

ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

THIRTY YEARS WAR FOR WILD LIFE—GAINS AND LOSSES IN THE THANKLESS TASK. By William T. Hornaday. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1931. Pp. i-xvi+1-292. Price, \$2.00.

In Part I of this book fifteen chapters tell of the dangers which confront American wild life—"the dark side". Here the gruesome story of destruction is placed on record, not merely for the information of future generations, but, doubtless, with a hope of stimulating the present generation from the lethargy of inaction. Chapters XIV and XV are especially interesting because they deal with the conservation contests of the past two or three years.

Part II consists of eighteen chapters dealing with the progress of conservation achievement in America—"the bright side". The facts show that much has been done, mostly, however, for the mammals. These chapters do not cover the establishment of the numerous bird refuges throughout the country, but they do disclose an amazing story of accomplishment. It is also amazing that in spite of so many victories for wild life, the latter is still in great danger owing to the tremendous increase in population and sport. Much of the story is very recent history—so recent that many people have not read it. Much of it has never been in print before.

It seems to be quite safe to say that no one man has been in the midst of so much effort and struggle in behalf of wild life as Dr. Hornaday. It may be doubtful if any one else has possessed the same broad knowledge of the field; no one else has shown greater devotion, greater acumen, more dogged persistence or greater courage in the face of fierce opposition than Dr. Hornaday. Future generations will scarcely fail to recognize him as the great leader in the fight for the protection of wild life. Some who have derived their livelihood for working in behalf of wild life have followed *ignes fatui* while the wild life suffered accordingly. Dr. Hornaday has never been side-tracked, and his language has never been misunderstood much as it may have been disliked. This book is not a story of his life, but it shows what a powerful force he has been in molding public sentiment and in putting theory into practice. No one interested in game protection will lay this book aside without completing the reading of it.—T. C. S.

REPORT ON A GAME SURVEY OF THE NORTH CENTRAL STATES. By Aldo Leopold. Published by the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute. Madison, Wisconsin, 1931. Pp. 1-299, maps 21, charts 15, tables 58, photographs 4. Price, \$1 (from American Game Association, Investment Bldg., 15th and K St., N. W., Washington, D. C.).

This report is the most original and exhaustive study of upland game conditions which the reviewer has seen. The Survey has been carried out by Mr. Aldo Leopold (a holder of the gold medal of the Permanent Wild Life Protection Fund for distinguished services to wild life) under the auspices of the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute, and for an area called the "North Central States", including Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Missouri. The chapters deal chiefly with the following topics: Bob-white, Rabbits, Ring-necked Pheasant, the Game Cycle, Ruffed Grouse, Prairie Chickens, Big Game (including deer and turkeys!), Waterfowl, Predators, Game Lands and Game Administration, the Conservation Movement, Con-

clusions. The chapter on Bob-white covers forty-five pages, divided under the following headings: history, status, movements, life history, food and coverts, effects of weather, management, etc. The detail gives some idea of the range of treatment.

This Survey has been undertaken by Mr. Leopold and the arms and ammunition manufacturers apparently for the purpose of ascertaining certain facts concerning the game, and perhaps also for the purpose of education and propaganda in the interest of an increased supply of game. One of Mr. Leopold's principal points of emphasis is the scientific study of game—game research. He points out that in 1927, to the best of his knowledge, there was only one person in this group of states who was carrying on research relative to game, whereas in 1930 there were fourteen. Of these fourteen workers three are in Minnesota, two are in Wisconsin, seven are in Michigan, and two are in Ohio. Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri have none. Three of these research men are holders of fellowships recently established by the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute, as follows: at the University of Minnesota R. T. King is working on the complex problem of the Ruffed Grouse; at the University of Wisconsin Paul L. Errington is working similarly on the Bob-white; and at the University of Michigan R. E. Yeatter is working on the Hungarian Partridge. The other workers seem to be financed, in most cases, by the State Game or Conservation Department. The important fact is, however, that the work has been placed on a research basis. This means that the work is being carried on free from bias or control, and with reasonable thoroughness. The university connection engenders confidence in this.

