

that the Audubon Societies' leaflets for the following species are available in French:

Bluebird	Song Sparrow
Blue Jay	Catbird
Robin	Flicker

This should especially interest our readers who desire to utilize these leaflets in educational work.

New leaflets of the Audubon Societies have also been issued for Lewis's Woodpecker, Western Meadowlark and Varied Thrush. As the Western Meadowlark is so common throughout the Prairies and southern British Columbia, this leaflet should be in great demand for schools in our west, for literature upon western birds has been scarce and difficult to procure in the past. Lewis's Woodpecker and the Varied Thrush are typical western

species and the leaflets concerning them will, no doubt, prove of special value for schools in British Columbia. The fact that these three leaflets of western birds are illustrated with colored pictures by Major Allan Brooks should increase their popularity with Canadians. These leaflets may be secured for five cents each by writing to the National Association of Audubon Societies, 1974 Broadway, New York City, N.Y.—J. F. WRIGHT, *Secretary, Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club.*

The illustrations in this number of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* have been provided through the generosity and assistance of Dr. R. E. De Lury.—EDITOR.

BOOK REVIEW

THE CONDOR

(Concluded from p. 20)

He very thoroughly summarizes his suggestions in a final paragraph which is here reproduced:—

(A) The trinomial system should be followed consistently for English as for latin names.

(1) Every species in the A.O.U. list should have an English name whether the species is divided into races or not.

(2) Wherever subspecies are involved, each subspecies should be designated by the English name of the species preceded by an English subspecific term.

(3) Specific common names are preferably descriptive, while subspecific names may more properly refer to localities or the names of persons, as well as to minor characteristics.

(4) The possessive form should be used for subspecific names; not for the names of species.

(5) A misleading or distinctly false "popular" designation is very unfortunate from an educational standpoint and should not be permitted by the A.O.U. to stand as its officially recognized English name of a species or genus.

(B) Each species in the A.O.U. list should retain its permanent number, without letters affixed, as at present.

(C) Every race or subspecies, of a given species, should have assigned to it a letter of the alphabet, to be used in conjunction with the number assigned to the species.

(1) For the first described or type race of a species, assign the letter z.

(2) For all other races of a species retain the letters a, b, c, d, etc., as at present assigned, using the next succeeding letter of the alphabet for each new race.

(D) The abridged check-list should be so arranged that all species will stand out distinctly from their subdivisions. Species and subspecies

should not occupy columns of equal importance.

With very few reservations the reviewer heartily approves of all these proposals. They embody reforms that he has long urged.

Notes on the Yellow-billed Loon. By Alfred M. Bailey. Pp. 204-205.

In view of the very restricted known range of this species and the mystery that surrounds its breeding and migratory movements, Mr. Bailey's experience with it, April to June and in October, 1920, between Admiralty Island and Wrangell, Alaska, is interesting. About forty-five were seen during the spring, on one occasion thirty in a flock, and about thirty-four in the fall. A number of specimens were taken in corroboration of identification. Either this occurrence was an unusual irruptive migration such as occasionally takes place in many species, or the similarity of the bird to the Common Loon has caused it to be overlooked in waters that have been comparatively well worked in the past.

In an *Open Letter to The Editor*, Mr. A. J. Van Rossem, Pp. 215-216, discusses some of the much argued aspects of the present status of the subspecies. Mr. Van Rossem remarks, "If the rank and file of bird students would . . . think of the determined "subspecies" as admittedly short but still definite steps along the evolutionary highway, not only would the science of ornithology be benefitted by a new interest, but we would be spared much of the ranting about 'hair-splitting. . . .'. We agree with the fundamental principles expressed but still hold that there is a limit to the fineness of splitting, beyond which it is impractical to go. Forms that are too faintly characterized to be demonstrable to those of reasonably acute perceptions and training, may well be studied by particularly gifted experts, but we do question the wisdom of naming them with

the full subspecific formality that demands their general recognition and use. He also questions the criterion of intergradation as a test for subspecific status and finally decides that "The criteria of isolation for the use of the binomial and of actual blood fusion for the use of the trinomial will, I believe, prove the ultimate ones to be adopted" To the criterion of isolation unaccompanied by evidences of differentiation, we take exception. That isolation always does produce immediate specific differentiation is an unwarranted conclusion. Geographic isolation does not prove genetic isolation. The only acceptable evidence of the latter is its observed fact, i.e., the lack of intergrades. That subspecies should be blood relationship groups seems to the present reviewer too obvious to require special statement but the question is, how are we to recognize blood relationship between variants unless a connection between them is demonstrated by intergradation? There are situations where such intergradation is physically impossible yet where subspecific relation is the most reasonable conclusion. Intergradation where demonstrated is an almost perfect proof of blood relationship; its apparent absence indicates only the greater or lesser probability of the opposite. It is therefore admittedly more or less of a convention, not quite perfect perhaps, but the best test we have and its indications should be followed except where other evidence points in a contrary direction.—P. A. T.

