

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.

and other students of migration should be greatly increased and perhaps some of the "mystery" of the subject eventually dispelled.—W. S.

Todd's 'Review of the Wood Warblers of the Genus *Basileuterus* and its Allies.'—This paper¹ is a careful detailed study of a rather difficult group and will prove of great help to the student of neotropical birds. Mr. Todd explains why he finds it necessary to recognize the genera *Myiothlypis* (for *nigrocristatus*), *Idiotes* (for *ruffrons*) and to propose a new genus, *Phaeothlypis* (p. 8), for *fulvicauda* and its allies.

He also shows that the genus *Basileuterus* Cabanis is really, according to a strict interpretation of the rules, a synonym of *Helmitherus* Rafinesque by virtue of *Sylvia vermivora* Vieillot being the only species cited. He however proposes to take as the type *B. auricapillus olivaceus*, which bears a remarkable resemblance to *Helmitherus vermivorus* and was, he thinks, the bird that Cabanis had in mind, and so retain the time-honored name which has been fortunate in escaping any synonyms.

The author recognizes six forms of *Phaeothlypis* belonging to three species; thirty-two of *Basileuterus* arranged in twenty-four species and five of *Idiotes* all subspecies of *ruffrons*.

New forms described are *P. semicervina annexa* (p. 15) Pomara, northern Peru; *B. castaneiceps chapmani* (p. 32) Chaupe, northern Peru; *B. coronatus notius* (p. 33) Yungas, Bolivia; *B. c. elatus* (p. 35) Chunchi, Ecuador; *B. c. regulus* (p. 36) Paramo de Rosas, Venezuela; *B. signatus flavovirens* (p. 45) Incachaca, Bolivia.

Through the cooperation of other institutions Mr. Todd had before him for study no less than 2615 specimens which gives some idea of the thoroughness of his investigation.—W. S.

Mathews' 'Systema Avium Australasianarum.'—The present list² of the birds of the Australian Region represents the results of the years of research that Mr. Mathews spent upon the subject during the publication of his monumental 'Birds of Australia' as well as such information as he has accumulated since the completion of that work. As is well known, as the years went by and his several lists of Australian birds were published, his views, both as to subspecies and genera, underwent many a change and we now have his latest presentation of the subject. In form and typography this volume of the 'Systema Avium' conforms closely to Sclater's 'Systema Avium Ethiopicarum' but instead of limiting the synonymy to the original place of publication Mr. Mathews cites quite a number of references for many of the forms, moreover no English names are given for any of the species or subspecies.

¹ A Revision of the Wood-Warblers Genus *Basileuterus* and its Allies. By W. E. Clyde Todd, Proc. U. S. Nat. Museum, Vol. 74, Art. 7, pp. 1-95, 1929.

² Systema Avium Australasianarum. A Systematic List of the Birds of the Australian Region. By Gregory M. Mathews, F. R. S. E., M. B. O. U. Prepared in conjunction with Special Committees of the British and American Ornithologists' Unions. Part I, pp. 1-426. June 13, 1927. Weldon and Wesley Ltd., 2-4 Arthur Street. New Oxford Street, W. C. 2. 1927.