It may seem that the arms and ammunition manufacturers have changed base somewhat in thus making a liaison with science. Perhaps so, but there is nothing strange or illogical about it. Continuation of their business, between war periods, depends to a large degree upon the perpetuation of game. Perpetuation of game is exactly the objective of conservationists. In this respect, therefore, there is a common basis of agreement. Let us make the most of that fact.

We are still opposed to the substitution of foreign game for native game. Such substitution is based on a galaxy of fallacies. But we believe that we are consistent in approving one part of the program and disapproving another, if we keep the two parts separate in our thinking. With these reflections in mind we feel indebted to the Game Survey for its fact-finding service, and we hope that it (and its sponsors) will find so much success in developing the native wild life that exotic forms will be found to be superfluous.—T. C. S.

THE BIRDS OF OKLAHOMA. Revised edition. By Margaret Morse Nice. Pub. Univ. Okla. Biol. Surv., Vol. III, No. 1, pp. 1-224. Norman, 1931.

Mrs. Nice presents in this paper not merely a revision of "The Birds of Oklahoma", by Mrs. M. M. Nice and L. B. Nice, (published in May, 1924, as a University of Oklahoma bulletin), but practically a rewritten work. The historical sketch is materially new. The "Itineraries and Reports of Field Workers in the State" is a new and most valuable addition, listing all known ornithological observers in the state from the earliest records; it is in reality a part of the history of ornithology of the state.

The list proper includes 385 forms, as contrasted with 361 in the 1924 edition. However, several of the forms listed in the old edition have been dropped

in the new one, and, of course, new forms have been added, 35 in number. Ten species are listed as extirpated in the state, viz., Trumpeter Swan, Swallow-tailed Kite, White-tailed Kite, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Sage Hen, Whooping Crane, Eskimo Curlew, Passenger Pigeon, Louisiana Paraquet, and Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

The author has had the advice of Dr. Stone in the selection of the nomenclature, which will, therefore, probably conform closely to the new A. O. U. check-list. A bibliography relating to Oklahoma ornithology is appended, together with several maps and halftones. It is quite apparent that much effort is being made to advance the ornithology of this state, and keep it abreast of general progress.—T. C. S.

BIRDS OF ARKANSAS. By W. J. Baerg. Bull. No. 258, Ark. Agric. Exp. Station, pp. 1-197, figs. 1-37. Fayetteville, 1931. Price, 77 cents.

Howell's "Birds of Arkansas" (1911) listed 255 forms. Several other faunal lists for this state have appeared in the periodical literature, and are acknowledged by the author of the paper here reviewed. Baerg has increased the number to 312 species and subspecies. The list includes a description of the plumage, a statement of the range, and some discussion of habits for each species. This bulletin forms a very complete and useful handbook of the birds of Arkansas, named and arranged in the latest predicted nomenclature.—T. C. S.

BULLETIN OF THE ESSEX COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY [Mass.] FOR 1930. Pp. 1-89. Price, 50 cents.

This annual has now been published in twelve successive years. Most of the articles deal with local ornithology, but in a number of cases have general interest. For instance, Mr. Emilio records the capture of a specimen of Say's Phoebe at Ipswich, Mass., in October, 1930. Philip Emerson records the nesting of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in northeastern Massachusetts. The description of the bird is good, but the editors advise caution, because the nest is atypical. We should not be much surprised at the construction of an atypical nest by birds that get so far out of their normal range—they are probably not exactly typical birds, psychologically. Mr. Emilio also presents an instructive account of North American birds which have been recorded from time to time on the British Isles. Dr. Townsend and Dr. May both contribute articles on the birds of prey.—T. C. S.

HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK. By Joseph Mailliard. Special publication of the California Academy of Sciences, pp. 1-84. San Francisco, 1930.

We count 110 native species listed and described in this booklet. Ninety-four of the species are illustrated by pen sketches made by Mr. Frank Tose. There is also an appended list of eleven introduced species on the waters of the Park. We are not in a position to pass critical judgment on the inclusions or omissions from the list, but it is certainly a fine thing to have such a guide available to visitors in this western center of population, and it would seem that this substantial little book will serve its purpose well.—T. C. S.

