

WANTED.

The editor desires migration notes from every reader of this notice, for the first five days of May, for as many years as possible, but particularly for 1900. These notes should cover records of first seen, of the species that become common, of those last seen during the five days. It is not necessary that these notes should cover several years, nor that they should include a large number of species, to be of value, but only that they should reach the editor not later than the first of September. A consciously fragmentary record will be just as welcome as any. Please give this matter your immediate attention.

LYNDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

In numbers 1200 and 1201 of the Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum, Vol. XXII, Dr. Charles W. Richmond describes the new species *Dendrornis striatigularis*, from Alta Mira, Mexico; and *Æthopyga anomala*, *Criniger sordidus*, *Turdinulus granti*, all from Lower Siam, collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott in the province of Trong.—L. J.

Catalogue of a Collection of Birds from Madagascar. By Harry C. Oberholser. From the Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum, Vol. XXII, pages 235-248. (No. 1197).

The 110 specimens of which this paper treats are referable to fifty-seven species and thirty-two families. The rare species *Lophotibis cristata* and *Ardeola xanthopoda* are most worthy of attention. The annotations are chiefly on plumage and color pattern.

The systematic arrangement of the paper is like that of Notes on Birds Collected by Doctor W. L. Abbott in Central Asia.—L. J.

California Water Birds. No. IV. Vicinity of Monterey in Autumn by Leverett M. Loomis. With one plate.

The first part of this paper is devoted to a daily calendar of the migrations of the water birds from September 18 to

November 14, 1896, thus bridging the gap between the summer and winter observations previously made. Following this calendar the author proceeds to discuss the general subject of migration as illustrated by the movements studied, and to draw a conclusion: "It is held that bird migration is a habit evolved by education and inheritance which owe their origin and perpetuation to winter with its failure of food." The last six of the forty-five pages are devoted to an annotated list of the forty-two species observed during this series of studies. The paper is printed in large clear type on good paper, and the typography is above reproach.—L. J.

Our Common Birds. By C. F. Hodge, Ph. D.

This is number 2, of the Biology Series of Nature Study Leaflets issued from Clark University. It consists of thirty-five pages and thirteen illustrations. The subject matter of this leaflet is another of the earnest pleas for the preservation of our native birds through the medium of education. The suggestions for introducing the subject of bird study into the school room as well as the out door studies, are admirable. The birds are estimated at their true value, while sentimental exaggeration is absent. The pages are plentifully sprinkled with apt quotations of prose and verse, and frequent direct references to careful investigations by experts, and foot notes add value to the paper. It is a leaflet which teachers of Nature Study in schools would find useful. Prof. C. F. Hodge, Worcester, Mass., is prepared to supply copies at five cents each.—L. J.

Notes on Birds Collected by Doctor W. L. Abbott in Central Asia. By Harry C. Oberholser. From the Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum, Vol. XXII, pages 205-228. (No. 1195).

This collection of 142 specimens, representing sixty-two species and twenty-three families, was collected by Dr. Abbott in Cashmere and Ladak in 1895 and 1897. The annotations give the altitude range of most of the species, with some notes on plumage and habits. We notice that the systematic arrangement departs from that adopted by the American Ornithologist's Union committee, following instead the British system, which appears to us the more logical.—L. J.

Notes on Some Birds from Santa Barbara Islands, California.
By Harry C. Oberholser. From the Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum, Vol, XXII, pages 229-234. (No. 1196).

This is an annotated list of a collection of birds made by Mr. Clark P. Streater, under the auspices of the Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture, from April 9 to July 20, 1892. The list comprises twenty-seven species. The annotations have chiefly to do with range and plumage.—L. J.

Birds in Horticulture. By Wm. E. Praeger.

We have seldom seen twelve printed pages so full of sound logic and indisputable fact, and so full of suggestions that can readily be acted upon, as this one. The author clearly shows, first the damage done by insects to crops in the state of Illinois; second, how much of insect food the birds destroy during the year, and finally estimates how much value in grains, fruits and garden vegetables would be saved if the bird population could be increased by one per cent. The latter part of the paper is naturally devoted to answering the question How can we bring about this increase of one per cent. He would encourage the growth of wild fruits upon which the birds are wont to feed, instead of cutting it down as so much rubbish. Mulberry trees are possibilities in every yard, and furnish the birds with a royal banquet just at the time when cherries and blackberries ripen. The encouragement of wild fruits serves a twofold purpose; furnishing the birds with an easily procured food supply and so lessening their appropriations from the orchards and gardens. He does not deny that birds may sometimes do damage, but makes it plain that these few deprecations can readily be prevented by the use of scarecrows and other harmless devices. We heartily commend the paper to our readers.—L. J.

