

'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, Piauhay 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; *Neorhophias 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.

list. Probably no area in the United States has undergone intensive study by so many notable ornithologists as has the vicinity of Washington and yet we find that an additional species was added to the list in each of the years 1926, 1927 and 1928 so that it would appear that we can never exhaust the ornithology of any district, and that, as Dr. Grinnell has somewhere stated, the potential bird list of any state or district is that of North America!

Miss Cooke is to be congratulated upon a very careful piece of work which will be of the greatest value to the bird students of the District and its environs.—W. S.

Schantz's 'Birds of Illinois.'—Illinois is fortunate in the number of its state bird lists. It is not long since we had the pleasure of noticing the Audubon Society's 'Check-List' by B. T. Gault, and now we have a handy little booklet by O. M. Schantz,¹ published by the State Department of Conservation. It is a list of the birds of the state with technical and English names, the length of each species, mention of several prominent field marks, and an indication of the character of its occurrence. There are in addition numerous illustrations in the form of text cuts which have been borrowed from various sources, some of them, having done service for upwards of fifty years, are nevertheless better than certain of the more modern productions, notably a figure of the Greater Yellow-legs with legs not more than half their proper length.

Unfortunately the figures marked Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will seem both to represent the former species and are likely to still further confuse these birds in the popular mind.

These however are minor slips. There is an excellent introduction, descriptive paragraphs at the head of each family and a closing chapter on the economic value of birds which will do much good, while the attractive colored figure of the Cardinal on the cover will draw the attention of many persons to a perusal of the contents with profit both to the birds and to themselves.—W. S.

Lucanus' 'Rätsel des Vogelzuges.'—Dr. Lucanus has recently issued a third, revised, edition of his little volume on bird migration² reviewed in these columns in 1922. Evidently the work is attracting merited attention and while it still lacks consideration of recent American publications it presents an excellent review of the subject from a European viewpoint. Through such publications as this the ranks of bird banders

¹ Birds of Illinois. By Orpheus Moyer Schantz. Conservation Publication No. 6. State of Illinois Department of Conservation. Springfield, 1928. pp. 1-123 including title page and map but excluding 6 pages of index.

² Die Rätsel des Vogelzuges, Ihre Lösung auf experimentellem Wege durch Luftfahrt und Vogelberingung. Von Friedrich von Lucanus. Dritte, vermehrte und verbesserte Auflage. Mit 4 Textabbildungen und 1 Tafel. Langensalza, Hermann Beyer & Söhne (Beyer & Mann.) 1929. pp. i-x+1-266. Price 8. 40 RM, bound 10 RM.