

without circumstantial detail is open to question. So rare a specimen should be located and verified by the highest authorities.

The record of the Wilson's Plover is open to similar criticism, and for a Canadian list it would seem as though the basis of the published habitat should be stated.

Again with regard to the Black Rail, the three records given are none of them thoroughly reliable; one was a bird seen in flight; another refers to the taking of a number of specimens in the Dundas Marsh, which have since proved to be the Virginia Rail; and the third depends upon the ability of a gentleman, the honesty of whose intentions is not open to question, but who may have fallen into the same error as did Mr. Nash regarding the Virginia Rail.

The record of the White-winged Black Tern, which is also a sight record of birds seen on the wing, is another fair mark for criticism. The fact that Black Terns, as well as other species of the family, are known to carry over into the second year parts of the juvenal plumage, and that the bend of the wing appears white in flight renders sight records of these species more liable to error than would otherwise be the case.

The authors are to be congratulated on having preferred the long used English names, instead of following the changes which the A.O.U. Committee of Revision are attempting to foist upon the ornithological world. Alterations in scientific names have been so frequent and widespread that there is a tendency to cease referring to them, and to use only the English names which have been so far perfectly stable, but when the Committee endeavors to attach to the English names that changeableness which has so long been characteristic of the scientific names, it is time for the rank and file of ornithologists to refuse to follow their lead. The laws which have been made to govern the application of scientific names, have doubtless required the making of the changes that have occurred, but these laws do not govern the English names, nor is it likely that they will be followed by the bulk of students. Furthermore many students will prefer, and will use, the old style of possessive names for such birds, as Wilson's Thrush. The present catalogue follows the newly suggested method of omitting the possessive which would sometimes lead us into serious trouble; for instance, if a thrush were named for James Brown and the name were spelt after the newly suggested manner, it would be the "Brown Thrush," which would certainly lead to confusion.

It would appear that in publishing the present edition, current literature has not been scanned as closely as it might