the Malayan avifauna is here brought together, through the cooperation of an enthusiastic band of observers stationed in diverse sections of the Federation. It may be hoped that the check-list, by focussing attention on gaps in our knowledge, will intensify their interest and even bring them new recruits.

The nomenclature employed is, on the whole, that of the pre-war period. This could have resulted from the author's disagreement with the concepts of genera and species now generally held by American workers in Oriental ornithology, but is probably due, in large part, to the inaccessibility in Singapore of many of the pertinent revisions of the past ten years, a situation which our writers should take pains to correct. In any event, Gibson-Hill, by his choice of names, has no doubt better served the cause of the field observers of Malaya, who must constantly refer to the standard works of Chasen, Robinson, and Boden Kloss.

An appendix lists the birds that have been recorded from the peninsular provinces of Siam (south of the Isthmus of Kra), but are not yet known to reach Malaya, and a nine-page bibliography of the principal papers consulted contains many valuable references to the contents of the little-known 'Malayan Nature Journal.'—H. G. DEIGNAN.

**Popular Handbook of Indian Birds.**—Hugh Whistler. (Fourth Edition by Norman B. Kinnear. (Gurney and Jackson, London), pp. xxviii + 560, 24 pls. (7 col.), 105 text-figs., August 24, 1949. Price 22/6 net.—This fourth edition of Whistler's classic, first published in 1928, contains accounts of nearly 70 species that were not in the original edition; some 312 species are described, and about two-thirds of these are illustrated in the plates and figures by H. Grönvold and Roland Green.

The style is similar to that of other editions, but much additional information is given. Most accounts describe the sexes and give field characters, distribution of races, and habits, including song, breeding season, migration, nest, and eggs.—H. I. FISHER.

**The Sandhill Cranes.**—Lawrence H. Walkinshaw. Cranbrook Inst. Science, Bloomfield Hills, Mich., Bull. 29, pp. x + 202, illus., 1949.—For the past 15 years Dr. Walkinshaw has conducted an intensive study of the Gruidae and, in particular, of the Sandhill Crane, all four races of which he has studied in the field. The results of this concentrated effort, as gathered in the present volume, form an outstanding example of what an amateur ornithologist can accomplish. As would be expected by those familiar with the author's earlier life history studies, this monograph is crammed

with facts from cover to cover. No fewer than 31 tables supplement the text and there are charts and maps. All available data on the distribution, plumages, growth, and natural history of *Grus canadensis* are to be found here. In addition to a general bibliography, published distribution records for each of the four races are listed in an appendix. Yet another valuable feature is a key to the genera, species, and subspecies of cranes of the entire world.

'The Sandhill Cranes,' like other Cranbrook Institute books, has been substantially and attractively produced. A fine kodachrome of an Albertan crane taken by B. W. Baker serves as a frontispiece. Thirty-three excellent photographs by the author depict cranes and their nests, eggs, and young. Although only the Cuban race of the Sandhill Crane is presently threatened with extinction, the areas in the United States where this stately bird can be observed and studied are all too few. Let us hope that this published tribute will help it escape the fate of its larger white cousin, the Whooping Crane.—DEAN AMADON.

**The American Wild Turkey.**—Henry E. Davis. (Small-Arms Tech. Publ. Co., Georgetown, S. C.), pp. viii + 328, illus. with photos and gravures, col. frontis., 1949. Price, \$5.00.—There is in this anecdotal story of the turkey considerable information on habits, food, cover, characteristics, and distribution. However, this information is by no means complete, and some statements are apparently based more on hunting lore than on scientific fact. It seems unfortunate that the author did not refer to many of the modern papers on the turkey in an attempt to correlate and verify some of the data. For example, on page 12 it is stated that Shufeldt "has shown rather conclusively that their [races of fossil turkeys] previous existence is based more on conjecture than on evidence," and on page 284 the Red-tailed Hawk is credited with predation on adult turkey hens and is condemned.