Roosevelt Wild Life Bulletin, Vol. 1, Nos. 3 and 4, New York State College of Forestry, Syracuse University. March, 1923.

These two bulletins contain some of the most noteworthy contributions which have yet been made to the ecology of birds. In No. 3, Aretas A. Saunders deals with "The Summer Birds of the Alleghany State Park", treating of them under the headings "Birds of the Upland Thickets", "Birds of the Forest Floor", "Birds of the Forest Trees",

"Birds of the Marshes", etc., etc., and giving a "key", a most excellent feature of which is the inclusion of females and young, and not only adult males as is unfortunately done in the case of so many intended "keys" for the identification of birds. In the same number Edmund J. Sawyer writes on "The Ruffed Grouse, with Special Reference to its Drumming." In this paper Mr. Sawyer first briefly reviews the various theories as to how the Ruffed Grouse drums. He then states that he has watched at a distance of a dozen feet the beginning, progress and ending of at least a hundred drummings, and found that each instance was a demonstration of the fact that the forceful, sound-producing blow was the *outward* and *upward* (not the downward and inward) motion of the wings. The remainder of the paper is devoted to the nesting, family life, and life of the Ruffed Grouse in winter. This article is illustrated with a good series of photographs of drumming Grouse.

In No. 4 the first paper is "The Relation of Summer Birds to the Western Adirondack Forest" by Perley M. Silloway, in which not only are the general forest habitats discussed, but the influence of certain forest trees on bird life is dealt with. Mr. Silloway presents a census of the birds found on areas varying from 4 to 10 acres in each habitat, a very difficult undertaking on the carrying out of which he is to be congratulated. In "Notes on the Relation of Birds to Adirondack Forest Vegetation", C. C. Adams presents some very interesting data, especially in regard to reforestation by birds. Dr. Adams states that, "We must therefore look upon the scattering of seeds by birds and other wild animals as a method of reforestation done without charge. This is a very valuable service, which supplements the wind-blown seeds of the aspens and birches."

Each number contains four full-page plates of birds in colours by E. J. Sawyer, the poses, colouration and grouping of the birds being excellent.—A. B. K.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Bird-Lore of the Northern Indians by Frank G. Speck. Reprint from Volume VII, Public Lectures by University of Pennsylvania Faculty, 1919-20. Philadelphia, Pa., 1921.

Ethnobotany of the Menomini Indians by Huron H. Smith. Bulletin of the Public Museum of the City of Milwaukee. Vol. 4, No. 1, December 10, 1923.

Reptile and Amphibian Notes from Intervale, New Hampshire, by Frank G. Speck. *Copeia*, No. 70, pp. 46-48. June 23, 1919.

The Origin of the Belief that Snakes Swallow their Young for Protection by Frank G. Speck. *Copeia*, No. 98, pp. 51-54. September 1, 1921.

Notes on Thamnophis sirtalis from Cape Ann, Massachusetts, by Frank G. Speck. *Copeia*, No. 37, pp. 91-92. November 24, 1916.

Testing Folk-Lore by Observations on Butler's Garter Snake by Frank G. Speck. *Copeia*, No. 57, pp. 56-60. May 15, 1918.

Le Gerfaut, 1923, Fascicule III-IV. Bruxelles, Belgique.

Revista do Museu Paulista Tomo XIII. Sao Paulo, Brasil.

Report of the Canadian Arctic Expedition 1913-18. Volume IV: Botany. Part A: Freshwater Algae and Freshwater Diatoms by Charles W. Lowe. Ottawa, February 20, 1923.

Report of the Canadian Arctic Expedition 1913-18. Volume IV: Botany. Part C: Fungi by John Dearnass. Ottawa, June 1, 1923.

Report of the Secretary of Agriculture, 1923. Washington, 1923.





Taverner, P. A. 1924. "The Condor." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 38(2), 39–40.
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