

The singing of the birds is not to be explained by any such previous dry season though it may have been influenced by the unusual supply of spring food. It is now pretty well known that food has a considerable influence upon the seasonal activities of birds and under abnormal conditions enough sexually exciting food might have been produced to induce a limited effect in this direction.

That migrations should be disorganized by an unseasonable mild spell is to be expected. Some birds are greatly influenced by weather conditions, usually early spring and late fall migrants, whilst others coming and going long before actual need of migration is evident to us, migrate irrespective of early or late seasons and can be expected to appear and disappear with almost calendar-like regularity year after year.

P. A. T.

In THE CANADIAN BOY, Vol 1, Sept. 1918, p. 127, appears "The Naturalist's Nest," conducted by R. W. Tufts, Wolfville, N.S.

An albino robin is reported and described; then follows a discussion on the various eastern species of hawks in which the sheep are weeded from the goats in a manner that is satisfactory to the naturalist and interesting and instructive to the Boys (Scouts) in whose interest the periodical is published. The only point of criticism the reviewer feels like mentioning is evidently an accidental omission. It says of the Cooper's Hawk that it "is much like the Goshawk in appearance and general habits" without calling attention to the fact that the similarity of appearances only holds through the juvenility of the species, that in the adult plumage the two are as different in color as they are in size.

It is the firm opinion of the writer that the most practical method of educating the public in the economic and other value of birds, especially those against which there is a strong popular prejudice, is by appealing to the young and growing mind. It is most difficult to redirect established currents of thought, but the boy becomes a man within a few years and early impressions influence the whole after life. Such departments as this in juvenile literature are to be encouraged in every way. The history of great movements in modern times seems to indicate that it is only after several generations that fundamental changes in established thought and ideals can take place. The first generation view a radically new thought with suspicion, the second to whom it is not new endures and succeeding ones embrace it on its merits. Let us by all means get after the children at once.

P. A. T.

In the *Auk* for October, 1918, are several papers of interest to Canadian ornithologists.

NOTES ON NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS (pp. 463-467) is the title of a paper by H. C. Oberholser in which is discussed several subspecies of Canadian occurrence.

The Northwestern Belted Kingfisher, *Streptoceryle alcyon caurina* Grinnell (questioned by Taverner), is regarded as a valid race. The American Barn Owl is relegated to subspecific status with the European form, under the name *Tyto alba pratincola* (Bonaparte). Hellmayr's proposal to include the American Brown Creeper as a form of *Certhia brachydactyla* Brehm is rejected. The Alaska Myrtle Warbler, *Dendroica coronata hooveri* McGregor, is accepted as a recognizable subspecies. Brook's proposal of the Hoary Redpoll, *Acanthis hornemanni exilpes*, as a subspecies of the Common Redpoll, *A. linaria* instead of *A. hornemanni*, is rejected.

THE SUBSPECIES OF *LARUS HYPERBOREUS* Gunnerus by H. C. Oberholser (pp. 467-474). This paper investigates the hitherto rejected Point Barrow Gull, *Larus barrovianus* Ridgway, and decides that it is a recognizable race of the Glaucous Gull, *L. hyperboreus*, differing particularly in being smaller than the Atlantic form. He gives diagnosis, measurements and distribution, extending the latter as far east on the Arctic coast as Franklin Bay.

In the department of Recent Literature, W. S. (Stone) (pp. 486-489) reviews Dr. Dwight's Review of the Juncos at considerable length. Further on under Correspondence, Jos. Grinnell (pp. 505-507) has more to say on the same subject and it may be well here to mention that the paper is also reviewed in the *Condor*, July, 1918 (pp. 142-143), by H. S. Swarth. Further remarks occur on the same paper elsewhere in these pages.

Soper's Birds of Edmonton, OTTAWA NATURALIST, February and March, 1918, is mentioned in review (p. 489).

The Possible Avian Distribution of Hog Cholera, Journ. Agr. Research, Vol. 13, 1918 (pp. 125-129), is summarized (pp. 495-496) and the resulting conclusion cited that pigeons and other birds of similar habits are probably never concerned in the spread of the disease.

In the department of General Notes, Cause of "Fishy" Flavour of the Flesh of Wild Ducks, W. L. McAtee (pp. 474-476). The decision is reached that the "fishy" flavour should probably be ascribed to the physiological condition of individuals rather than to the use of fish as food and it is asserted that many noted fish-eating species may be unexpectedly palatable.