

the skin, bill, claws, feathers, skeleton, muscles and nervous system. The treatment is exhaustive and thoroughly up to date including references to the work of many American investigators, a feature too often omitted in European works of this kind, while there is a welcome array of figures in line and half-tone taken from various modern works.

The section relating to feathers is particularly interesting, considering their microscopic structure and pigmentation, the mechanical arrangement of the barbs and barbules, the nature of feather growth and of abrasion, the arrangement of feather tracts and of the flight feathers and their coverts, as well as a discussion of molt and the sequence of plumages.

The nomenclature of the skeleton and of the muscles is given in great detail and further elucidated by the excellent figures.

The structure of birds is attracting the attention of more and more ornithologists especially in connection with working out the phylogeny of the class and he who attempts such work must necessarily have anatomical and morphological training. As a guide for this purpose we know of no better work than Dr. Stresemann's admirable volume and with such a foundation as this work will provide important results should follow.

We wish the author every facility in the completion of his work and sincerely hope that an English edition may in the near future appear.—W. S.

Aves for 1926. Mr. W. L. Sclater has once more placed all ornithologists under obligation to him by his careful compilation of the ornithological titles for the *Zoological Record*¹ for 1926. They number this year 1089 and are arranged in the usual way by author and then indexed by subject, country and group, making reference easy and satisfactory.

Every year we emphasize the importance of ornithologists securing this invaluable index to the publications in their field, and of institutions rendering such financial aid as they can to the publication of the 'Zoological Record' of which it forms a part. Too much credit cannot be given to the Zoological Society of London for assuming the major part of the expense of publishing this work which for 53 years has been mainly responsible for keeping systematic zoology from hopeless chaos.—W. S.

Sushkin on the Classification of the Weaver-Birds. Dr. Sushkin has presented a vast amount of information on the anatomy and classification of the Ploceidae in this paper.² He discusses the structure of the bill, the tongue, and the body skeleton, especially the palatal surface of the skull, the pattern of which he regards as a very valuable phylogenetic character. He confirms most of the suggestions recently made by Dr.

¹ *Zoological Record*, Vol. LXIII, 1926. Aves. By W. L. Sclater, M.A. August, 1927. pp. 1-77. Zool. Soc. London Regents Park. London, N.W. 8. Price 7 shillings 6 pence.

² On the Anatomy and Classification of the Weaver-Birds. By Peter P. Sushkin. *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, LVII, Art. I, pp. 1-32, October 24, 1927.

J. P. Chapin as to the relation of certain of the Weavers, in his paper on the same subject (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XXXVII, p. 252).

He pays especial attention to the genus *Passer* and its allies which he still contends are not Finches but Weaver-Birds, and he would group *Passer*, *Petronia*, *Chionospina* (= *Montifringilla*) and *Pyrgilauda*, as a well defined subfamily of the Ploceidae, "Passerinae," with the probability that *Gymnoris*, *Onychostruthus* and *Sorella* belong with them. They have, so far as examined, a very characteristic relief of the palatal surface of the horny bill, a complete post-juvinal molt, and a domed nest with entrance on the side.

Dr. Sushkin's classification would arrange the subfamilies as follows, beginning with the lowest: Bubalornithinae, Ploceipasserinae, Passerinae, Sporopipinae, Ploceinae and Estrildinae.

The author also discusses the curious phalloid organ located near the vent in *Bubalornis* which he regards as in some way an auxiliary to copulation.—W. S.

Murphy on Puffinus assimilis. Dr. Murphy presents a careful study¹ of some 300 specimens of Petrels of the *Puffinus assimilis-herminieri* group. He confirms Mathews' opinion that these two forms are specifically distinct and recognizes five subspecies of the former and eight of the latter. *P. a. kermadecensis* (p. 3) from Herald Island, Kermadec Group, N. Z., and *P. l. polynesiae* (p. 8) from Tahiti, Society Islands, are described as new.—W. S.

Friedmann on Argentine and African Birds. Dr. Friedmann spent some six months from August 11, 1923, to March 17, 1924, in Argentina primarily to study the parasitic habits of the Cowbirds (*Molothrus*), but incidentally a number of other species were observed and collected and the present paper² is a report on his collection, now in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, and upon his field observations.

Notes are presented on 169 species relating mainly to habits and distribution, with a list of specimens secured and occasional descriptions of color and measurements. The pamphlet is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of Argentine birds giving us intimate pictures of many of the species in their favorite haunts. In this paper and those by Dr. Wetmore and Mr. Peters, American ornithologists have contributed not a little to Argentine ornithology.

Dr. Friedmann has also recently published descriptions of some new birds secured by him in Africa. In one paper³ he names *Turdoides melan-*

¹ On Certain Forms of *Puffinus assimilis* and its Allies. By Robert Cushman Murphy. Amer. Museum Novitates, No. 276, September 8, 1927, pp. 1-15.

² Notes on Some Argentine Birds. By Herbert Friedmann. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., Vol. LXVIII, No. 4, September, 1927, pp. 139-236.

³ A New Babbler from the Belgian Congo. By Herbert Friedmann. Proc. N. E. Zool. Club, Vol. X, p. 11, October 20, 1927.