Half Hours with the Birds. By Christopher Greaves.

This little twenty-seven page pamphlet treats of "The Cardinal at Home," "The Blue Jay as He Is," "The Shrike or Butcherbird," "A Chat on Birds' Eggs," "A Remedy for the Sparrow Plague," "The Orioles." These topics are treated in a popular chatty manner, with a hint or more about the colors and songs and food habits of the birds, with some touches of life history. It seems to us unfortunate that the

author has confused the Northern Shrike with the smaller summer form. The Northern being the winter bird and the Loggerhead (or Migrant?) the summer form. It is no less unfortunate that he seems to favor the egg collecting mania which attacks every boy; better to discourage such practices. But in his discussion of the Orioles the author has turned to the other extreme by not a little overdrawing the picture for the the average case when the male of a pair has been killed. We turn eagerly to the "Remedy for the Sparrow Plague" in the hope of at last solving the problem of the Sparrow. The author is undoubtedly right in his statement that the only sure remedy is to find some bird which will prey upon the Sparrow, but the difficulty will be to find one that is sufficiently numerous to make any impression. The author thinks that the "Great Northern Shrike" is the bird. The first difficulty with the selection of this bird is that he already has the name of being an indiscriminate butcher. Education may eliminate this difficulty. The second and more serious difficulty is the small numbers of the Shrikes as a group and the fact that they do not, and probably can never be induced to build in cities nor sufficiently near to them to be of any use there. But we can encourage the increase of all small birds of prey and to cease prosecute them in the hope that they will in time become bold enough to prey upon the Sparrows wherever they may be found. The pamphlet is neatly gotten up, printed on good paper and the typography is almost faultless. A half tone of the author as a frontispiece adds to the interest of the paper.

—L. J.

*Chapman's Bird Studies With a Camera.**

It is seldom that a book has been so opportunely placed before the public. The study of birds with a camera is the youngest child of Ornithology, but already it gives abundant promise of a development which can accomplish nothing less than a complete revolution of a world-wide attitude toward the birds. The author of this little book has spared neither time

*Bird Studies | With a Camera | with introductory chapters | on the outfit and methods | of the bird photographer | By Frank M. Chapman | Assistant Curator of Vertebrate Zoology in the American Museum of Natural History, and author of Handbook of the Birds of Eastern North America, Bird-Life, etc. | with over one hundred photographs from nature by the author. | New York. | D. Appleton and Company, | 1900. | \$1.75.

nor study to the development of this new method of bird studies, and is therefore able to anticipate the needs of bird students who would use the camera if they but knew how to begin.

After an introduction in which bird photography is described as "the use of the camera as an aid in depicting the life histories of birds," some unanswerable arguments upon "the scientific value of bird photography," and "the charm of bird photography" contrasted with the sportsman's apparent pleasure in killing the birds, the author gives a careful and clear statement of what the bird photographer's outfit should consist of and the methods he should employ to attain the greatest degree of success. "The camera—The lens—The shutter—The tripod—Plates—Blinds—Sundries," are all discussed from the standpoint of one who has had large experience not as a professional photographer but as a bird photographer. The discussion of methods covers "Haunts—Seasons—Nests and eggs—Young birds—Adult birds," from large experience with the camera.

After discussing the outfit and methods, the author proceeds to illustrate concretely in ten chapters what can be accomplished in bird studies in all sorts of situations and under all sorts of circumstances. The 110 illustrations, frontispiece, tailpiece and twelve initial illustrations are all the work of the camera and are a picture gallery of more than usual interest not to say an education in phases of bird life.

The table of contents will better illustrate the wideness of the field covered in the text than could be done otherwise. "Bird photography begins at home, The Chickadee—a study in black and white, The Least Bittern and some other reed inhabitants, Two Herons, Where Swallows roost, Two days with the Terns, Perce and Bonaventure, The Magdalens, Bird Rock, Life on Pelican Island, with some speculations on the origin of bird migration." The 214 pages of text are full of information both photographic and ornithologic. The book should be in every library where it is desired to create interest in the birds among the children as well as among older persons. The book is written in Mr. Chapman's clear and pleasing style, the type is large and clear-cut, the paper heavy enamel upon which the illustrations show sharp details, and the typography is

almost perfect. The book is a distinct addition to ornithology and a much needed guide to the art of bird photography.—L. J.

Proceedings of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union.

In the distribution of this collection of papers the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union has vindicated its right to exist. Its members are not content to stop with a complete list of the birds of their state, but are engaged in the study of habits and characteristics. Their object is to advance our knowledge of birds along all lines.