Those interested in the Wild Turkey will find that the historical account (pertaining chiefly to South Carolina) has much to offer. In summary, it may be noted that approximately 100 pages are devoted to the biology of the turkey, 25 to its survival and perpetuation and about 200 pages to the best means of calling up and killing this bird. The latter part will appeal to the sportsman and hunter, but it does little to aid the cause of conservation which, as noted by H. R. Sass in the Preface, is one of the purposes of the book.—H. I. FISHER.

**Hawks Aloft: The Story of Hawk Mountain.**—Maurice Broun. (Dodd, Mead Co., New York), pp. xvii + 222, 11 photos, October 10, 1949. Price, \$4.00.—The first two-thirds of this readable and entertaining account treat of the history of the mountain, the people of the area, and the efforts (since 1934) of Mr. Broun, his wife, and other conservationists to establish this sanctuary in the face of considerable opposition. In a later part of the book are data on the numbers of hawks observed during 12 years of observation and the daily and seasonal occurrence of flights. In the species accounts of hawks is information on behavior, sex ratios, ratios of immatures to adults, and speeds of flight. Another section deals very briefly with other birdlife on the mountain.—H. I. FISHER.

**Nature and Its Applications.**—Jessie Croft Ellis. (Faxon Co., Boston), pp. xii + 861, 1949. Price, \$17.00.—To me, the title of this most amazing book is misleading; the contents consist of more than "200,000 selected references" to "illustrations of nature forms and illustrations of nature as used in every way." It includes "not only subjects of nature in their natural setting and form but also nature as used in art, sculpture, advertising, paintings, toys, and every form of decorative

design work." The book was designed primarily to aid librarians in filling requests for illustrative materials and is a new edition of "Nature Index" by the same author.

The material cited is primarily North American in origin, aside from references to encyclopediae. The effort necessary to compile these citations must have been enormous, and one can only wonder at the amount of work that would be involved in making a *complete* coverage of such a subject in the field of professional and semi-professional zoology. This index covers, in addition to other publications, only six North American journals.—H. I. FISHER.

**Introduction to Quantitative Systematics.**—Mont A. Cazier and Annette L. Bacon. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 93: 343-388, 12 figs., 7 tables, 1949. Price, \$0.50.—This paper deals with elementary, descriptive statistics and instructs students of insect systematics how to use them. The objective is to encourage more systematists, beginners and old-hands, to use statistics to improve the accuracy of their interpretations. The text is addressed to systematists generally, but besides being written by entomologists its examples are entomological and, in a number of ways, the text refers to circumstances in insect systematics which do not obtain, for example, in avian systematics. Nevertheless, as an adequate and explicit introduction to the essentials of elementary statistics, this paper should be almost as useful to ornithologists as to entomologists.

Subjects discussed are sampling, selection of characters, measurement, preliminary treatment of raw data, frequency distribution, probabilities, correlation, and comparison of samples. Useful leads are given to other sources where the reader can expand his knowledge of many topics whose treatment of necessity, and evidently by design, is brief in this short paper.

Viewed as an effort to ease more students of systematics into the use of statistics, this paper is not vulnerable to criticism for certain omissions. Nevertheless, reference to methods of arranging calculations of mean and standard deviation other than that of the elaborate Tryon-Searle form would be desirable as also reference to the use of calculating machines. There are other and probably better ways of comparing samples graphically than the method described on pages 383-384 (see for example, Hubbs and Perlmutter, Amer. Nat., 76, 1942: 582-592, and Simpson, *ibid.*, 79, 1945: 95-96). It is misleading to the beginner to state (p. 379) that the examination of morphological trends along geographical axes or the demonstration of clines is a form of correlation and to do this in a section dealing with true correlation (*i. e.*, a constant relationship between two variates; see Simpson and Roe, 1939: 285). The one-paragraph discussion of clines on page 379 might better have been incorporated into the section of comparison of samples. In the latter section, it might help in the long run to emphasize that clines for different characters along a particular geographic axis do not necessarily parallel each other. There are risks in oversimplification, and they are as conspicuously taken in the discussion of character gradients and their bearing on systematic procedure as anywhere else in the paper. None of these matters, however, interferes seriously with the objective of the paper, and it is one which any systematist not at ease with elementary statistics will find helpful.—FRANK A. PITELKA.

