

and put them on permanent record before the fragile manuscripts are lost forever. And would that our present day sportsmen would take the time to keep such records for the benefit of posterity.—W. S.

Bent's Life Histories of North American Shore Birds.—We have before us Mr. Bent's eighth volume¹ of his "life histories," completing the Shore Birds, and would congratulate him upon the splendid progress that he is making with this great undertaking.

Many familiar species are treated in the present volume including the Willet, Upland Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Hudsonian Curlew, Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, Killdeer and Turnstone. As heretofore the author has had the hearty coöperation of a host of students of the breeding habits of birds, as well as of photographers, so that the high standard of both text and illustrations is amply maintained, while Mr. F. C. Lincoln has again, on behalf of the Biological Survey, compiled the distributions of the species from the Survey records. Several special life histories have been contributed by Dr. Charles W. Townsend, Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain and Dr. Winsor M. Tyler.

In turning the pages of Mr. Bent's work we must again express our amazement at the vast amount of information that he has been able to collect and the admirable manner in which it has been presented. All ornithologists are indeed deeply indebted to him for his devoted labors in their behalf.—W. S.

Audubon Bird Cards.—We are pleased to see another set of "bird cards" issued by the National Association of Audubon Societies, from paintings by Allan Brooks. This set² is entitled "50 Summer Birds of Eastern North America" and contains an excellent collection, without of course duplicating those in previous issues.

The artist, in the great majority of cases, has been most successful in his poses, and the color reproduction is excellent with the exception of the Least Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo and Catbird which are entirely too dark. The text is helpful and instructive.

The value of these bird cards cannot be overestimated; not only will they prove indispensable to schools and children but every lover of birds will wish to have a set for handy reference in his ornithological library.—W. S.

Hellmayr on the Ornithology of Northeastern Brazil.—When Dr. Hellmayr came to Chicago to assume the continuation of Cory's

¹ Life Histories of North American Shore Birds, Order Limicolae (Part 2). By Arthur Cleveland Bent of Taunton, Massachusetts. U. S. National Museum Bulletin 146. Washington, 1929. pp. i-ix + 1-412 (63 of the 66 plates are included in the pagination but plates 1 to 3 are not). Price \$1.00; to be had from the Supt. of Documents, U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

² Audubon Bird Cards, Set No. 3. 50 Summer Birds of Eastern North America. From Color Drawings by Allan Brooks. Published by the National Association of Audubon Societies, 1974 Broadway, N. Y. City. Sold in Sets. Price \$1.00.

'Birds of the Americas' there were Brazilian explorations either completed or planned which have resulted in the acquisition by the Field Museum of much valuable material from the states of Maranhao, Piauhy and Ceara, obtained mainly by R. H. Becker and H. E. Snethlage. These collections form the basis of an extended report by Dr. Hellmayr¹ which has recently appeared as Publication 255 of the Museum.

The author has greatly enhanced the value of his work by including all published records of the birds of the region under consideration and by the study of collections in European museums, notably that of O. Reiser in the Vienna Academy. No less than 524 species and subspecies are included with full references, lists of specimens examined and comments on distribution and relationship. A valuable introduction contains a discussion of the zoogeography and history of the region as well as the itineraries of the several expeditions.

Unfortunately there is no index nor list of new forms described, both of which would be of great assistance to those who use the report. We note however the following new forms *Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus pallidiventris* (309) new name for *E. a. minor* Hellmayr; *Neorhopias serrana* (p. 377) Minas Geraes, Brazil; *Threnetes leucurus medianus* (p. 381) Tury-assu, Maranhao, Brazil; *Eupetomena macroura simoni* (p. 386) Rio do Peixe, Bahia; *Veniliornis passerinus transfuialis* (p. 413) Macaco Secco, Bahia; *Picumnus exilis alegriae* (p. 419) Tury-assu, Maranhao; *Forpus passerinus flavissimus* (446) Tury-assu, Maranhao.

Dr. Hellmayr's report is one of the most important recent contributions to the ornithology of Brazil and will be of the greatest assistance to the student of the neotropical avifauna.—W. S.

Miss Cooke on the Birds of the Washington Region.—Since the classic list of Coues and Prentiss in 1862 there have been a number of lists of the birds of Washington, D. C. and now Miss Cooke has added another,² bringing the matter up to date and forming the most satisfactory and comprehensive compilation on the subject.

The number of species has increased from 224 (with 2 hypothetical) in 1862 to 301 (with 7 hypothetical and 3 hybrids) in 1929, though we note that the count in 1928 is given as 306 with 2 hybrids and 2 hypothetical, just which forms have been transferred and what additional species has been added is not clear.

There is a chronological bibliography which lists all of the important publications on the birds of the District, and tables of arrival and departure dates, while the main portion of the text consists of a well annotated

¹ A Contribution to the Ornithology of Northeastern Brazil. By Charles E. Hellmayr, Associate Curator of Birds. Wilfred H. Osgood, Curator, Department of Zoology, Editor. Publication 255 Field Museum of Natural History, Zoological Series, Vol. XII, No. 18. Chicago, March 4, 1929. pp. 235-501 with outline map.

² Birds of the Washington D. C. Region. By May Thacher Cooke. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. 42, pp. 1-80. March 25, 1929.