

made to the ornithology of Mexico for some years. Four faunal districts of northwestern Mexico are recognized by Mr. van Rossem as follows: (1) the Colorado Desert District of the northwest; (2) the southern extension of the "Eastern Plains Area" of Swarth, which, like the former, extends well into Arizona and also takes in a part of New Mexico; (3) the southern Alamos District including parts of Chihuahua and Sinaloa, and (4) Tiburon and Esteban Islands.

All of the specimens of each form are listed with localities and dates and there is much valuable discussion of relationships. It is to be regretted that the paper did not appear in time to be utilized in the forthcoming A. O. U. 'Check-List' as it throws much light upon several problems upon which the Committee was poorly informed. We congratulate Mr. van Rossem upon an admirable piece of work.—W. S.

Ten Year Index to 'The Condor.'—On April 15 last, appeared the third ten-year index¹ to 'The Condor' covering the period 1919–1928, the compilation being the work of Mr. George Willett. It follows closely the general plan of the preceding index but with several improvements, notably the indexing of all specific names independently as well as under their genera. These ten-year indexes to both 'Auk' and 'Condor' are simply indispensable to anyone seeking ornithological information, as they serve as the key to unlock the storehouse of information contained in these journals, most of which would otherwise be inaccessible. Everyone who owns a set of 'The Condor' must have this as well as the two preceding indexes.

Mr. Willett deserves the thanks of all 'Condor' readers and of ornithologists in general for his painstaking work. Only those who have prepared such an index know the amount of labor that it involves!—W. S.

Bowen on Birds of East Africa.—Mr. Prentiss N. Gray made a trip through British East Africa and Angola in 1929 in the interests of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and included in his party Mr. W. Wedgwood Bowen, now assistant curator of birds in that institution, as ornithologist. A collection of 596 specimens of birds was obtained in the former region which has been reported upon by Mr. Bowen in the present publication,² while an account of the Angola collection will follow. In the present annotated list 225 species are included; the specimens of each are enumerated, with field notes, discussions of plumages and, in many instances, notes on nests and eggs. In several cases the relationships of various allied forms are discussed. All new forms obtained have been published in advance and notices of these papers have already appeared in these columns.

¹ Third Ten Year Index to The Condor, 1919–1928. By George Willett. Pacific Coast Avifauna, Number 20, Cooper Ornithological Club, Berkeley, California. April 15, 1931, pp. 1–152. Price \$4.00, apply to W. Lee Chambers, 2068 Escarpa Drive, Eagle Rock, Los Angeles, California.

² East African Birds Collected During the Gray African Expedition—1929. By W. Wedgwood Bowen. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., LXXXIII, pp. 11–79, May 27, 1931.

Collecting was carried on mainly at Meru in Kenya Colony and in the Ikoma region in Tanganyika Territory but some specimens were obtained at Mombasa and at additional localities in Kenya.

The most interesting feature of the Tanganyika trip, which covered June and July, was the breeding of many of the species encountered. A colored plate of the Kingfisher, *Halcyon albiventris prentissgrayi* Bowen, from a painting by Earl L. Poole forms a frontispiece to the paper.

Mr. Bowen has made a valuable and welcome contribution to our knowledge of the avifauna of this interesting region. As this issue is going through the press, Mr. Bowen's report on the Angola collection¹ has appeared. It opens with a description of the country with a cross section map showing the elevation of the collecting stations, and lists of the species arranged in accordance with breeding activities (in September and October). Then follows the excellent annotated list of 124 species, with a number of photographs illustrating the various habitats and nests and young of several species.—W. S.

'Cope: Master Naturalist.'—One of the most interesting biographies that we have read is Professor Osborn's life of Edward D. Cope,² interesting not only from the close association of subject and biographer, but from the fact that it is based so largely upon Cope's own letters, especially to members of his family, which shed so much light upon Cope, the man, a side that was little known to those who came in contact only with Cope, the naturalist. These letters, more even than the astonishing bibliography which closes the volume, show the wonderful breadth of knowledge that he possessed and the ability to write entertainingly or comment intelligently upon any subject—sociology, suffrage, art or music as well as science in practically all of its branches.

Professor Osborn has handled the biography very skillfully. He opens with a chapter on the "Pioneers of Palaeontology in America," then follow five chapters in which Cope's life and activities are treated chronologically. Next a chapter on "How Cope earned the title of Master Naturalist" in which are reviewed his contributions to no less than ten branches of science, in at least five of which he stood in the front rank—Palaeontology, Mammology, Ichthyology, Herpetology and the Theory of Evolution. Professor Osborn's 'Personal Reminiscences' and the Bibliography of some 150 pages complete the volume.

While Cope was not, as it happened, an ornithologist he might well

¹ Angolan Birds Collected During the Gray African Expedition, 1929. By W. Wedgwood Bowen. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., LXXXIII, 1931, pp. 263-299.

² Cope: Master Naturalist. The Life and Letters of Edward Drinker Cope, with a bibliography of his writings classified by subjects. A study of the Pioneer and Foundation Periods of Vertebrate Palaeontology in America. By Henry Fairfield Osborn, with the cooperation of Helen Ann Warren. Illustrated with Drawings and Restorations by Charles R. Knight under the Direction of Professor Cope. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey. London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. MCMXXXI, Pp. 1-ix + 1-740, figs. 1-30.