

ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN SHORE BIRDS. ORDER LIMICOLAE (PART 2).

By Arthur Cleveland Bent. Bull. 146, U. S. National Museum. Washington, 1929. Pp. i-ix+1-412. Pls. 66. Price, \$1.00.

The eighth volume in this series is now before us. The format and plan of treatment under each species follow the last preceding volume. The present volume completes the account of the shore birds, including forty-two forms with two subspecies of the Turnstone.

It seems to be a pity that these volumes are issued in such limited editions. They are bound to be standard for some years to come, and yet the first four or five volumes of the series are even now exhausted—so we are told by persons who have been unsuccessful in securing them. When the Government goes to the expense of publishing a work of this kind the edition ought to be large enough to supply the demand longer than four or five years. The next volume is to be on the Raptores, and will more than likely be in greater demand than any of the preceding ones.—T. C. S.

DEVELOPMENT OF TEMPERATURE CONTROL IN NESTLING HOUSE WRENS. By S.

Charles Kendeigh and S. Prentiss Baldwin. Amer. Nat., Vol. LXII, May-June, 1928, pp. 249-278.

In obtaining the temperatures of young birds the authors worked with a specially devised thermocouple, supplemented with an ordinary mercury thermometer. They found that the young wrens at the time of hatching were poikilothermic, i. e., cold-blooded; and that by the time the young birds were ready to leave the nest they had become homiothermic, i. e., warm-blooded. This regulation of body temperature is attributed to four factors, viz., 1) body growth, increase of body mass in higher ratio than external body surface, 2) development of feather covering of body, 3) development of an "internal dissipating surface" through the respiratory system, 4) the metabolic function of the organism. The young bird passes from the cold-blooded to the warm-blooded condition during the nestling period. "That this fact is of significance in the phylogeny of the class is at once evident and suggests that the immediate pre-avian ancestors were cold-blooded."—T. C. S.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE AVIFAUNA OF NORTH-EASTERN LAB-

RADOR. By Bernhard Hantzsch. Translated by M. B. A. and R. M. Anderson, and published serially in the Canadian Field-Naturalist. 1928-1929.

These contributions by Hantzsch to arctic ornithology appeared originally in 1908 in the *Journal für Ornithologie*, and have now been translated by Dr. and Mrs. R. M. Anderson, and republished in eleven installments in the *Canadian Field-Naturalist*. The eleven papers have also been combined under one cover without change in pagination. Hantzsch seems to have been one of the rare individuals who are willing to undergo the most extreme hardships for the sake of discovery. His work in north-eastern Labrador was done in 1906, and his report gives notes on ninety-eight species. We notice that the Saxon Ornithological Society recently published a sketch and portrait of Bernard Hantzsch (*Mitt. d. Verein sächsischen Ornithologen*, Sonderheft to Bd. II, April, 1929, pp. 1-28). We thank Dr. and Mrs. Anderson for a copy of the reprint.—T. C. S.

A STUDY OF THE FOOD HABITS OF THE RING-NECKED PHEASANT IN COLORADO.
By W. L. Burnett.

FEEDING HABITS AND FOOD OF THE RING-NECKED PHEASANT. By Asa C. Maxson.
Both papers in Circular 31, Colo. Agric. College, Fort Collins, 1921.

Mr. Burnett examined the stomach contents of 48 pheasants, 31 males, 15 females, and 2 unsexed young. Mr. Maxson examined the stomach contents of 11 adult males. The food items in the crop and gizzard are reported in detail. Both investigations reach the conclusion that the pheasant is chiefly vegetarian, and not a pronounced insect eater. The authors do not draw a conclusion as to the economic value of this bird in a farming community, but leave that for the reader. From the facts presented in these papers we would infer that the Ring-necked Pheasant is of very doubtful economic value.—T. C. S.

PTERYLOGRAPHY OF CERTAIN NORTH AMERICAN WOODPECKERS. By William Henry Burt. Univ. Calif. Publ. in Zool., Vol. 30, No. 15, pp. 427-442, 7 text figs. Berkeley, 1929.

The author finds a great uniformity in feather distribution on North American Woodpeckers. Excellent diagrams of the pterylography in the Pileated Woodpecker suffice for all twenty-three forms studied. Pterylosis does not seem to be of much value in generic diagnosis, except in the genus *Sphyrapicus*. This phase of ornithology does not seem to have been overworked, and the paper has morphological as well as taxonomic interest.—T. C. S.

THE AVIFAUNA OF EMERYVILLE SHELLMOUND. By Hildegard Howard. Univ. Calif. Publ. in Zool., Vol. 32, No. 2, pp. 301-394, pls. 1-4, 55 text figs. Berkeley, 1929.

