

Collecting was carried on mainly at Meru in Kenya Colony and in the Ikoma region in Tanganyika Territory but some specimens were obtained at Mombasa and at additional localities in Kenya.

The most interesting feature of the Tanganyika trip, which covered June and July, was the breeding of many of the species encountered. A colored plate of the Kingfisher, *Halcyon albiventris prentissgrayi* Bowen, from a painting by Earl L. Poole forms a frontispiece to the paper.

Mr. Bowen has made a valuable and welcome contribution to our knowledge of the avifauna of this interesting region. As this issue is going through the press, Mr. Bowen's report on the Angola collection<sup>1</sup> has appeared. It opens with a description of the country with a cross section map showing the elevation of the collecting stations, and lists of the species arranged in accordance with breeding activities (in September and October). Then follows the excellent annotated list of 124 species, with a number of photographs illustrating the various habitats and nests and young of several species.—W. S.

**'Cope: Master Naturalist.'**—One of the most interesting biographies that we have read is Professor Osborn's life of Edward D. Cope,<sup>2</sup> interesting not only from the close association of subject and biographer, but from the fact that it is based so largely upon Cope's own letters, especially to members of his family, which shed so much light upon Cope, the man, a side that was little known to those who came in contact only with Cope, the naturalist. These letters, more even than the astonishing bibliography which closes the volume, show the wonderful breadth of knowledge that he possessed and the ability to write entertainingly or comment intelligently upon any subject—sociology, suffrage, art or music as well as science in practically all of its branches.

Professor Osborn has handled the biography very skillfully. He opens with a chapter on the "Pioneers of Palaeontology in America," then follow five chapters in which Cope's life and activities are treated chronologically. Next a chapter on "How Cope earned the title of Master Naturalist" in which are reviewed his contributions to no less than ten branches of science, in at least five of which he stood in the front rank—Palaeontology, Mammology, Ichthyology, Herpetology and the Theory of Evolution. Professor Osborn's 'Personal Reminiscences' and the Bibliography of some 150 pages complete the volume.

While Cope was not, as it happened, an ornithologist he might well

<sup>1</sup> Angolan Birds Collected During the Gray African Expedition, 1929. By W. Wedgwood Bowen. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., LXXXIII, 1931, pp. 263-299.

<sup>2</sup> Cope: Master Naturalist. The Life and Letters of Edward Drinker Cope, with a bibliography of his writings classified by subjects. A study of the Pioneer and Foundation Periods of Vertebrate Palaeontology in America. By Henry Fairfield Osborn, with the cooperation of Helen Ann Warren. Illustrated with Drawings and Restorations by Charles R. Knight under the Direction of Professor Cope. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey. London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. MCMXXXI, Pp. 1-ix + 1-740, figs. 1-30.

have been one, had not other fields of research so fully and constantly occupied his comparatively short life, for he was but fifty-seven at the time of his death, and even on his death bed was striving to complete his paper on the Port Kennedy bone deposits. Extracts from his early letters show a thorough knowledge of local birds and his knowledge of other genera was greater than that of the proof-readers of the biography as his mention of the song of *Myadestes*, in the Mexican mountains appears as "*Hyladistes*." The reviewer can testify as a result of many conversations with Cope to a far greater knowledge of birds than appears from his writings, and once after looking over a collection of birds and commenting on their taxonomy he remarked "What you want are alcoholic specimens; then you can get at their proper relationships" and added with a smile "some day, perhaps, I shall get at the birds and straighten them all out." It is regrettable that he did not do so as the master mind with its uncanny ability to detect relationships and unravel the tangled scheme of taxonomy would have given ornithologists food for thought. Perhaps the collection of alcoholic birds obtained for him in Brazil by H. H. Smith and which he bequeathed to the Philadelphia Academy was acquired for some such purpose. In this connection it may be interesting to add to Professor Osborn's explanation of the frontispiece picture of Cope in his study, that the stuffed cat on the desk is a unique specimen of *Felis* obtained by Smith and described by Cope in 1889.

Everyone at all interested in science should read this fascinating and inspiring volume.—W. S.

**Schiöler's Birds of Denmark.**—In 'The Auk' for April, 1926, the first volume of this sumptuous work was reviewed at length, since its many interesting notes from Greenland gave it a particular value for students of the Arctic-American birds. Of the eight volumes originally planned, the second only had appeared (in 1926) when its author died, August 13, 1929, leaving, however, the material for the third nearly ready for publication. This volume is now issued,<sup>1</sup> and happily, the publishers announce that not only have plans been made for the continuation of the work, but that through help of a state grant, Schiöler's magnificent collection of birds has been secured for the museum at Copenhagen.

Vol. 2 (1926) opens with two chapters specially devoted to the ornithology of Greenland, the first briefly reviewing the literature before and since Winge's list, the second giving a revised summary of the known avifauna of that country, together with an excellent map. It appears that in all, 168 species and subspecies are definitely recorded from Greenland of which some 62 are known to breed, among them three whose nesting in

<sup>1</sup> Danmarks Fugle med Henblik paa de i Grönland, paa Faerøerne og i Kongeriget Island forekommende Arter. By E. Lehn Schiöler. Bind II. Oversigt over Grönlands Fugle og Andefugle (Anseriformes) II. Dykaender (Fuliginæ). 1926. 37.5 × 28 cm., pp. 1-338, pll. 1-86, map. Bind III. Rovfugle (Falconiformes). 1931. pp. 1-413, pll. 1-91. Gyldendalske Boghandel, København.