**Bobwhites on the Rise.**—Verne E. Davison. (Charles Scribner's Sons, New York), pp. 1-150, line cuts, 1949. Price, \$3.75.—Davison has here directed his information toward the layman, the farmer, and the sportsman. In readable, non-technical fashion he reviews the past efforts at management of Bobwhites, pointing out fallacies, and attempting to show the simplicity of proper management.

Some may think the problem has been oversimplified. Some will be inclined to disagree with certain dogmatic statements, and others may well wonder if bicolor lespedeza and multiflora rose are really the panaceas the book (and other workers) would have us believe.

The down-to-earth facts and suggestions relating to management, and particularly to sportsman-farmer relationships, make this book desirable reading.—H. I. FISHER.

**The Quails.**—Edward S. Spaulding. (Macmillan Co., New York), pp. xii + 123, 7 col. pls., 1949. Price, \$6.50.—The author discusses, in non-technical terms, the seven species of quail that occur in the United States. The book is intended for sportsmen, to "increase the hunter's appreciation of the particular quail that he finds in his locality." In reading this book one is impressed by the amount of information that is presented; pertinent notes on characteristics, behavior, and the life history in general are from the author's observations. Occasional cited references to the literature aid in rounding out the story.

No claim for originality of the data is made, and most of the material is well known to the professional ornithologist. I believe, however, that the purpose of the book will be fulfilled, for it appears to be one of the best, if short, popular accounts of a small group of N. A. birds.

Each species is illustrated by a colored picture by F. L. Jaques.—H. I. FISHER.

**Birds of Ceylon 1.**—W. W. A. Phillips. (Ceylon Daily News Press, Colombo, Ceylon), 32 pp., 20 col. pls., 4 photos, and map. 1949. Price: Pop. Ed., \$0.75; Library Ed., \$1.50.—This little pocket-sized book is the first of two planned by the publishers in Ceylon in response to the growing interest in that country in birds. The second will be on the birds of the swamps and tanks.

No better observer of Ceylon birds exists than W. W. A. Phillips whose notes on the nests and eggs of the avifauna have been a most important continuing publication of the Ceylon Journal of Science. His concise descriptions of 20 of the commoner bird species of the island, each illustrated with a colored plate, are very useful indeed for the amateur. In addition there is a valuable section on bird watching, and a map of the Faunal Zones of the island, which is much clearer than those that have appeared in such recent works as Whistler's Avifaunal Survey. The illustrations suffer as usual from the quality of the reproduction process. The plates are by Mrs. Lushington, a resident of Ceylon, who has been a bird student there for many years. The birds are clearly enough represented and easily recognizable, but a trifle wooden to the modern taste. Mr. Phillips is to be congratulated for undertaking this task which should do a good deal to popularize bird study in Ceylon and develop the interest in conservation and nature-study on the island.—S. DILLON RIPLEY.

#### BOOKS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS OF RECENT DATE

**The Birds of the Republic of Colombia.**—Their Distribution and Keys for their Identification.—Rodolphe M. de Schauensee (reprinted from 'Caldasia,' Bol. Inst. Ciencias Nat., Bogota, Colombia, 5 (22): 251-380, 1948, and 5 (23): 381-644, 1949).—The title is self-explanatory as to content except to note that all forms up to and including the Piciformes are listed. Of particular value is the section on the zoogeography, the families of birds found, and the gazetteer of place names.