The Emeryville Shellmound was of Indian origin, and was located on the east coast of San Francisco Bay. When this mound was opened in 1924 bird bones to the number of 6700 were collected in it. At least 46 species of birds were identified from these remains, and all appear to be recent forms. Most of the species were recognized as water birds. The age of the mound is not known, but one authority estimated that its accumulation required possibly 1,000 years.—T. C. S.

A SYSTEMATIC STUDY OF THE COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB. By Harry S. Swarth. San Francisco, 1929.

Mr. Swarth has presented in booklet form an excellent sketch of the history of the Cooper Club, from 1893 to 1928, and preceded by a brief account of general ornithological history in that region. The abundance of pictures, groups, and portraits, adds much to the interest and value of the text. We can assure the author that his effort is appreciated widely.—T. C. S.

BULLETIN OF THE ESSEX COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB OF MASSACHUSETTS. 1928.
Pp. 1-64. Apply to Ralph Lawson, Secretary, 88 Washington Square, Salem, Mass. Price, 50 cents.

This publication was first issued in 1919, and has been issued annually since, making ten in all. The 1928 number contains articles by Dr. C. W. Townsend, on a Crow roost; by James L. Peters, on the molts and plumages of the Starling. The remaining pages include five signed articles, six short notes, a

list of the birds seen by the Club during the year, and a list of members. A compact volume of this sort makes a very satisfactory record of the year's activities, and is, no doubt, more permanent than the more frequent mimeographed, or printed, communications issued by other local societies.—T. C. S.

SECOND BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR BIRD PROTECTION.

Compiled by T. Gilbert Pearson, Chairman. New York, 1929.

The second bulletin was issued in July of this year, the first one having been issued in 1927. It appears that four meetings of this International Committee have been held, the first three of which are considered informal, viz., London in 1922, Paris in 1923, and Luxembourg in 1925. The first formal meeting was held in Geneva in 1928. This Bulletin includes the proceedings of the Geneva meeting and the papers (in full or abstract) of thirteen of the delegates from various countries. We are interested in the statement by Dr. Hj. Broch, of Norway, that in northern countries, where it takes longer to raise a crop or repair damage, the insect-destroying habit of birds becomes especially important.

The United States personnel of the Committee includes two from Washington, D. C., one from Boston, six from New York City, and one from elsewhere in New York. These members represent two ornithological societies, two sportsman's clubs, and the Audubon Association. The possibilities for bird protection through an international organization are very great, and it would seem that a secure foundation has been laid.—T. C. S.

THE SUMMER BIRDS OF LAKE NIPIGON. By L. L. Snyder. Trans. Royal Canad. Inst., Vol. XVI, Part 2, pp. 251-277, 1928. Reprinted from the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology.

THE SUMMER BIRDS OF LAKE ABITIBI. By L. L. Snyder. Univ. of Toronto Studies, Biol. Series, No. 32, pp. 17-34. 1928. Reprinted for the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology.

The Nipigon paper is based upon two summers (June and July, 1923, and June, July, and early August, 1924) spent in the region by the author, and some notes from Dr. Walter Koelz, who was in the region in the summer of 1922. This list includes 99 species or subspecies, 92 of which were verified by specimens taken.

The Abitibi paper is based upon field work from June 1 to August 3, 1925 (we infer the year from other papers in the report). This list includes 102 species, of which 85 were collected. At Abitibi the Water-Thrush (*S. n. noveboracensis*) was found, while at Nipigon the only Water-Thrush found was Grinnell's (*S. n. notabilis*). The House Wren (*T. ae. aedon*) was fairly common at Abitibi, but was not found at Nipigon; at the latter place a single pair of Western House Wrens (*T. ae. parkmani*). At Abitibi the Red-winged Blackbird was *A. p. phoeniceus*, while at Nipigon it was identified as *A. p. fortis*. The distance between the two lakes is roughly 400 miles east and west. As might be expected the warblers make a good showing in both of these lists.—T. C. S.

THE EUROPEAN STARLING IN THE UNITED STATES. By E. R. Kalmbach. U. S. Department of Agriculture Farmers' Bulletin No. 1571. Pp. 1-26; Figs. 1-8. Price, 5 cents.

This bulletin deals chiefly with the life history and economic relations of the Starling. The author's conclusion is that the species is distinctly beneficial, but that its habit of congregating in large flocks tends to magnify such bad habits as it may have. Notwithstanding this judicial verdict the report gives evidence of damage done by this bird to several fruits—apples, cherries, grapes, peaches, and pears. No matter what facts in favor of the bird may be hatched up, its presence in this country is probably generally conceded to be a mistake.—T. C. S.

