

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.¹ 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

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

the question that has arisen in working out the status of certain forms. He deserves the hearty thanks of his fellow workers. We note that the author adopts the name Linné in preference to Linnaeus in referring to the founder of binomial nomenclature but the latter seems to have been the original family name while the former only appears later when the honorable title of "Carl von Linné" was conferred upon him. The fact that this was dated back "as of" 1757 does not seem to us to demand any consideration in scientific nomenclature since we do not recognize antedated names except from the year in which they actually appeared. Linnaeus was the name used on the title page of the 'Systema' and should, we think, be adopted.—W. S.

Longstreet's 'Bird Study in Florida.'—This handy little volume¹ has been compiled by the president of the Florida Audubon Society as an aid to beginners in bird study in his state and for those who are making their first acquaintance with Florida birds. We feel that he has succeeded admirably in his undertaking.

We have first a popular review of bird study, the classification of birds, field notes on birds of each of the various orders and families, as an aid to identification, and a field key in which the unknown bird may be run down definitely.

There is also a nominal list of the birds of Florida, 241 species, in the order of the new classification of Wetmore and Miller and finally a fully annotated list of the birds of Daytona Beach, Mr. Longstreet's beautiful "home town," on the Halifax River, in which are given dates of occurrence, character of occurrence, and relative abundance.

Visitors to Florida will find this a most convenient and reliable guide to the bird life of the State.

We congratulate the author on a work well conceived and well carried out.—W. S.

Slater's 'Systema Avium Aethiopicarum.'—Slater's Check List of African birds is completed in a bulky volume² of 618 pages, entirely devoted to the Passeres. The treatment is the same as in the preceding part already noticed in these columns and the nomenclature and ranges seem to have been carefully worked out. The binomial group name is given in heavy type at the head of each group of subspecies as in the 1910 edition of the A. O. U. Check List. In their new edition, however, the A. O. U. Committee has abandoned this practice as they found that it proved more confusing than helpful and the repetition of the specific name in

¹ Bird Study in Florida. By R. J. Longstreet. President of the Florida Audubon Society. Published by the Halifax River Bird Club, Daytona Beach, Florida. 1930, pp. i-xi + 1-183.

² Systema Avium Aethiopicarum. Part II, pp. 305-922; January 11, 1930. By William Lutley Slater, M. A., M. B. O. U. Published and Printed for the British Ornithologists Union by Taylor and Francis, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, London, E. C. 4. Price 21 Shillings.