

**'Aves' for 1930.**—Once again we have to thank Mr. Sclater for the compilation of the bird section<sup>1</sup> of the 'Zoological Record' an indispensable work for the systematic ornithologist or for anyone desiring to consult the literature of the science.

There are 1406 titles listed for the year 1930 which are as usual conveniently rearranged, by number and author, under subject and country and then systematically by families, with the names of all new forms given.

Stresseman so far as number of papers goes seems to be the leading contributor for 1930, with Friedmann and Wetmore leading the Americans. What we should do without this publication it is difficult to say especially when it appears within eight months of the close of the year of which it treats. The Zoological Society of London deserves all praise and all the financial help that scientific bodies throughout the world can give in keeping up the 'Zoological Record' while ornithologists should help by subscribing to the bird section which is offered separately for 7 shillings 6 pence.—W. S.

**Reis' 'Bird of Portugal.'**<sup>2</sup>—This is a systematic list<sup>2</sup> of the birds of Portugal with the scientific name and a list of vernacular names of each species or race, followed by a statement of its relative abundance and distribution. The number of forms recorded is 331.

The list is well printed and the nomenclature up to date and the author is to be congratulated upon an excellent piece of work. So much cannot, however, be said of the several illustrations which appear to have been drawn from badly mounted specimens with backgrounds supplied by the artist. The text is entirely in Portuguese.—W. S.

**Snyder on the Birds of Long Point, Ontario.**<sup>3</sup>—Following reports on other local regions of Ontario already reviewed in these columns the Royal Ontario Museum has made a survey of the vertebrates of Long Point, which projects into the eastern part of Lake Erie just as Point Pelee juts into its western waters. The present peninsula is almost opposite the city of Erie and the report on the survey is, therefore, especially interesting in comparison with W. E. C. Todd's report some years ago on the fauna of Presque Isle, close to this city.

The introduction and account of the birds and mammals are by L. L. Snyder and that on the reptiles and amphibians by E. B. S. Logier. We learn that the fauna is intermediate between the Carolinian and Alleghan-

<sup>1</sup> Aves (Zoological Record Vol. LXVII) 1930. W. L. Sclater, M. A. Printed for the Zoological Society of London. Sold at their House in Regent's Park, London, N. W. 8. August, 1931, Pp. 1-97. Price 7 sh. 6 pence.

<sup>2</sup> Catalogo Sistemático e Analítico das Aves de Portugal por J. A. Reis Junior, Conservador do Museu de Zoologia da Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade do Porto. Porto 1931. Pp. 1-136. Subsidiada Pela Junta de Educação Nacional.

<sup>3</sup> A Faunal Investigation of Long Point, and Vicinity, Norfolk County, Ontario. By L. L. Snyder and E. B. S. Logier. (Reprinted from the Transactions of the Royal Canadian Institute, Vol. XVIII, Part I. Pp. 117-236, three plates and a map.)

ian, although Mr. Snyder is of the opinion that under primeval conditions the latter largely predominated and that more southern elements have come in after the area came under cultivation and much of the forests were removed.

The main part of the publication consists of a well annotated list of 230 species of birds with a bibliography.—W. S.

**Robert's 'Les Oiseaux de Chez Nous.'**—We published an announcement of M. Robert's work<sup>1</sup> in 'The Auk' some time ago, and now we have before us the first portfolio consisting of 23 large sheets 15 x 21 ins., upon which are mounted from one to three reproductions of the artist's paintings of familiar French birds—woodpeckers, the Bee-eater, and various passerine species. His work is very different from that of Fuytes or Thorburn and in his treatment, there is more of the artist and less of the ornithologist, with the result, that there is less detailed accuracy and yet, often a reproduction of the character of plumage that is not always attained by our bird artists.

M. Robert's work is, however, by no means uniform; some of his birds show intimate knowledge of the living bird and many a characteristic attitude has been caught while on the other hand there are figures, which in their stiffness and unnatural poses look as if they had been painted from badly mounted specimens. The backgrounds, too, vary very much in effectiveness, some being excellent while others are unfortunate in being far more conspicuous than the bird. There are several cases too, where the background color has been put on immediately around the figure of the bird following its very curve!

However, they are probably the best paintings of French birds that have been produced and most of them are pleasing pictures from an artistic point of view and accurate in detail and coloring, indeed the reproduction seems to be excellent. The work is issued both as a portfolio and as an atlas.—W. S.

**Collinge on the Corn-crake.**—The Land-rail or Corn-crake has diminished in numbers in southern Great Britain for reasons not well understood. As one means of stimulating interest in the bird and its preservation, Dr. Walter E. Collinge has reported<sup>2</sup> on its food habits. He finds it to be one of three British birds that feed most extensively on leather-jackets or crane-fly larvae which are great pests of grass lands. The Corn-crake eats many larvae of the type known in the United States as wire-worms and in all is credited with subsisting to the extent of 66 per cent of its diet upon food, the consumption of which is a benefit to the farmer, while 33 per cent is neutral, and only 1 per cent injurious in character.

Dr. Collinge discusses possible causes of decrease in numbers of the bird,

<sup>1</sup> Leo-Paul Robert | Peintre | Les | Oiseaux | de Chez Nous | Premier Portfeuille | Neuchâtel | Delachaux & Niestlé S. A. | Éditeurs.

<sup>2</sup> Journ. Ministry of Agr. Sept. 1931, pp. 618-621, 1 fig.