BIRD LIST OF VICKSBURG, MICHIGAN. By F. W. Rapp. Privately printed, Vicksburg, Mich., 1931. Pp. 1-35. Price, 35 cents.

Mr. Rapp lists 179 species (plus 3 extinct or hypothetical forms) based upon thirty-five years of observation.—T. C. S.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF OHIO ZOOLOGY. Compiled by Herbert Osborn. Bull. 23, Ohio Biol. Surv., Vol. IV, No. 8, pp. 351-411. (Pub. by Ohio State Univ. Press), Columbus, 1930. Price, \$1.00.

Good as far as it goes. This paper purports to be a reasonably complete bibliography of Ohio zoology, and the index indicates that a good many ornithological titles have been found, perhaps more than for any other animal group. It is quite apparent, however, that the WILSON BULLETIN was not searched for Ohio material. In the WILSON BULLETIN for 1909 G. Clyde Fisher reported the Prothonotary Warbler at the Lewistown Reservoir. The volume for 1908 contained a note by Robert J. Sim on another record of Brunnich's Murre for Ohio, and L. S. Keyser reports Bachman's Sparrow in Tuscarawas County. Two notes by Jones on Bachman's Sparrow and Bewick's Wren in 1909 are overlooked. In 1919 Oberholser reported the Hoyt's Horned Lark for Ohio. Various other notes by Henninger, McConnell, Jones, Bales, Wharram, Henderson, Katie M. Roads, Pontius, Blincoe, Louis W. Campbell, Moseley, and others have been missed. Henninger published forty-four ornithological notes, mostly relating to Ohio, in the WILSON BULLETIN, all of which were overlooked. These noted omissions are discovered by glancing in the few volumes picked out at random; doubtless they form a small part of Ohio ornithology overlooked by the bibliographers. It seems inexcusable to thus overlook a magazine which specializes in one branch of zoology, and especially in view of the fact that the WILSON BULLETIN was for many years published in Ohio, and might be expected to contain many references to Ohio ornithology.

We suspect that the compilation of the bibliography was done entirely by consulting the volume indexes for state references. If, for example, we examine the volume of *Bird-Lore* for 1923 we find that its index contains eleven Ohio references, eight of which are included in the Ohio bibliography (the three not included are merely club reports). On the other hand pages 186 and 252 of the same volume contain ornithological notes from Ohio of as much value as others cited, and these two items are not cited in the volume index, nor do we find them listed in the Ohio bibliography. It would seem that we must conclude that the bibliography was compiled by scanning the indexes of the periodicals, an evidently faulty method of preparing a bibliography. If all periodical literature has been searched in the same faulty manner, with the same proportion of omission, just what reliance may workers place upon the Ohio bibliography as an aid? A bibliography is no easy matter, and when done no one can be quite certain of its completeness. The substance of our criticism in this case is that for the sake of accuracy the body of the journal should be searched, and that reliance can not be placed on the volume indexes.—T. C. S.

BIRD BANDING BY SYSTEMATIC TRAPPING. By S. Prentiss Baldwin. Sci. Pub. Cleveland Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. I, No. 5, pp. 125-168, April, 1931.

The bulletin here described reprints two of Mr. Baldwin's most important papers on the bird banding work. The first paper, under the same title as above, was published in 1919 by the Linnaean Society of New York, and was the first published report on Mr. Baldwin's method of trapping and banding wild birds as practiced by him during the preceding five years. Mr. Baldwin's great contribution was the use of traps for capturing adult birds for banding. Previous to his work most of the banding had been done on nestling birds, with which the

mortality was very high, greatly reducing the percentage of returns. This paper is a classic in the literature of bird banding, and has been out of print for some time; the reprinting of it by the Cleveland Museum makes it again available. Along with this article Mr. Baldwin's paper on "The Marriage Relations of the House Wren" (first published in the *Auk* for 1921) is also republished. This paper demonstrated the usefulness of the banding method in working out the domestic and social relations of birds. We understand that free copies of this reprint are obtainable upon request to the U. S. Biological Survey, Washington.—T. C. S.

A BIOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE OF THE PETERBORO SWAMP AND THE LABRADOR POND AREAS. By Chas. J. Spiker. Roosevelt Wild Life Bulletin, Vol. VI, No. 1, Syracuse, N. Y., March, 1931. Pp. 1-151, pp. 1-3, figs. 1-74, maps 1-2. Price, \$1.00.

The region described in this paper suggests to us Mr. Sutton's account of the Pymatuning Swamp in Pennsylvania, though the Peteroboro Swamp seems to possess far fewer species of birds. Mr. Spiker divides his area into six plant habitats and describes the bird life of each. The total list of 114 species for the entire region suggests a very ordinary fauna, with the understanding that it has been studied in the winter and spring as well as summer. Mr. Spiker's study of the territory began with a six-weeks' sojourn in the summer of 1927. The paper does not state precisely the periods of later study, but "subsequent visits to the tract at other seasons of the year have given us a reasonably complete view of the area during the whole year."

In Part 2 the same author reports on a biological survey of Labrador Pond, located also in the center of the state. For this region 107 species of birds are reported. The surveys of both regions include some mention of the mammals, more extensive, however, for the Peterboro area. Both surveys were undertaken to determine the wild life present and also the fitness of the habitats for the introduction of game birds. Besides the numerous halftone illustrations by the author Mr. E. J. Sawyer has contributed a colored plate of the common winter birds.—T. C. S.

ADAPTIVE MODIFICATIONS IN THE WOODPECKERS. By William Henry Burt. Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., Vol. 32, No. 8, pp. 455-524. Berkeley, 1930. Price, \$1.00.

Work has been done on a wide variety of picine material, including particularly a study of the muscles and their attachments. The details of the origin and insertion of muscles in the Pileated Woodpecker are presented quite fully.—T. C. S.

THE BIRDS OF HAITI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. By Alexander Wetmore and Bradshaw H. Swales. Bull. 155 U. S. Nat. Mus., pp. 1-483, pls. 1-26. Washington, 1931. Price, \$1.00.

The older name for the entire island which now contains the Dominican Republic and the Republic of Haiti was Hispaniola, more recently known as Santo Domingo. The present work gives a full historical account of previous ornithological work, beginning with the visit of Columbus in 1492. Two hundred and fifteen species are listed by the authors, while thirteen others are considered as hypothetical. The status of each species is fully discussed in the light of the latest knowledge.—T. C. S.

BIRD HOUSES. HOW TO MAKE AND WHERE TO PLACE THEM. By E. J. Sawyer.
Bull. No. 1, Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Mich., March,
1931. Pp. 1-27. Price, 20 cents.

Mr. Sawyer here gives in brief form most of the information needed in building and erecting houses for about sixteen species that most frequently nest around human dwellings. The detailed specifications are shown in full page plates prepared by the author.—T. C. S.

MAKING USE OF OUR BIRDS. By O. A. Stevens. Bull. 241, N. Dak. Agric. Exper. Station, pp. 1-40. Fargo, December, 1930.

This pamphlet is a revision of a similar one issued in 1926, but the revised edition contains some additional matter and is enhanced by two tabulations and sixteen halftones. The greater part of this bulletin is made up of an enumeration of the commoner birds of the state, with some account of their habits.—T. C. S.

INFORMATION FOR THE GUIDANCE OF FIELD MEN AND COOPERATORS OF THE BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY ENGAGED IN THE CONTROL OF INJURIOUS RODENTS AND PREDATORY ANIMALS. By Paul G. Redington and Stanley P. Young. Misc. Publ. No. 115, U. S. Dept. Agric., pp. 1-8. Washington, April, 1931.

A statement of policy of the Bureau of Biological Survey with respect to its campaign against these mammals, and some general remarks on methods. This bulletin has been reviewed at considerable length in a circular published by the Emergency Conservation Committee, which may be obtained gratis by applying to Mrs. C. N. Edge, Secretary, 113 East 72d St., New York, N. Y.—T. C. S.

