

sun and moon may frequently serve certain of the more acute and observing species as guides to direction.

We shall look forward to the appearance of the remaining parts of Mr. Brewster's work with keen interest and with the confidence that when completed it will constitute one of our most important publications on the life histories of North American birds.—W. S.

Gyldenstolpe on Birds of Central Africa.—Count Gyldenstolpe, the author of this important report¹ accompanied the Crown Prince of Sweden Expedition to Central Africa and hence is able not only to discuss the systematic relationship of the various species obtained but to comment on their range and habits from personal experience, which adds not a little to the value and interest of his report.

The expedition starting from Nairobi crossed to Lake Victoria, thence to the Birunga volcanoes and the north shore of Lake Kivu. Turning north it visited Lake Edward and the Congo forest north of Beni, thence to Irumu, Lake Albert and out by way of the Nile. The expedition covered the months of January to August, 1921, inclusive.

There are interesting discussions of the avifauna and physical features of several of the regions visited. The author shows that the avifauna of the Birunga Mountains has been derived mostly from an immigration of southern and eastern forms and not from the West Africa fauna as in the case of Mt. Ruwenzori. He endorses Lömberg's hypothesis that the forest region of tropical Africa was originally of much greater extent and its breaking up into separate areas accounts for the disconnected distribution of various species, or the presence of slightly differentiated races in widely separated localities. With the climatic changes, resulting in great diminution in the rainfall of Eastern and Southern Africa, former forest species were either wiped out or adapted themselves to other environments, forming new species or races.

The annotated list of the species collected or observed occupies most of the report—some 300 pages, and contains very full discussions of their relationship, distribution and nomenclature and in most cases some account of their habits. There is a full list of the specimens, often with measurements and colors of the soft parts, making an exceedingly valuable contribution to the ornithology of Central Africa.

We notice only one new name, *Rhinoploceus* (p. 35), a new subgenus for the interesting Weaver Finch, *Malimbus flavipes*, described by Chapin from the Ituri forest, and of which this expedition obtained two specimens. The new forms secured by the Swedish Expedition were all previously described by the author in the 'Bulletin' of the British Ornithologists' Club.

¹ Zoological Results of the Swedish Expedition to Central Africa, 1921. *Vertebrata I. Birds*. By Nils Gyldenstolpe. With 1 map, 2 plates and 16 figures in the text. Kungl. Svenska Vetensakad. Handlingar Tredje Serien. Band 1, No. 3, 1924, pp. 1-326.

A good map, two colored plates, several half-tones of scenery and a bibliography complete this excellent report.—W. S.

Nice's 'The Birds of Oklahoma.'—This excellent state list¹ places Oklahoma in the lists of States which have thoroughly up-to-date bird lists and there are today but few States that are not so equipped. The annotated list which makes up most of the work includes 361 species and subspecies of which 96 are residents, 117 summer residents, 49 winter visitants, 83 transients and 16 of casual occurrence. There are also 36 species which may be expected to occur, listed separately. The annotations contain many references to publications and to specimens collected and authoritatively identified. The preliminary chapters according to their headings treat of Faunal Areas, Historical Sketch, Changes in Bird Life, Game Laws of Oklahoma, The Economic Value of Birds, and The Attraction and Protection of Birds. There are also a bibliography, a geological map and several views of characteristic scenery.

While the authors deplore the lack of early records of Oklahoma birds the paucity of publications has its advantages since they are largely relieved of the task which falls to most makers of state lists of correcting or repudiating the work of their predecessors. The casual mention of certain species from within the present boundaries of the State by Long's Expedition, Washington Irving, Abert and Woodhouse are the only publications prior to 1900 although a later list by the late Dr. W. W. Cooke deals with observations made in 1883-1884.

The list is carefully compiled and will be welcomed as a work of reference by all faunal ornithologists while it forms an excellent guide book to the college students and young ornithologists who take up a serious study of the birds of their State.—W. S.

Lincoln's 'Instructions for Banding Birds.'—Bird-banding is now too well understood to require any explanation or defence and we need only say that this excellent pamphlet² by Mr. Lincoln, who is in charge of the bird-banding work of the Biological Survey, furnishes all the instruction and advice that the prospective bird-bander will require, with full descriptions and illustrations of such implements, bands, traps, etc., as are needed in the work. There is also a bibliography of the more important American publications on the subject. It is interesting to note that ten of the nineteen articles listed appeared in 'The Auk.'

¹ *The Birds of Oklahoma.* By Margaret Morse Nice and Leonard Blaine Nice. University of Oklahoma Bulletin. New Series No. 20, University Studies No. 286, May 15, 1924, pp. 1-122, pls. 1-11.

² *Instructions for Banding Birds.* By Frederick C. Lincoln, Assistant Biologist, Division of Biological Investigations, Bureau of Biological Survey. U. S. Dept. Agriculture. Miscellaneous Circular No. 18. Washington, D. C., May, 1924, pp. 1-28. Price 10 cents, to be ordered from Supt. of Documents, Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D. C.