

Filling as it does the need for a clearing house of ornithological observations, the Biological Survey at Washington has evolved a system of indexing and cross-indexing its records and notes which is very effective. The writer, on a recent visit to Washington, was initiated into the well worked out scheme of card indexing by Dr. Oberholser, whom he suspects had a good deal to do with the development of the plan. A room 12 x 16 is fitted with card index cases on three sides. One section of these cases contains records by species, another shows records by states, and each in turn is subdivided as between the observations of members of The Survey and the records of other observers. Published records are included as well as those gleaned from manuscript sent in by correspondents. Another feature is the map case. In this, a lithographed map sheet of the United States is assigned to each species and subspecies and graphically thereon is shown, by means of symbols, the recorded occurrence of the bird in question as a breeder, transient, winter visitor, etc. The system is susceptible of unlimited expansion and deserves a more extended description than can be given here.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

Notes on the Birds of Carroll, Monroe, and Vigo Counties, Indiana. By Barton Warren Evermann. Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science, 1920, pp. 315-401.

A feature of exceptional interest in this paper is the length of the period over which the records extend, for few local lists are published with observations by the same observer dating from the present time as far back as 1877. The loss, by fire, deplored by the author, of most of his notebooks prior to 1888, was indeed a serious one, but the data remaining were certainly worthy of permanent record.

The three counties covered are all in west-central Indiana, though not adjoining one another. Two hundred and thirty-seven species of birds are listed. The treatment is mainly with regard to the manner of occurrence of the species concerned, but scattered through the accounts there are also notes descriptive of habits and mode of life, or, as under the Red-headed Woodpecker, of some original manner of securing specimens or abating a nuisance.

It is a matter of some wonder that the author, amid engrossing interests and far removed from the scene of his earlier bird studies, could find the time and the enthusiasm to place on record these valuable observations.—H. S. Swarth.