NOTES ON A COLLECTION OF BIRDS FROM WESTERN OKLAHOMA. By A. I. Ortenberger and Elbert L. Little, Jr. Pub. Univ. Okla. Biol. Surv., Vol. II, No. 4, pp. 189-194. Norman, 1930.

A LIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA. By Margaret Morse Nice. *Ibid.*, pp. 195-207.

The first paper presents a list of birds obtained in the western part of Oklahoma by an expedition from the University in 1926. Some additions were made to the knowledge of the range of certain species within the state. In the second paper Mrs. Nice gives a very full account of previous bird study on the University Campus, together with a list of all forms known to have been found there.—T. C. S.

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE WISCONSIN PRAIRIE CHICKEN INVESTIGATION. By Alfred O. Gross. Published by the Wisconsin Conservation Commission. Pp. 1-112. Madison, 1930.

The Wisconsin Conservation Commission inaugurated this study of the Prairie Chicken in 1928, and it has been in progress since that time. The present report is intended to place on record the results thus far obtained. The study has covered many phases of the life of this bird; we may merely mention the following topics which are considered: cycles, parasites and diseases (very full and instructive), food, migration (and some evidence is presented to show a limited seasonal movement), courtship, eggs, hatching, etc. Some very helpful suggestions are made about the construction of blinds, which will apply as well in the study of other birds. It is very pleasing to note the interest of state authorities in these scientific investigations.—T. C. S.

THE QUAIL SHORTAGE OF 1930. By Aldo Leopold and John N. Ball. In *Outdoor America*, April, 1931. Reprint not paged.

A marked shortage of quail is noted in the quail range of the north central states (Minn., Wisc., Mich., Ohio, Ind., Ill., Ia., Mo.), in some parts approximating 75 per cent. The authors trace the shortage to the drouth of that year, 1930. Four theories as to the specific manner in which the drouth operated are offered, viz., by drying up the drinking water for the young birds, by adding the eggs in the nest, by bringing about disease, or by affecting the food supply. They also suggest that every state should have trained men available to trace these fluctuations of game, and determine the causes.—T. C. S.

A YEAR AT SOUTHAMPTON ISLAND. By George Miksch Sutton. *Carnegie Magazine*, Vol. IV, No. 9, pp. 269-273, Feb., 1931.

A YEAR ON SOUTHAMPTON ISLAND. By George Miksch Sutton. *Cardinal*, Vol. III, No. 1, pp. 1-5, Jan., 1931.

These two different articles under the same title give short, narrative accounts of Mr. Sutton's winter sojourn (1929-1930) at the far end of Hudson Bay, and are not reports of scientific results. But it is interesting to learn that a breeding colony of Blue Geese was located at Cape Kendall, on the western side of the Island. While Mr. Sutton was in the North he learned by radio of J. Dewey Soper's success in finding, in the summer of 1929, the Blue Geese breeding on Baffin's Land. This news stimulated Mr. Sutton's search for the Blue Goose on Southampton.—T. C. S.

WILD DUCK FOODS OF NORTH DAKOTA LAKES. By Franklin P. Metcalf. *Tech. Bull.* No. 221, U. S. Dept. Agric., pp. 1-71. Washington, 1931.

This paper contains nothing on birds, but is an ecological study of the common vegetation of North Dakota lakes. The relation of salinity to plant forms is considered. There is included an annotated list of the plants collected in and about the lakes and sloughs, and also a list of common and scientific equivalent names. Conclusions are not drawn as to relations to bird life.—T. C. S.

LOCAL BIRD REFUGES. By W. L. McAtee. *Farmers' Bull.* No. 1644, U. S. Dept. Agric., pp. 1-14. Washington, 1931. Price, 5 cents.

A general discussion of bird refuges as a conservation measure.—T. C. S.

NOTES ON A COLLECTION OF BIRDS FROM ARIZONA AND NEW MEXICO. By Harry C. Oberholser. *Sci. Publ. Cleveland Mus. Nat. Hist.*, Vol. I, No. 4, pp. 83-124. Cleveland, 1930.

