

The paper is a valuable contribution to the bird life of a little known part of the African continent and the collector is to be congratulated upon making such a good collection under unusual difficulties, and the author upon working up the material so satisfactorily.—W. S.

Stuart Baker's 'Hand-List of the Birds of India.'—This work¹ consists of a reprint of the lists that have been appearing in the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society, December, 1920 to April, 1923, repaged, with addenda covering seven pages. It presents a handy list of the birds of the Indian Empire, 2138 in number, including subspecies.

Technical and English names are given with the citation of original publication and type locality and a brief statement of range.

The author is now engaged upon his 'Avifauna of British India,' one volume of which has appeared, and the present list is to give working ornithologists a "rough catalogue showing what advance had already been made in distribution, nomenclature, etc., since Blanford's time" and to "fill the gap until the last volume of the 'Avifauna' appears." The list will prove exceedingly useful and we hope ornithologists will accede to Mr. Stuart Baker's request and give him the benefit of any suggestions they may have tending to make the list more perfect.—W. S.

Birds in the Ecology of Spitsbergen and Bear Island.—The 29th paper² resulting from the Oxford University Expedition to Spitsbergen, 1921, deals with ecology. Birds are frequently mentioned and numerous notes on their food are given. The interesting conclusion is reached that birds contribute in an important way to maintenance of abundance and variety of life in the region, by bringing to the land as the residue of their marine food the principal supply of nitrogen upon which the plants subsist and which is therefore essential to the existence of various chains of organisms. Three species of Collembola, four of Terdigrades and one of diptera were found to live in the nest material of the birds and several species of bird lice live directly upon their hosts. All in all it is evident that birds play a very important part in the economy of the limited biota of these far northern lands.—W. L. M.

Economic Ornithology in Recent Entomological Publications.—The rather heterogeneous contributions to economic ornithology here noted are related only by occurrence in publications regarded as entomological.

¹ A Hand-List of Genera and Species of Birds of the Indian Empire. By E. C. Stuart Baker. Reprinted from the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society together with a Foreword and Addenda and Corrigenda prepared by the Author. Bombay [1923] pp. i-ix + 1-240. Price 6 Rupees (8 shillings net). Sold by Dulac & Co., 34-36 Margaret St., Cavendish Square, London.

² Sumner Hayes, U. S. and Elton, C. S. Journ. Ecol. 11, No. 2, Sept., 1923, pp. 214-286, pls. 2-4, figs. 1-7.