In the President's Address, "Ornithology in Nebraska," Prof. Lawrence Bruner makes a strong plea for the protection of the birds by the sure method of introducing bird studies into the public schools of the state. There follow four papers which partake of the nature of local lists with annotations. The first, "A Twenty-three Years' Record Kept by Dr. A. L. Child of Plattsmouth, Neb.," by Dr. R. H. Wolcott; "Additional Notes and Observation on the Birds of Northern Nebraska," by Rev. J. M. Bates; "The Bird Fauna of the Salt Basin, Near Lincoln," by Mr. J. S. Hunter; "Some Bird Notes from the Upper Elkhorn," by Mr. Merritt Cary. "Some Notes on the Nesting of the Raptores of Otoe County, Nebraska," by Mr. M. A. Carriker, Jr., treats of the ten species which are known to the author to breed in the state. "How to Popularize Ornithology," by Mr. Wilson Tout, is discussed from the standpoint of a teacher, urging the importance of education as a means of saving the birds from wanton destruction and of bringing before the people the debt we owe to the birds. In making "A Plea for the English Sparrow," Mr. Lawrence Skow, a native of Denmark, endeavors to show that the Sparrow has a distinct right to life and unlimited increase. Not many Americans will agree with Mr. Skow on this point. The last paper, "Suggestions as to an Accurate and Uniform Method of Recording Observations," by R. H. Wolcott, will be read with much interest by all field students of the birds. The author would give absolute values to the terms commonly used—abundant, common, etc.—thus securing absolute uniformity in observations from all field workers. It is a step in the right direction. Such a scheme, however, while a boon to the earnest bird student, would scarcely be

tolerated by the casual observer who wished to get the most enjoyment with the least effort from bird study. But we are not concerned about that class of people. It seems to us that a species cannot well be more than abundant, and that therefore the qualifying adjective "very" might well be omitted. Before any such scheme can be put into practical use it needs to be carefully tested by a series of field studies by two persons working side by side, the one counting the birds and tabulating the results according to this scheme, the other taking notes upon the general impression made by the numbers, but counting the individuals seen to be avoided. That is to say, the scheme should be, as far as possible, shorn of its arbitrariness by making it as natural as possible. The result would probably be that different values would be given to the large birds than to the small ones. Thus, five Bald Eagles to the mile would be abundant, while that number of Vesper Sparrows to the mile would be only common. Dr. Wolcott is to be highly commended for his efforts to bring about uniformity in the field work of ornithologists.—L. J.

American Monthly Microscopical Journal. Vol. XXI, Nos. 2, 4, 5.

Bird-Lore. Vol. II, Nos. 1, 2, 3.

Birds and All Nature. Vol. IV, No. 5; Vol. VII, Nos.

Bittern, The. Vol. I, No. 1.
1, 2, 4, 5.

Book Reviews. Vol. VII, No. 10; Vol. VIII, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Bulletin 109. Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station.

Bulletin 47-50. Pennsylvania State College Agricultural Experiment Station.

Bulletin of the Wisconsin Natural History Society. Vol. I (new series), Nos. 1, 2.

Condor, The. Vol. II, Nos. 1, 2, 3.

Cornell Nature Study Quarterly. Nos. 2, 3.

Entomological Student, The. Vol. I, No. 1.

Farm Student's Review. Vol. V, No. 1.

Fern Bulletin, The. Vol. VIII, Nos. 1, 2.

- Hummer, The.* Vol. I, Nos. 8, 9.
- Journal of Applied Microscopy.* Vol. III, Nos. 1, 2.
- Journal of the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society.* 1890. 16th year. Part 2.
- Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society, The.* Vol. II, Nos. 1, 2.
- Legislation for the Protection of Birds other than Game Birds.* By T. S. Palmer. Bulletin No. 12, U. S. Department of Agriculture.
- Maine Sportsman, The.* Vol. VII, Nos. 76-82.
- Museum, The.* Vol. VI, Nos. 2-5.
- Naturalist's Farm and Fancier's Review, The.* Vol. II, Nos. 3, 4.
- Nature and Art.* Vol. VIII, No. 1.
- North America Fauna.* No. 17. Revision of American Voles of the genus *Microtus*. By Vernon Bailey.
- Notes on Rhode Island Ornithology.* Vol. I, No. 1.
- Plant World, The.* Vol. III, No. 5.
- Seventeenth Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Public Museum of the City of Milwaukee.*
- Sportsman's Magazine.* Vol. IV, Nos. 1-4.
- Western Ornithologist, The.* Vol. V, No. 1.