**The Second Annual Report of the Severn Wildfowl Trust.**—(Country Life, Ltd., London), pp. 1-64, many photos and drawings, 1949.—In addition to the usual textual material to be found in such an organizational report, there are many excellent

photographs of ducks, geese and swans. Of special interest is the "key" to the Anseriformes by Peter Scott. This consists of black and white sketches (23 plates) with marginal notes on distinguishing characters. Opposite each plate is a brief summary of the distribution of the various forms depicted.

**Exploring Our National Parks and Monuments.** Sec. Edition.—Devereaux Butcher (Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston), pp. 1-224, many photos, 1949.—Included are short accounts of things of major interest in each area, including the plants and animals, brief descriptions of each area, and the best means of reaching each park or monument. Most of the many, excellent photographs are of scenery. There is a list of books and articles for further reading, as well as an index.

We note that volume I, number 1 of 'National Wildlife and Conservation Digest' published by Pike and Kaerne, 184 Lanark St., Winnipeg, Canada, has appeared. It will be issued monthly; subscription rate is \$3.00 per year or 2 years for \$5.00. The scope of interest is the entire North American continent, and the appeal is toward "the nature lover and the sportsman," with most articles coming from state conservation periodicals and sportsman's magazines.

**Migration of Some North American Waterfowl.**—A Progress Report on Analysis of Banding Records. John W. Aldrich and others. (U. S. Fish and Wildl. Serv., Spec. Sci. Rept. (Wildlife) No. 1: 1-48, many col. maps, 1949.—This report is concerned primarily with the ducks and teal; the only goose considered is the Canada. The colored maps for each species show banding and recovery sites. Thus, one may see at a glance the routes and distances covered; most of these pertain to movements in the fall.

**Audubon's Birds of America.**—Popular Ed. [Introduction and captions by Ludlow Griscom]. (Macmillan Co., New York), pp. 1-320, 288 col. pls., March 21, 1950. Price, \$2.95.—The present book was designed to bring some of Audubon's paintings before a wider audience. Hence, we may explain the reduction from 435 species, in the royal octavo edition of 1937, to the present 288, arranged in check-list sequence. What is not explainable and is inexcusable is the poor reproduction of colors in many plates; in some the overlay of the various plates in the color process was inaccurate. These two factors produce a fuzziness that is unfortunate and is not characteristic of Audubon (see, for example, numbers 87, 214, 234, 254, 257, 285). Although it is seldom that one may buy colored illustrations for a penny apiece, it is doubtful if these are worth that.—H. I. FISHER.