Dr. Oberholser here presents a report of his study of a collection of birds obtained from Mr. W. W. Brown.—T. C. S.

FIELD NOTES ON CONNECTICUT BIRDS. By Clinton Mellen Jones. *Univ. Ia. Studies in Nat. Hist.*, Vol. XIII, No. 4, pp. 1-40. Iowa City, 1931. Price, 50 cents.

Dr. Stoner and Prof. Dill have selected from the old notebooks of Mr. Jones various notes of interest made from 1873 to 1916 in Connecticut.—T. C. S.

The *Florida Naturalist* for January contains an article by Herbert R. Mills on "The Florida Brown Pelican", which informs us that the pelicans on the east coast of Florida nest in the fall, while the same species on the west coast nest in the spring. The April number contains the proceedings of the Society.

The *Annual Bulletin of the Illinois Audubon Society* (No. 21, for 1931) contains a short article by Dr. A. O. Gross on the Prairie Chicken; several appreciative sketches of Professor Frank Smith, with a portrait; and a paper by W. I. Lyon on a northern invasion of Little Blue Herons. Numerous other short articles make up an interesting booklet.

The *Wren-Tit* is published quarterly by the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. The January number tells of finding the roosting place of two Black Swifts on a ledge behind a water falls.

Iowa Bird Life is the title of a leaflet published under the auspices of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, and edited by Fred J. Pierce. It is in reality a continuation of the I. O. U. Bulletin, but with a changed format and labelled Volume I, Number 1, new series. This number contains a considerable amount of matter of particular interest to Iowa bird students, including articles by Miss Sherman, E. D. Nauman, Dr. F. L. R. Roberts, and others. Starting as a mimeographed news letter issued by the Secretary, this leaflet developed into a larger printed sheet edited by Dr. Roberts; it is now reduced to octavo size with sixteen pages. We hope the venture will have staying power, and that its quality will not diminish.

The Migrant, of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, also appears in printed, octavo form, beginning with Volume II, No. 1, for March, 1931. This number consists of eight pages and cover, with the following articles: "The Black Vulture March number contains, "The Winter Birds of the Hastings Region", by A. F. Ganier, "Hawks and Owls", by H. P. Ijams, "Nesting Data on Middle Tennessee Birds", by Vernon Sharp, Jr., and besides these a blue-print sheet of specifications for a standard bird house.

The December number of the *Flicker* (a mimeographed organ of the Minnesota Bird Club) contains, "Experiences with a Green-winged Teal", by Marius Morse, "Summer Birds Near Onamia, Minnesota", by E. D. Swedenborg; while the March number contains, "The Winter Birds of the Hastings Region", by Jerome Stoudt, "A Day's Adventure", by Sterling Brackett, and "Bird Notes from Frontenac, on Lake Pepin, for 1930", by Alden Risser. In 1931 it is proposed to issue four numbers of the *Flicker*, instead of six.

The *Raven*, mimeographed organ of Virginia Society of Ornithology, continues to reach us monthly. The February number contains a provisional list of the birds of Virginia, based on observations in nine localities; the list includes 279 species. The first annual meeting of the Society was held at Richmond and is reported in detail in the March number of the *Raven*.

Three mimeographed periodicals relating to bird banding have been received. *Bird Banding Notes*, for April, 1931, Vol. 2, No. 3, contains a report on returns, doings of many individual workers, and miscellaneous information. *Inland Bird Banding News*, March, 1931, Vol. III, No. 1, is issued under the direction of the new I. B. B. A. Secretary, Mr. Edw. R. Ford. This number contains fifteen pages of interesting banding information. *News from the Bird Banders*, April, 1931, Vol. VI, No. 1, is issued by the Western Bird Banding Association. The active center, or perhaps it would be more correct to say the administrative center, has been transferred from Los Angeles to the Museum of Zoology at Berkeley as a more or less permanent arrangement. The Hooper Research Foundation of the University of California Medical School has agreed to examine diseased birds which are caught in trapping operations.