

is time that plans for another 'Index' should be underway and with the admirable work of the present Committee before us, we cannot but hope that some of the members will be willing to take up this work and associate with themselves others who will profit by their experience and be able to carry on the work in the future.

Dr. T. S. Palmer, Secretary of the Union, generously consented to act as Chairman of the present Committee, a position which he filled most ably in connection with the previous 'Index' (1901-1910) and to his admirable management we are indebted for the excellence of the present work.

Miss May Thacher Cooke, as co-editor, performed many of the tedious duties of comparing and checking the numerous references, while those who verified reference slips, or indexed volumes first hand, are Alexander Wetmore, E. R. Kalmbach, B. H. Swales, A. H. Howell, F. C. Lincoln, W. L. McAtee, J. H. Riley, C. S. Sperry, C. R. Shoemaker and Harry Harris. Dr. C. W. Richmond checked up the synonymy of foreign species while the final copying of the slips was done by Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Bryant and Miss Bryant. Acknowledgement is made to many others for assistance of various kinds so that the 'Index' is distinctly a piece of A. O. U. "community" work. To the Biological Survey acknowledgement is made for the loan of their index slips for eight of the ten volumes which saved the writing of many cards.

An important addition to the 'Index' proper is a 'Biographical Index,' prepared by the chairman, containing the names of all members of the Union who died during the period covered, as well as of all other ornithologists whose deaths have been announced in 'The Auk.' Dates of birth, death and references to biographical sketches, as well as full names, are included.

Members of the Union should express their appreciation of the tremendous labor that the Committee has performed in preparing this 'Index' by securing a copy and thus too, in part at least, reimburse the Society for the expense involved and make possible the continuance of the compilation for future ten-year periods.—W. S.

**Mrs. Bready's 'The European Starling on his Westward Way.'**—In the foreword to this little book,<sup>1</sup> Dr. Marcus Benjamin refers entirely to the author's study of the songs of the Starling, which constitute Part II of the work and form an original contribution to the study of bird music. There is in this connection a technical discussion of the Starling's "music," a comparison of it with man's music and a consideration of its imitative character; also of the evolution of bird music from primitive forms to the modern scale.

<sup>1</sup> The European Starling on his Western Way (*Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*). Concerning his Economic Value, his Varied Song, his Place among Birds and Three Characteristics. By Marcia Brownell Bready. With a Foreword by Marcus Benjamin, Ph.D., Sc. D., LL. D. Editor United States National Museum, Washington, D. C. The Knickerbocker Press New York. 1929. pp. 1-141 + 1 Plate. Price \$2.00.

The other two parts of the book, dealing with the economic value of the Starling and its systematic position, are compiled from various sources and contain a miscellaneous series of chapters and paragraphs relating to the bird and to various rather distantly related subjects, such as the organization of the Biological Survey, the origin of binomial nomenclature and modern avian classification. In attempting to cover such a wide field there are inevitably a number of errors such as the association of O. C. Marsh and Alexander Wilson as contemporaries and misquotations of names as "Wm. deWaldron" Miller and "Pusey" R. Lowe.

The little volume is well printed and is illustrated by a colored frontispiece of the Starling from the publication of the Biological Survey by Kalmbach.

Everyone interested in the history of this introduced bird whose relation to our native birds will probably become a much more serious problem in the future, will find a wealth of facts and suggestions in Mrs. Bready's book.—W. S.

#### Proceedings of the Sixth International Ornithological Congress.

—A bulky volume<sup>1</sup> of 640 pages printed in Berlin presents the papers read at the International Congress in Copenhagen, in 1926, some of which have already been noticed in these pages. Most of the papers are in German some in English and one or two in French. Many treat of migration and distribution of European birds, which space prevents our listing. Of the other contributions: Fleming presents an account, with map, of the work of the Canadian arctic explorations; Phillips lists birds of the Western Hemisphere extinct or threatened with extinction; Lincoln reviews bird banding in America; Söderberg gives an interesting account of the work of the Bower Birds and the evolution of their decorative habit; Jespersen discusses birds of the high Atlantic Ocean; Reviere presents the results of a number of experiments on homing pigeons to determine how they find their way; Stadler has a paper on bird music; Hartert on need of more care in collecting; Rensch on the species problem; while oölogy is represented by a list of descriptions of eggs of Brazilian birds by Snethlage and Schreiner. There are papers dealing with the life histories or habits of *Corvus frugilegus* by Chappellier, *Tetrao urogallus* by Zedlitz, *Ardea cinerea* by Verway, and *Pastor roseus* by Schenk, and systematic reviews of the genus *Alisterus* by Neuman, and of *Gyrfalco* by Kirke Swan; on the distribution of certain African birds by Stresseman and Grote, and on the avifauna of the Hawaiian and Galapagos Islands by Suschkin. Dr. Hartert's presidential address opens the volume which, as will be seen, covers practically every phase of ornithology.—W. S.

---

<sup>1</sup> Verhandlungen des VI. Internationalen Ornithologen-Kongresses in Kopenhagen 1926. Unter Leitung des Präsidenten herausgegeben von Dr. F. Steinbacher. Mit 20 Tafeln. Berlin, Februar 1929. Pp. i-vi + 1-640.