

facing the pictures and cleverly spaced so as to occupy just one page and to cover just the species portrayed, so that no turning of leaves back and forth is necessary. There is also a handy index. The plates figure 295 North American birds and will prove of great educational value.—W. S.

The Ten Year Index to 'The Auk.'—Only those who have had occasion to compile an index can have any adequate idea of the amount of labor involved in preparing one of the ten year indexes to 'The Auk' and the thanks of the Union and of ornithologists in general should be extended to Mr. Harry S. Swarth and his associates for their painstaking work on the volume¹ before us, which covers the ten years from 1921 to 1930.

This index is almost entirely a western contribution since Mr. Swarth's associates, in compiling the index slips—C. G. Abbott, F. N. Bassett, G. Dallas Hanna, Mrs. Elinor B. McCabe, N. P. Skinner and George Willett are all residents of the Coast as are also George S. Swarth and Mrs. Emma D. Benson who made the final copy. Dr. Herbert Friedmann checked the names of foreign species, Dr. T. S. Palmer prepared the biographical index, and Frank Bond checked over 8000 of the cross references—the two latter being veterans in the matter of 'Auk' indexes.

It is becoming more and more necessary that an observer recording a bird from a certain locality, or describing some peculiar habit or behavior, should be acquainted with what has already been written on the subject, and he may be quite unfamiliar with the method of acquiring the desired information. It is for this very purpose that these indexes are prepared. Should one be desirous of gaining information on the Prairie Warbler, for instance, by turning to that species in the index he will find volume and page reference to every mention of the bird in each state in which it has been recorded during the ten year period as well as to notes or papers on its distribution, song, migration, plumage, etc., etc. If it is a paper by a certain author that he is in search of he will find under the author's name reference either to the paper itself or to a review of it; and again, if information on the birds of a state or country is desired he will find references to every item published in 'The Auk' relative to the ornithology of the desired state, as well as to reviews or notices of papers published elsewhere. Even if one does not have a set of 'The Auk' the index is still of the greatest use as he can secure the necessary references and can then apply to someone who has the journal, to look up the information for him.

There are now four of these indexes covering forty-seven volumes and it is hoped that every member of the Union will secure the present one, if not the others, not only for his personal benefit but to aid the Society in financing the publication. If members like Mr. Swarth and his associates are willing to sacrifice their time to produce these indispensable

¹ Ten Year Index to The Auk Volumes XXXVIII-XLVII—1921-1930. Prepared by a Committee of the American Ornithologists' Union, Edited by H. S. Swarth. Published by the American Ornithologists' Union. Lancaster, Pa. 1934. Pp. i-xxiii + 1-328. Price, paper bound \$3.00; cloth \$4.00.

volumes there should be enough others willing to make their publication possible.

While not in any way criticising Mr. Swarth, for he was following a system set by his predecessors, we would take exception to the practice of listing the hundreds of reviews written by the 'Auk' editor, under his own name. No one would think of looking for a review under the editor's name when he can find it at once under the name of the author. If he did attempt to locate it under the editor's name he must wade through some thirty pages of titles arranged chronologically! With the elimination of these thirty pages a material saving could be effected in the cost of the index and possibly in its selling price. Furthermore the editor might be able to find references to his own publications which are now buried in this maze of reviews!—W. S.

McIlhenny's 'Bird City.'—This little booklet¹ by Mr. E. A. McIlhenny, of Avery Island, La., describes the remarkable colony of Herons, Egrets and other southern water birds which he has established close to his home and is illustrated by nearly one hundred excellent photographs of the "City," individual birds, and other interesting inhabitants of the spot.

There is an introduction by Harris Dickson and the main narrative by Mr. McIlhenny in the form of talks to his grandchildren, telling them how "bird city" was constructed and about the life history of the various water fowl that inhabit it.

He has produced an attractive little volume which cannot fail to interest all who have a love for nature and for conserving wild life, and will enlist their sympathy for the efforts to bring back all through the South the beautiful birds that millinery greed and lack of laws or their enforcement almost exterminated.—W. S.

Brooks and Allen on the Blackbirds, Orioles, etc.—The July number of the 'National Geographic Magazine' contains another installment of Major Brooks's excellent paintings of North American birds, covering the Icteridae, as well as the Waxwings, Shrikes and Vireos. The arrangement is very pleasing following that of Thorburn's 'British Birds' with several individual groups on a plate and tinted backgrounds.

Dr. A. A. Allen furnishes the text for this number drawing upon his wide experience for items of interest on the species covered. The additional halftone illustrations, a prominent feature of the previous installments, are, for some reason, omitted. In discussing the origin of the North American avifauna our author derives it entirely from the Old World by way of Alaska and from South America, but we wonder if a part, at least, of the alleged South American element may not be indigineous to our

¹ Bird City | Illustrated with Photographs Taken | by the Author | E. A. McIlhenny | Author of "Befo' De War Spirituals" and | "The Wild Turkey and Its Hunting" | With Introduction By | Harris Dickson | The Christopher Publishing House | Boston, U. S. A. Pp. 1-203.