

tography, Bird Song and Bird Pets. What a contrast to the introduction to Dr. Coues' famous 'Key' in which guns and ammunition, skinning implements and methods take the leading place. Not a change in sentiment, for ornithologists loved birds just as much then as now, but a change in the necessities of the study. We are now in possession of most of the facts to be learned from the dead bird so far as our home fauna is concerned and have advanced beyond that stage to the wide spread study of the live bird which has developed knowledge and methods never dreamed of a generation ago.

Dr. Allen's ability to transmit clearly to others his knowledge of birds through the medium of pen and camera make his book particularly valuable both as a text book and as a reference work in the home.—W. S.

**Stuart Baker's 'Synonymy of the Birds of British India.'**—It was the intention, in bringing out a second edition of the Birds of British India, to cover the entire subject in five volumes by omitting all synonymy, but even so a sixth volume proved necessary, and now in answer to a general demand a synonymy in two volumes has been added, of which the first volume is before us.<sup>1</sup>

Beginning with the Corvidae it runs through the orders of land birds and the Rails and their allies, presenting a thoroughly up-to-date nomenclature with full references to the names adopted and to the synonyms as well, being thus doubly welcome to the working ornithologist.

The volume is essentially a "check-list" without the ranges and will prove indispensable alike to the student of Indian birds and to the curator of a general ornithological collection.—W. S.

**Uchida's 'Photographs of Bird Life in Japan.'**—This attractive book<sup>2</sup> consists of fifty-six plates of Japanese birds artistically reproduced from photographs by K. Shimomura under the direction of Dr. Uchida. A short description of the photograph with a brief account of the habits of the bird is printed in Japanese and English with each plate. The flocks of Cranes, the numerous shore-bird pictures and the Heron photographs, are particularly noteworthy.—W. S.

**'The Bird Lovers' Anthology.'**—Birds have ever been the inspiration of poets and more than one volume of "bird poems" has appeared, of which the present<sup>3</sup> is, we think, one of the best. The poems here presented

<sup>1</sup> The Fauna of British India including Ceylon and Burma. Published under the authority of the Secretary of State for India in Council. Edited by E. C. Stuart Baker. O. B. E., F. Z. S., Etc. Birds—Vol. VII (Second Edition). By E. C. Stuart Baker. London, Taylor and Francis, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, March, 1930, pp. i-viii + 1-484.

<sup>2</sup> Photographs of Bird-Life in Japan Directed by Dr. Seinosuke Uchida, Photographed by Kenji Shimomura Vol. I, 1930. Sansendo Co. Ltd., Tokyo, Osaka. Price 3.50 Yen.

<sup>3</sup> The Bird-Lovers' Anthology. Compiled by Clinton Scollard and Jessie B. Rittenhouse, Boston and New York. Houghton Mifflin Company. The Riverside Press, Cambridge. 1930, pp. i-xviii + 1-299. Price \$2.00.

have been chosen by the authors, Clinton Scollard and Jessie B. Richardson, themselves poets, for their merit as poems and it may be claimed that some with more merit as ornithology have been omitted. As the authors state however, "It has been necessary to make this collection selective rather than inclusive but it is hoped that no notable bird poem will be found lacking." We feel that their attitude and the results of their selection are most satisfactory.

The works of sixty-four poets are included and we note several verses from the pens of the authors. The little volume will be most welcome to lovers both of birds and of verse and the serious minded closet ornithologist will be the better for an occasional perusal of its pages.—W. S.

**Bangs on Types of Birds now in the Museum of Comparative Zoology.**—One by one the larger museums of the world are publishing lists of the bird types in their collections, the latest being Mr. Bangs' list of those in the Museum of Comparative Zoology.<sup>1</sup> The development of this collection has been astonishing and we learn that from some 40,000 specimens in 1909 it has now reached a total of over 200,000, the number of types and co-types, at first negligible, now totals 1241.

These are listed with full data and references, and frequently with considerable discussion on the status of the species and availability of the name. In every case the present name of the form is given in full and when the name based on the type proves to be a synonym it is marked with a †.

Mr. Bangs contends that when an author has had several specimens before him and fails to designate one of them as the type they all become co-types and no subsequent author has the right to select one of them as *the* type. This view is by no means universally accepted and as he says the late Robert Ridgway has frequently selected a specimen as type of a description published by him long before without type designation and others have done the same, not only to their own species but in the case of those of others.

They are in effect "first revisors" and it may be argued with considerable justice that they have the same right as one has to select a type species for a genus whose author failed to designate one. In both instances such action makes for definiteness and permanency of nomenclature. In publications which cover a large area, inhabited by several races of a species, with no specimens extant, as in the case of Catesby's "Carolina," the "first revisor" procedure seems the most logical, far more so than to select some spot later as the type locality and use specimens from there as types, often overthrowing the careful work of earlier revisors of the group in question.

Mr. Bangs' list will prove of the utmost importance to all systematic ornithologists who constantly wish to know what types are extant and where they may be consulted, while his annotations will often answer just

<sup>1</sup>Types of Birds. Now in the Museum of Comparative Zoology. By Outram Bangs. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., LXX, No. 4, March, 1930, pp. 147-426.