

Publications Reviewed

Index to Papers Relating to the Food of Birds by members of the Biological Survey in Publications of the United States Department of Agriculture, 1885-1911. By W. L. McAtee. 1913.

There are thirty-one pages of brief summaries of twenty-seven Bulletins, and 103 other titles, and thirty-six pages devoted to the Index. This is a timely and convenient paper. L. J.

Notes on the Iridescent Colors of Birds and Insects. By A. Mallock, F.R.S. From the Smithsonian Report for 1911, pages 425-432 (with plates 1-3). 1912.

After painstaking study and many tests the author is led to the conclusion that "interference of one kind to another is the true cause of natural iridescence color in all cases." L. J.

On the Positions Assumed by Birds in Flight. By Bentley Beetham, F.R.S. From the Smithsonian Report for 1911, pages 433-439 (with plates 1-8).

Much has been compressed into the seven pages of description and discussion, both in explanation of the sixteen figures and in drawing conclusions from them. The author brings out the fact that in various flight movements the feet and tail supplement the wings, especially in retarding the forward movement preparatory to alighting. Steering is accomplished by changes of position of the body and wings in their resistance to the air. The tail is used more as a corrective after the actual steering has been done by wings and body than in initiating any change of direction. The pictures are for the most part well chosen to illustrate the points discussed. L. J.

The Passenger Pigeon. Accounts by Pehr Kalu (1759) and John James Audubon (1831). From the Smithsonian Report for 1911, pages 407-424. By Edgar A. Mearns. (With Plate 1, colored.)

A reprint of the accounts by these two men of the earlier days in the palmiest days of this now extinct bird. Not only intensely interesting in themselves, but most timely in these days when discussion is closing the record. L. J.

Description of a New African Grass-Warbler of the Genus *Cisticola*. By Edgar A. Mearns, Associate in Zoölogy, U. S. National Museum.

Cisticola prinioides wambugensis, Wambugu Grass-Warbler. From

British East Africa, collected during the Roosevelt African Expedition. L. J.

Two New Species of Birds from the Slopes of Mount Pirri, Eastern Panama. By E. W. Nelson. From Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, Volume 60, Number 21.

Capito maculicoronatus pirrensis, Mount Pirri Barbet; and *Pseudotriccus pelzelni berlepschi*, Berlepsch Flycatcher. L. J.

Western Wild Life Call. Published by the California Associated Societies for the Conservation of Wild Life. February 7, 1913.

A publication of this sort, illustrating by pictures of what is now happening to our wild life, and showing what the results in the past have been when such practices have gone on unchecked, scattered over the country at large and put into the hands of sportsmen as well as others, would, in our opinion, be of the greatest service in the warfare now on to protect and conserve our wild life. We trust that the impetus which this movement in the Golden State is certain to give to the conservation of Wild Life will reach eastward across the mountains and become evident the country over. L. J.

THE BIRD MAGAZINES.

The Auk. Vol. XXX, January, 1913, No. 1. Cambridge, Mass.

The present number contains 165 pages, of which 165 are concerned with longer articles and an account of the Thirtieth Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists Union. Four of the ten articles are based on field studies, two are concerned with the technical aspects of the study, one is biographical, one controversial, and one deals with photography. Of the twenty-six titles under the caption, "General Notes," twenty-one record extralimited occurrences of species. The other departments are treated in the usual thorough manner. L. J.

Bird-Lore. Vol. XV, No. 1, January-February, 1915. Harrisburg, Pa.

The three colored plates in this number illustrate the Snow Bunting from the brush of Louis Agassiz Fuertes, and the Hudsonian Curlew and the Ruffed Grouse by Bruce Horsfall, these under the department of the Audubon Societies. This number, according to the custom, is the Christmas Bird Census number. There are 199 lists from 187 localities. The lists come from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from Ontario to Florida. The largest list was made by

Dawson and Brooks at Santa Barbara, California. They can beat Northern Ohio in the winter, but fall behind in May. L. J.

The Condor. Vol. XV, January-February, 1913, No. 1.

It is rarely that we are treated to such a feast of Shore Birds as we find in the first article by W. Leon Dawson. "A Glimpse of Surf-birds." The five reproductions of photographs approach perfection both from the standpoint of the photographer and the engraver. "Concealing and Revealing Coloration of Animals," by Junius Henderson, adds valuable points to this current controversy. In "Swallows and Bedbugs" Edward R. Warren shows that the swallows are not guilty of harboring the species which harrasses humans, but that it does harbor an allied species. Two articles follow relating to local distribution. In the final article Joseph Grinnell discusses at length "The Outlook for Conserving the Band-tailed Pigeon as a Game Bird of California." Interesting field notes close the number to the editorial page. L. J.