

of their work are often a thorn in the side, until we become sufficiently calloused to ignore them. Taverner is a radical, and realizes that varietal differences are not always items of the highest importance and goes on his way in blissful carelessness of what some other members of the ornithological world may think or say of his conclusions. It is thus that progress is made, and the present writer finds it difficult, or impossible (?) to criticize such an attitude severely, being too strongly tinctured with that same spirit of radicalism himself.

One evident lack in the preparations for the trip, was the providing of a pair of competent listening ears, for while the sight records of the party are beyond criticism, there are omissions which a pair of good ears might have prevented. Sprague's skylark, for instance, probably delivered its song within hearing, dozens of times, before the bird was added to the list at Camp No. 11, while the Yellow rail lives in most favorable marshes in the district traversed, and needed only to be listened for, to be added.

What the party may have lacked in this regard was fully made up by the keen diligence with which the objects of the expedition were pursued, and the members are to be congratulated on the results obtained.

One must not forget to mention the photographs with which the report is illuminated. To take such views, one needs a keen artistic sense as well as an accurate knowledge of the capabilities of the camera, and both of these the author has with him on the spot, and used them with the very best results. Seldom indeed, is an article read which is illustrated with pictures of such beauty, and which, at the same time, convey to the mind such a clear perception of the country explored.

As a whole, the paper makes a fine starting point for the further study of the birds of that part of Alberta.

W. E. SAUNDERS.

In the *Auk* for July, 1919, are the following titles of Canadian interest:

SOME NOTES ON THE DRUMMING OF THE RUFFED GROUSE, by H. E. T. Trotter, pp. 325-339. This recounts personal experience with, and the study of, the drumming of this species and is an important and interesting contribution to a question that has long been of interest and an object of considerable controversy amongst observers.

THE SINGING TREE, OR HOW NEAR TO THE NEST DO THE MALE BIRDS SING? by H. Mousley, of Hatley, Que., pp. 339-348. This is an account of the methods pursued by this notable warbler nest-finder. The substance of the article is that the

male bird has usually a regular habit of singing from a favorite perch, as a rule within twenty yards of the nest. The discovery of a bird habitually singing through the nesting season from a certain point considerably limits the area to be searched for in finding the nest. By carefully watching this area centered on the "singing tree" Mr. Mousley has probably found more warbler nests in the past few years than any one else in an equal time in Canada. The article is a valuable contribution to field methods and to our knowledge of bird habits and should be read by all interested in the field study of birds.

IN NOTES ON NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS, pp. 406-408, Harry C. Oberholser concludes that our American Pipit should be reduced to a subspecies of the Old World *Anthus spinoletta* and should be called *Anthus spinoletta rubescens*. He also pleads for the recognition, not at present accorded it, of the Kennicott Willow Warbler as a subspecies of *Acanthopneuste borealis*.

IN GENERAL NOTES, under the title of—

THE GENERIC NAME OF THE GANNETS, p. 417, Harry C. Oberholser recommends the adoption of Mathew's proposal to split the genus *Sula* but following the Code of Nomenclature of the A.O.U. decides contrary to him that the name *Moris* is the proper term for the division including our Gannets. *Sula bassana* would thus become *Moris bassana*.

THE STATUS OF THE GENUS ARCHIBUTEO, p. 420, the same author, states that further investigation induces him to agree with Hartert's proposal to unite this genus with *Buteo* as in the feathering of the tarsus, the most important character of *Archibuteo*, it intergrades with it. He, therefore, recommends that *Archibuteo* be reduced to subgeneric rank or dropped altogether in which case our two species would stand as *Buteo lagopus sanctijohannes*, American Rough-legged Hawk, and *Buteo ferrugineus*, Ferrugineus Rough-legged Hawk.

P. A. TAVERNER.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.—The Ottawa Public Library recently received for the Field-Naturalists' Club, the following three books, from the American Museum of Natural History:

"Illustrations of the North American species of the Genus *Catocala*."

"The Indigenous Land Mammals of Porto Rico, Living and Extinct."

"Equidae of the Oligocene, Miocene, and Pliocene of North America, Iconographic Type Revision."

These memoirs have been placed with the Field-Naturalists' collection and may be examined on application.