

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.

In glancing over the pages of Mr. Lincoln's pamphlet one cannot but be struck with the resemblance between the cuts here presented and those illustrating books on bird catching, published before the days of protection. We can never tell what revivals will take place and what methods once branded as nefarious will come into good and honorable use!—W. S.

Murphy on the Results of the Whitney South Sea Expedition.—

While we are informed that the American Museum will in due course publish an appropriate record of this investigation of the avifauna of Polynesia made possible by the generous patronage of Mr. Harry Payne Whitney, it has seemed desirable to publish, at once, lists of the birds so far obtained, and Dr. Murphy has prepared two contributions to this end.¹ The collecting is under the direction of Rollo H. Beck and so far no less than ninety of the South Pacific Islands have been visited, mainly in the Tuamotu, Marquesas, Society, Austral, Cook and Samoan groups.

The first paper deals with Gallinaceous birds and Pigeons and includes accounts of seventeen species. *Thyliphaps* (p. 7) is proposed as a new genus for *Ptilinopus huttoni* of Rapa or Oparo Island, known previously from a single specimen obtained in 1873. *Ptilopus dupetithouarsi viridior* (p. 4) is described as new, from Nukuhiva Island, Marquesas.

The second paper covers Pigeons, Rails and Petrels and we find the new genus *Nesophylax* (p. 5) proposed for *Porzana atra* of Henderson Island. Eight species are here considered.

It seems peculiarly fitting that this investigation should be undertaken by Americans since it was the U. S. Exploring Expedition which first made known many of the forms now being listed by Dr. Murphy and the name of Peale, the ornithologist of that famous expedition, occurs frequently as we turn the pages of these papers.—W. S.

Murphy on the Ornithology of the Cape Verde Islands.—This report² is based primarily upon a collection of 300 skins made in the islands by Mr. Jose G. Correia, in 1922. Besides a well annotated list in which the relationship of the species is considered and data presented on habits, food, etc., with extracts from publications of previous writers, there is a detailed consideration of the geographic relations of the group and of climate and oceanography.

There are 75 species of birds reported from the islands of which 38 are resident and 37 seasonal visitants. Of the first group three are introduced and nine are marine, leaving 26 which can be considered in judging the relationship of the avifauna.

¹ Birds Collected During the Whitney South Sea Expedition. By Robert Cushman Murphy. No. 1, May 29, 1924, Amer. Mus. Novitates, No. 115, pp. 1-11; No. 2, July 22, 1924; *ibid.* No. 124, July 22, 1924.

² The Marine Ornithology of the Cape Verde Islands, with a list of all the Birds of the Archipelago. By Robert Cushman Murphy. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. L, Art. III, pp. 211-278, July 3, 1924.