

and makes it possible to include the whole 8839 names and some 24,000 references on 180 octavo pages.

A casual glance over the pages does not disclose any typographical errors and we have been able to find only one omission. The real test of course must come from actual use, but the general appearance of the list indicates a very careful piece of work.

A recent letter from the author states that his editorial duties seriously interfere with his ornithological research work, but if his time and opportunities permit only of the preparation of such valuable compilations as the one before us he need have no fear of being charged with neglecting his favorite science. Anyone who has had experience with the dreary monotony of compiling a list or index will fully appreciate the labor involved in Mr. McGregor's modest publication and will recognize the indebtedness that all those interested in systematic ornithology must feel toward him for his helpful work. McGregor's 'Index' will henceforth take the place of the familiar 'Waterhouse' and the fact that a publication of this sort bears the imprint of Manila is a tribute to the good judgment of those who direct the Philippine Bureau of Science.—W. S.

Witherby's 'Handbook of British Birds.'²—The appearance of a bulky double part 7-8, on April 8, completes the first volume of this admirable work. The birds treated cover the Thrushes and their allies, the Wrens, the Dippers and the Swallows, while two half-tone plates illustrate the juvenal plumages of the first of these families and a third depicts the several geographic races of the Wren and the Dipper.

The genus *Nannus* is regarded as not separable from *Troglodytes* and our American Winter Wren and Barn Swallow are regarded as subspecies of their European representatives instead of distinct species.

The work lives up to the high standard established by the first part and volume one is completed before the time set by the publishers, on both of which accomplishments they are to be congratulated.—W. S.

Hartert's 'Die Vogel der palaarktischen Fauna.'—The present part of Dr. Hartert's famous work covers the Ibises, Herons, Flamingos and Ducks and Geese. The treatment is the same as in the preceding parts and the same high standard is maintained. We notice in the nomenclature certain practices which differ from those of the A. O. U. 'Check-List.' The genera *Herodias* and *Egretta* for instance are united, as are also *Anas*, *Nettion*, *Querquedula*, *Chauleasmus*, *Mareca* and *Dafila*, while

¹ Index to the Genera of Birds. By Richard C. McGregor. Manila, Bureau of Printing, 1920, pp. 1-185. (Dept. of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Publication 14, March 31, 1920.)

² A Practical Handbook of British Birds. Edited by H. F. Witherby. Parts 7-8, April 8, 1920. Price 4s. net per part. Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, W. C. I.

Chen is not considered separable from *Anser*, nor *Olor* from *Cygnus*. Our Redhead, moreover, is regarded as a subspecies of *Nyroca ferina*, and our Green-winged Teal a subspecies of *Nettion crecca*. While we personally approve some of the generic reductions we do not think that the facts warrant these subspecific references. The reference of all the forms of Green Heron as subspecies of the South American *Butorides striatus* also seems unwarranted. Under this species we notice two new forms: *B. s. degans* (p. 1251), Seychelles; and *B. s. moluccarum* (p. 1251), Moluccas.

Increased cost of printing necessitates an increase in the price of the work of eight marks per part.—W. S.

Chapman's 'What Bird is That?'¹—In these days when almost every other person one meets is a bird student, there is a constant demand for bird books especially those that present the subject in a novel manner. Such a work is the latest of Dr. Chapman's ornithological textbooks entitled 'What Bird is That?' which answers the question presented in its title in a most satisfactory manner.

Instead of the usual analytical key we find at the beginning of the volume little colored pictures of all the land birds of the Eastern United States. They are represented on stands and branches as mounted museum specimens, arranged on the shelves of a case, or series of cases, and are grouped according to season, so that in cases 1 and 2 we find all of the winter birds of the region, in cases 5 and 6 the early spring migrants and so on. Having found our bird among the colored figures we turn to the main text which covers the 300 species of the Eastern States and find a short description with dates of occurrence at several localities, taken from the author's well-known 'Handbook,' and a paragraph covering the more striking habits of the species, and its nesting.

The book is an elaboration of the plan, first adopted, we believe, by Dr. Chapman, in the American Museum of Natural History, of exhibiting in one case the birds present about the immediate neighborhood and changing the specimens from month to month as the winter birds depart and the migrants arrive from the south. This narrows down the task of identification to the species most likely to be seen at the time and eliminates many confusing possibilities.

The artist Mr. E. J. Sawyer is to be congratulated upon the accuracy of his figures for in spite of their small size—there are sometimes over 40 on a page—he has presented characteristic poses for the most part, while no important detail of color seems to have been overlooked.

¹What Bird Is That? A Pocket Museum of the Land Birds of the Eastern United States arranged according to Season. By Frank M. Chapman. Curator of Birds in the American Museum of Natural History and Editor of 'Bird-Lore.' With 301 Birds in Color, by Edmund J. Sawyer. D. Appleton and Company, New York and London, 1920. 12mo., pp. i-xxvi, 1-144, 8 color plates. Price \$1.25 net.