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- ALLIN, A. E. 1950. A list of the birds of Port Arthur—Fort William and vicinity. Thunder Bay Field Nat. Club Newsletter, **4** (3): 1-4.
- AMANN, FRITZ. 1949. Starke Schwankungen im Bestand des Waldlaubsängers (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*, Bechst.). Orn. Beob., **46** (5): 148-150.
- AMANN, FRITZ. 1949. Junge Kohlmeisen (*Parus major*) und Blaumeisen (*Parus caeruleus*) im gleichen Nest. Orn. Beob., **46** (6): 187-190.
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- BARRUEL. 1950. Observation d'un Pic tridactyle dans les Préalpes de Savoie. Oiseau, **20** (1): 78-82, 2 figs.
- BARRUEL, PAUL. 1950. Quelques observations de la Chouette chevêchette [*Glaucidium passerinum*]. Oiseaux, **20** (209): 165-172, 3 figs.
- BÄSECKE, KURT. 1950. Zum Brüten der Rabenkrähe im vorjährigen Nest. Vogelwelt, **71** (2): 53.
- BAUMGARTNER, FREDERICK M. AND A. MARGUERITE. 1950. Lark Bunting [*Calamospiza melanocorys*] in Central Oklahoma in winter. Wilson Bull., **62** (1): 36.
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- BEECHER, WILLIAM J. 1950. Convergent evolution in the American Orioles. Wilson Bull., **62** (2): 51-86, 10 figs.
- BEHREND, FRED W. 1949. A survey of upper east Tennessee birds and their habitats. Migrant, **20** (2): 26-32.
- BELCHER, CHARLES F. 1950. Notes on some eggs collected in Northern Nyasaland. Ool. Rec., **24** (1): 1-10.
- BENT, ARTHUR C. 1950. Life Histories of North American Wagtails, Shrikes, Vireos, and their allies. Order Passeriformes. U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. **197**: 1-411, 48 pls.
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- BOASE, HENRY. 1950. Calls of Tawny Owl [*Strix aluco*]. Brit. Birds, **43** (3): 86.
- BOND, JAMES. 1950. A large Sandpiper [*Actitis macularia*] clutch. Wilson Bull., **62** (2): 93.
- BOND, JAMES. 1950. Notes on Peruvian Formicariidae. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, **102**: 1-26.—*Myrmotherula leucophthalma dissita* (Chifiri, Río Kaka, La Paz, Bolivia); *Myrmotherula sunensis yessupi* (Puerto Yessup, Junín, Perú), new subspecies.
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- BOUVET, ANDRE. 1949. L'embryologie dans la systematique des oiseaux. Gerfaut, **39** (3): 165-172, 2 tables.
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- BRIAN, ANNE D. 1949. Dominance in the Great Tit *Parus major*. Scot. Nat., **61** (3): 144-155, 1 fig., 2 tables.
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### OBITUARIES

FRIEDRICH KARL HERMAN VON LUCANUS.—According to the 'Ornithologische Berichte' (1: 122, 1947), Colonel Friedrich Karl Hermann von Lucanus, retired officer of the German Army and a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, elected in 1923, died early in May, 1947.

However, a letter received from the Bürgermeister of Buschow states that the late ornithologist passed away on February 18 of that year in Buschow (West Havelland) Germany.

Little is known of his last years since he was one of the many displaced persons after the war, but until 1946 he was listed as residing at Lessingstrasse 32, Berlin N. W. 87, Germany. His son, Hermann von Lucanus, is, in a measure, carrying on the father's work, especially with the birds of prey and his present address is Hameln/weser Klut str. 28. Land Niedersachsen British Zone, Germany.

Friedrich von Lucanus was born in Berlin on June 20, 1869, and early in his adult life, took up the study of bird migration, making observations on height and speed of flight. In 1901 he presented a paper on this subject at the Fifth International Zoological Congress at Berlin. This was issued separately in 1904 under the title, Die Höhe des Vogelzuges und seine Richtung zum Winde auf Grund aeronautischer Beobachtungen.

Another book on migration appeared in 1922, entitled, Die Rätsel des Vogelzuges; ihre Lösung auf experimentellen Wege durch Aeronautik, Aviatik und Vogelberingung, with a second edition coming out in 1923.

A more general book by Col. von Lucanus is Das Leben der Vogel, published in 1925. This work treats of structure, development, breeding, song, flight, and distribution, but is a more amateurish book, and was not so well received as those on migration.

In 1937, 'Deutschlands Vogelwelt' was published. This is a large, attractive volume on the natural history of birds, with 56 colored plates by Karl Wagner, Georg Krause, and August Dressel.

Colonel von Lucanus served as President of the Deutsche Ornithologische Gesellschaft from 1921 to 1926 (for further information see Degner's Wer Ist's?, 1935).—  
ELSA G. ALLEN.

WILLIAM CLARK ADAMS, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died suddenly at his home in Albany, N. Y., June 12, 1948, at the age of 68. He was born in Wooster, Ohio, May 21, 1880. He was appointed to the Massachusetts Board of Fish and Game Commissioners in 1913 and served as chairman from 1916 to 1928. In 1931 he was made Director of Fish and Game on the New York Conservation Commission, a position which he filled until his death. Thus he devoted 32 years, or nearly one-half his life, to wildlife conservation administration.