

Publications Reviewed

Current Items of Interest, prepared by Henry Oldys, under the direction of the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia, January 20, 1914, is one of the quarterly series which contains many items of interest particularly relating to the protection of birds against plumage traffic. We are pleased to note from it that the enactment of the Tariff Plumage Measure is bearing fruit in Europe. The present outlook for any co-operation from France and Italy, and probably Spain, is dark. But continual agitation may finally result in the world-wide suppression of traffic in plumages for purposes of personal adornment. L. J.

There has come into our hands a "Bird Study Note Book," prepared by Clara Cozard Keezel, and for sale by her at Garnett, Kansas, at 27c the single copy, discount for quantities. It is designed for Intermediate and Grammar grades. It is $6\frac{1}{4}$ by $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches, and ruled to meet the needs which are suggested in the preface and on the last page. As a skeleton for observation and for making records it should prove of value. It seems to the writer to be better to the Intermediate than to the Grammar grades. Pupils of the Grammar grades are likely to want to keep records more elaborately than this little book makes possible. For them some loose sheet system would likely prove effective. L. J.

"Descriptions of Ten New African Birds of the Genera *Pogonocichla*, *Cossypha*, *Bradypterus*, *Sylvietta*, *Melaniparus*, and *Zosterops*." By Edgar A. Mearns, Associate in Zoölogy, U. S. National Museum. Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, Volume 61, Number 20. (Publication 2251.) November 29, 1913. "Four of the forms herein described are from the collection made by the Childs Frick African Expedition, 1911-1912; three are from the collection made by the Paul J. Rainey Expedition 1911-1912; one is from the Smithsonian African Expedition, 1909-1910 collection, made under the direction of Col. Theodore Roosevelt; and two were collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott in 1888." The new forms here described are all sub-species. L. J.

"Nature Study Review," the official organ of the American Nature Study Society. The January number, 1914, contains a report, under the caption "Some Students' Work," of two sets of observations by Normal Students, in which several birds are made the major objects of study. Both of these reports show the need of some editing. Nature study ought to have as one of its requirements accuracy, as far as it is possible to secure it. Here we find the names of the birds, some of them, inexcusably inaccurately printed, because it would be easy to have them right. In most cases the "Identification Characters" do not identify at all. If these are two fair samples of Normal School Nature

Study work there is clearly room for improvement. It is stated that "They are suggestive at least of the sort of work that is actually being done in preparing teachers to do nature work." Too bad! L. J.

"Descriptions of Eight New African Bulbuls." By Edgar A. Mearns, Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, Volume 61, Number 25, February 16, 1914. (Publication 2260.) "Four of the forms of African birds here described are from the collection made by the Childs Frick African Expedition, 1911-1912; three are from the Smithsonian African Expedition, 1909-1910 collection, made under the direction of Col. Theodore Roosevelt; and one from the Paul J. Rainey Expedition, 1911-1912." There are seven sub-species and one species—*Andropadus fricki*, Endoto Bulbul. L. J.

"Five Important Wild Duck Foods." By W. L. McAtee, Assistant Biologist. Bulletin No. 58, U. S. Department of Agriculture. February 7, 1914. These foods are the Delta Duck Potato (*Sagittaria platyphylla*), which is distributed over the lower Mississippi valley; wapato (*Sagittaria latifolia* and *arifolia*), distributed over the most of the United States and lower Canada; chufa (*Cyperus esculentus*), distributed over the United States except the north-west plains and the mountain regions of the west, as well as south into South America; wild millet (*Echinochloa crus-galli*), in widely separated regions of the United States; banana water lily (*Nymphaea mexicana*), at Lake Surprise, Texas, and all along the gulf coast, but capable of propagation over the whole United States. L. J.

The Ornithological Magazines.

The "Auk," January, 1914. Volume XXXI, No. 1. The two articles of particular interest in this full number are the first paper by Dr. R. M. Strong, of the University of Chicago, "On the habits and behavior of the Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus*," with plates III-X; and "Notes on the Ornithology of Clay and Palo Alto counties, Iowa," by A. D. Tinker, with plates XI-XII. In addition to other articles of less pretension and the usual large complement of Field Notes and reviews of literature, this number contains an account of the thirty-first stated meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, which was held in November, 1913, in New York City, at the American Museum of Natural History. L. J.

"Bird-Lore." January-February, 1914, Volume XVI, No. 1. The colored frontispiece of the Redpolls and Purple Finches, and the Audubon colored plate of the Wood Thrush are prominent features. The Christmas Census covers twenty-four pages of briefer type, and even then we are told that a considerable number of the lists submitted were excluded for one reason or another. The widespread interest in the study of birds

could not be better illustrated than by this mid-winter census taking. It covers the whole country except along the Mexican border and for a short distance northward, where just now one might be excused from ranging alone over the plains! The varied articles and notes which appear regularly in "Bird-Lore" make it a valuable magazine. L. J.

"The Condor." January-February, 1914, Volume VI, Number 1. Some truly astonishing results are portrayed by William Leon Dawson in the opening article on "Direct approach as a method in bird photography." Among the other articles in this number may be mentioned as particularly worthy of mention that by Henry J. Rust on "Some notes on the nesting of the Sharp-shinned Hawk," with eight excellent half-tone plates. Also Joseph Grinnell's "Second list of the birds of the Berkeley Campus," where 97 species have been recorded, on the 530 acres. Bird classes would hardly need to make long trips to difficult fields with such a bird haven right at hand. L. J.