THE SPREAD OF THE EUROPEAN STARLING IN NORTH AMERICA (TO 1928). By May Thacher Cooke. U. S. Department of Agriculture Circular No. 40. Pp. 1-9, 1 map, 1 colored plate. Issued, November, 1928. Price, 5 cents.

This circular treats especially of the extension of range in the United States, with a brief account of Old World distribution, introduction into America, etc. The colored plate, from a painting by E. R. Kalmbach, shows the adult birds in the spring and fall, and the immature bird. The wide distribution of this circular will help materially to secure early reports of the species as it reaches new localities. The bird is spreading with astonishing rapidity, and a new range has been established before a bulletin can be prepared and published.—T. C. S.

GOURDS FOR BIRD HOUSES AND OTHER PURPOSES. By W. L. McAtee and J. H. Beattie. U. S. Dept. of Agric. Leaflet No. 36. Pp. 1-4, Figs. 1-2.

Kinds of gourds, method of cultivation, use as bird houses, are the topics discussed.—T. C. S.

A TRAVELOGUE OF BIRDS. By E. Laurence Palmer. Cornell Rural School Leaflet, XXII, No. 4, March, 1929. Pp. 1-40, Figs. 1-22.

The story of migration is told for the school children. The thirty-two outline drawings of common birds will interest teachers, and a wealth of information is tabulated concerning the same list of birds. This is another educational pamphlet which will have a wide circulation in the state which publishes it.—T. C. S.

SUMMER BIRDS OF AN IOWA FARM. By J. E. Guthrie. Extension Service Bulletin No. 142, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa. February, 1928.

We missed this pamphlet at the time of its publication. The purpose of the bulletin is to disseminate information about the economic value of birds in an agricultural state. Every effort of this kind must help to awaken a wider interest in bird life. Enough evidence has by this time been gathered to convince nearly everyone that birds, on the whole, are far more useful than harmful. However, there are plenty of people who have not had a chance to examine the evidence. The bulletin contains paragraph descriptions of fifty common birds of the prairie region. Some day Iowa may want to have an unabridged treatise on its birds.—T. C. S.

There comes to our desk regularly a neat little magazine called the *Oologists' Record*, edited by Mr. K. L. Skinner. It deals especially with the nesting of

birds in all parts of the world. The price of the *Record* is \$1.25 in U. S. money, but Mr. Skinner states in correspondence that he will be glad to accept one dollar from any W. O. C. member in payment for a year's subscription, and that this may be sent in the form of a "greenback." (Mr. K. L. Skinner, Brooklands Estate Office, Weybridge, England).

The *Florida Naturalist* now continues the "Florida Audubon Bulletin," and we have before us the July, 1929, number edited by R. J. Longstreet. This number contains articles by D. J. Nicholson, Charles J. Pennock, Charles J. Maynard, R. C. Hallman, S. A. Grimes, B. O. Crichlow, and W. M. Buswell. We are sorry not to have seen this magazine sooner. It is well edited, well printed, and contains numerous articles of general interest.

We are glad to examine the first three issues of a new publication called "The Wren-Tit," a four-page Bulletin of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, edited by Dr. Gayle B. Pickwell, of State Teachers College, San Jose, California. In general this leaflet is similar to the *Gull*, and the *Kentucky Warbler*, both of which, we believe, have been temporarily suspended. The subscription price is twenty cents per year.

The *Indiana Audubon Bulletin* for 1928-29 has just been issued, and, like its predecessors, is full of interesting reading. This number contains articles by Dr. Amos W. Butler, S. E. Perkins III, Sidney R. Esten, and several others. The corresponding publications of Indiana, Illinois, Florida, and perhaps a few other states, have adopted a very similar size, which seems to establish a convenient standard.

The *Audubon Annual Bulletin* (of the Illinois Audubon Society) for 1928 was received in April. It contains a variety of prose and poetry. Among the articles we may mention a sketch of Louis Agassiz Fuyertes, by Dr. W. H. Osgood; "The Pine Warbler's Song," by Chresswell J. Hunt; and account of the A. O. U. meeting at Charleston, by Ruthven Deane; and a very interesting observation of a pair of House Wrens in the act of destroying an entire brood of nestling Bewick's Wrens. It is planned hereafter to issue this publication as an annual bulletin supplemented by quarterly leaflets.

The Cornell Rural School Leaflet for March, 1929, is devoted to the subject of bird migration. These leaflets are written especially for the use of the schools of New York. A mass of interesting information concerning thirty-two of the commonest species is tabulated at the end of the pamphlet. Dr. E. Laurence Palmer, the Editor, is producing a most useful source book of ornithological and nature facts in this series of leaflets.