

These cards will prove of the utmost educational value and will interest children throughout the country and turn their attention more firmly to bird study and protection. We are glad to learn that sets covering the early and late spring migrants are in preparation and trust that others on the summer residents and on the birds of the South and West will follow. Some cards will of necessity appear in two or more sets and some readjustments on the lines above suggested could then be made. The Society is to be congratulated upon this admirable publication.—W. S.

Hales' 'Prairie Birds.' This is another of the popular bird books designed to help the beginner, the teacher, and the amateur student to identify their birds, and is especially designed to cover the birds of the interior prairie country, as the author considers that the student is confused by the inclusion of species which do not occur in his district.

The little volume¹ will, we feel sure, fulfill its object as it presents satisfactory descriptions and brief sketches of the habits of the birds of the Middle West while the numerous cuts from 'Citizen Bird,' 'The Osprey,' and other works, will aid in identification, although the few color plates are very poorly printed. We regret that the author did not include more color keys such as has been presented for the adult males of the Finches. The Shore-birds and Warblers, especially, might with advantage have received similar treatment.

Prof. Hales apparently does not believe in trinomials and has cut off the third name in most cases although curiously enough he has retained it in cases where European subspecies are involved as in *Certhia familiaris americana* and *Pica pica hudsonia*. Notes are to be found throughout the text referring to the occurrence of various birds in Manitoba and Alberta which give to the work a local flavor.—W. S.

Metcalf's 'Wandering Among Forgotten Isles.' This delightful narrative² describes a cruise by the author and some congenial friends through the waters of the western Mediterranean Sea and to the Canaries, Madeira and the Salvages. Incidentally many marine specimens were collected for the American Museum of Natural History—fish, seals, petrels, etc., and a chapter by Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy, who was one of the party, summarizes the scientific results of the cruise.

To the ornithologist the most interesting chapter is one describing the rearing of a young Petrel (*Oestralata mollis faae*) which was fed by one of the ladies on raw fish which she masticated and fed to the bird by allowing it to insert its slender bill between her lips. In this way the bird was kept

¹ *Prairie Birds.* By B. J. Hales, B.A., LL.B., Principal Normal School, Brandon, Manitoba. Toronto: The Macmillan Company of Canada Limited, at St. Martin's House. 1927, pp. i-xv+1-334.

² *Wandering Among Forgotten Isles.* By Jesse Metcalf. With a Chapter on the Scientific Results of the Cruise by Robert Cushman Murphy, D.Sc. Illustrated. J. H. Sears & Company, Inc., Publishers. New York [1927], pp. 1-306. Price \$3.50.

in a healthy condition for four months being taken home to New York by way of France and England. This is we believe the first instance of a Petrel being kept alive in captivity for any length of time, not to mention a young bird going through the serious operation of feather growth. The necessary addition at times of cod-liver oil to the food that was masticated is all the more tribute to the patience and determination of the foster mother!

The book is attractively printed and well illustrated with half-tones from photographs.—W. S.

Lönningberg on the Origin of the North American Fauna. This paper¹ read at the International Ornithological Congress at Copenhagen discusses the geological history of America and the probable incursions of birds that have taken place. The author's general conclusions are that the North American avifauna may be divided into three groups (1) Endemic birds, (2) Descendants of Old World Immigrants, and (3) Descendants of South American Immigrants. He regards the Wren-tit the Surf-bird, the Mockers, etc., the Wood Warblers, Vireos, Waxwings, Wrens, and Icteridae as more or less certainly of North American origin and explains that the effects of the ice age in driving endemic forms south has displaced many groups so as to obscure their geographic origin.

As South American incursions he mentions the Tyrant Flycatchers, New World Vultures, Tanagers, Goatsuckers, Swifts, Hummingbirds, and probably the Cracidae. The Parrots he regards as of Australian origin and considers that they reached South America at a very early period in the same way as did the marsupial mammals, and the Hylidae and Cystignathidae among the batrachians.

Papers of this kind are extremely interesting for those who enjoy theorizing and only by such means, coupled with facts that are constantly being brought out regarding relationship, the presence of fossil forms, etc., can we ultimately arrive at a clear idea of the origin of faunas. Prof. Lönningberg has certainly presented some food for thought and his paper will be sure to arouse the interest of younger students who are just beginning to realize the importance of geographical distribution.—W. S.

Aves of Kükenthal and Krumbach's 'Handbuch der Zoologie.'

The bird volume of this important work² is contributed by Dr. Erwin Stresemann the first part appearing in the spring of 1927. It covers the definition and characteristics of birds and their morphology, treating of

¹ Some Speculations on the Origin of the North American Fauna. By Einar Lönningberg. Kungl. Svenska Vetensk. Acad. Handlingar. Third Series. Band No. 6. 1927, pp. 1-24.

² Handbuch der Zoologie. Gegründet von Dr. Willy Kükenthal, herausgegeben von Dr. Thilo Krumbach. Siebenter Band. Sauropsida: Allgemeines, Reptilia. Aves. Zweite Hälfte. Erste Lieferung, Bogen 1 bis 7. Ausgegeben am 22 April, 1927. Aves von Erwin Stresemann. Pp. 1-112. Berlin and Leipzig 1927. Walter de Gruyter & Co.