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Wetmore's 'the Birds of Haiti and the Dominican Republic'

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But withal the best part of the report is that—some four and a half pages—devoted to the Guacharo, and this alone amply justifies its publication.—E. G. H.

Nichols' 'Birds of Marsh and Mere.'—In 1926 under the above title Mr. J. C. M. Nichols published an attractive little volume dealing mainly with British game birds and more recently a second edition has appeared.¹ It is a book that will please all lovers of sport, especially duck hunters to which subject it is mainly devoted. Beginning with the Geese—the Gray Lag, White-fronted, Bean and Pink-footed, with the "Black Geese," Bernicle and Brant—we have interesting accounts of their habits and their shooting, interspersed with anecdotes and personal experiences which will appeal strongly to the sportsman. Following are detailed accounts of blinds, guns, and ammunition as used in England.

Then the Ducks are considered and there are chapters on 'Shooting in Canada,' the 'Larger Wading birds and Shorebird Shooting,' the latter a sport no longer permissible in America.

It is interesting to read of the abundance of the European Widgeon and of the occasional capture of an American Widgeon, just the reverse of conditions on our own coasts, but the mention of the regular migration of the Trumpeter Swans in Canada must surely be a slip of the pen for the Whistling Swan, a species which is not mentioned.

The author's statement that Geese feed in the fields on moonlight nights just as they do in the daylight and his theory that they resort to the shore the next day "for salt and sand to help digest their meal" is interesting though perhaps the theory is not proven. The book is full of such little bits of fact and theory on the habits of the birds which add much to its interest.

Mr. Nichols, by the way, is not only author but artist as well and has furnished a lot of line sketches and excellent wash or pencil drawings mainly of birds on the wing, reproduced in half-tone as well as a color plate of the White-fronted Goose.—W. S.

Wetmore's 'The Birds of Haiti and the Dominican Republic.'—As is generally known Dr. Alexander Wetmore has for some time been interested in the bird life of Haiti and San Domingo and the results of his explorations in the island and his studies of its avifauna have just been published as a Bulletin of the U. S. National Museum.²

This report owes its inception to the researches of Dr. William L. Abbott who in 1883 and again from 1916 to 1923 made extensive collections on the

¹ Birds of Marsh and Mere and how to Shoot them. By J. C. M. Nichols, with an Introductory Note by J. G. Millais. Illustrated by the Author. Heath Cranton, Limited. 6 Fleet Lane, London, E. C. 4. Pp. 1-287. Price 7 shillings, 6 pence net., postage 6 pence extra.

² The Birds of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. By Alexander Wetmore and Bradshaw H. Swales. Bulletin 155 U. S. National Museum, U. S. Government Printing Office. Washington: 1931. Pp. 1-483, pl. 1-26. (For sale by the Supt. of Documents, Washington, D. C., Price \$1.00.)

island and its adjacent islets, the first collection being presented to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and those obtained on the later trips to the U. S. National Museum. These latter were partly worked over for publication by the late Bradshaw H. Swales and his name appears as joint author of the present volume.

In addition to the notes accompanying the collections of Dr. Abbott and Dr. Wetmore, upon which the report is mainly based, all previous literature has been studied and the collections in the museums at Cambridge, New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago have been examined so that the report becomes in reality a monograph of the avifauna of this most interesting island. The discovery by Dr. Abbott of such unlooked for birds as *Brachyospiza* and *Loxia* in the interior of Haiti attracted not a little attention to this region and several ornithologists were led to visit it, notably James Bond who made investigations in the interest of the Philadelphia Academy with excellent results, those of his last trip being published too late to be included in this work.

In form Dr. Wetmore's report is a model for such publications. The account of each species begins with a list of vernacular names and a full synonymy of papers relative to its occurrence on the island, followed by an extended account of its life history and a list of recorded localities where it has been found. Of especial interest is the inclusion of the fossil birds described from the bone deposits in the caves of the island.

There is, too, an interesting historical introduction with an account of the physical features of the island with lists of the characteristic birds of the several regions as well as of transients and winter visitants from North America.

Many illustrations from photographs give a good idea of the several habitats while some half-tones from paintings by Allan Brooks depict several of the most interesting birds. While there is a table of contents and an excellent bibliography there is no list of plates although such a list would be a desirable addition to these 'Bulletins.'

Dr. Wetmore is to be congratulated upon an admirable piece of work and a worthy successor to his 'Birds of Porto Rico.'—W. S.

Mrs. Nice's 'Birds of Oklahoma.'—We have come to regard Mrs. Nice as our authority on the birds of Oklahoma and now that her "habitat" has been moved eastward to Ohio it is gratifying to have her observations covering over ten years of intensive study placed on permanent record.

The report¹ opens with an interesting historical review of Oklahoma ornithology beginning with the accounts of Edwin James, a member of Major Long's Expedition of 1820, when Paroquets, Egrets, and Ivory-billed Woodpeckers were present in abundance. The physical features of the state are then considered with a general account of the bird life. We

¹ *The Birds of Oklahoma*. Revised Edition. By Margaret Morse Nice. Vol. III, Biological Survey, No. 1, Publ. Univ. Oklahoma. Norman, Univ. Oklahoma Press, 1931. Pp. 1-224.