

in a healthy condition for four months being taken home to New York by way of France and England. This is we believe the first instance of a Petrel being kept alive in captivity for any length of time, not to mention a young bird going through the serious operation of feather growth. The necessary addition at times of cod-liver oil to the food that was masticated is all the more tribute to the patience and determination of the foster mother!

The book is attractively printed and well illustrated with half-tones from photographs.—W. S.

Lönningberg on the Origin of the North American Fauna. This paper¹ read at the International Ornithological Congress at Copenhagen discusses the geological history of America and the probable incursions of birds that have taken place. The author's general conclusions are that the North American avifauna may be divided into three groups (1) Endemic birds, (2) Descendants of Old World Immigrants, and (3) Descendants of South American Immigrants. He regards the Wren-tit the Surf-bird, the Mockers, etc., the Wood Warblers, Vireos, Waxwings, Wrens, and Icteridae as more or less certainly of North American origin and explains that the effects of the ice age in driving endemic forms south has displaced many groups so as to obscure their geographic origin.

As South American incursions he mentions the Tyrant Flycatchers, New World Vultures, Tanagers, Goatsuckers, Swifts, Hummingbirds, and probably the Cracidae. The Parrots he regards as of Australian origin and considers that they reached South America at a very early period in the same way as did the marsupial mammals, and the Hylidae and Cystignathidae among the batrachians.

Papers of this kind are extremely interesting for those who enjoy theorizing and only by such means, coupled with facts that are constantly being brought out regarding relationship, the presence of fossil forms, etc., can we ultimately arrive at a clear idea of the origin of faunas. Prof. Lönningberg has certainly presented some food for thought and his paper will be sure to arouse the interest of younger students who are just beginning to realize the importance of geographical distribution.—W. S.

Aves of Kükenthal and Krumbach's 'Handbuch der Zoologie.'

The bird volume of this important work² is contributed by Dr. Erwin Stresemann the first part appearing in the spring of 1927. It covers the definition and characteristics of birds and their morphology, treating of

¹ Some Speculations on the Origin of the North American Fauna. By Einar Lönningberg. Kungl. Svenska Vetensk. Acad. Handlingar. Third Series. Band No. 6. 1927, pp. 1-24.

² Handbuch der Zoologie. Gegründet von Dr. Willy Kükenthal, herausgegeben von Dr. Thilo Krumbach. Siebenter Band. Sauropsida: Allgemeines, Reptilia. Aves. Zweite Hälfte. Erste Lieferung, Bogen 1 bis 7. Ausgegeben am 22 April, 1927. Aves von Erwin Stresemann. Pp. 1-112. Berlin and Leipzig 1927. Walter de Gruyter & Co.