

Winge on Birds at the Danish Lighthouses.—Mr. Herluf Winge's fourteenth annual report on the migration of Danish birds is of special interest to students of American ornithology on account of the further records that it contains of the little known Petrel, *Oceanodroma cryptoleucura* Ridgway, added to our fauna by Mr. Wm. Palmer in the last number of 'The Auk.' Two of these birds struck Danish lightships during the autumnal migration of 1896, one at Drogden, a few miles south of Copenhagen, on September 19, and another at Kobbergrund, in the Kattegat, on October 11. After comparison of these specimens with the 16 skins of *O. leucorhoa* in the Zoölogical Museum at Copenhagen Mr. Winge concludes that the characters of *O. cryptoleucura* are purely individual and that typical examples of the so-called species may be expected to occur among any of the colonies of Leach's Petrel. It is extremely doubtful whether this view of the relationship of the bird to *O. leucorhoa* can be sustained, as the characters described by Mr. Ridgway and Mr. Palmer can hardly be reconciled with any such hypothesis.

The fourteen yearly reports on Danish birds,¹ the last twelve of which

-
- ¹ I. Jahresbericht (1883) | über die | ornithologischen Beobachtungsstationen in Dänemark. | Von | Chr. Fr. Lütken | Dr. phil. | < Ornis, I, Heft 1, pp. 82-147. 1885.
 - II. Jahresbericht (1884), etc. as above. *Ibid.*, II, pp. 49-100. 1886.
 - III. Report on Birds in Denmark in 1885 | Compiled by | Oluf Winge | *Ibid.*, II, Heft IV, pp. 551-600. 1886.
 - IV. Report on Birds in Denmark in 1886 | Compiled by | Oluf Winge | *Ibid.*, IV, Heft III, pp. 369-440, Taf. 1. 1888.
 - V. Report on Birds in Denmark in 1887 | Compiled by | Herluf Winge | *Ibid.*, VI, Heft 2 and 3, pp. 345-399. 1890.
 6. Fuglene ved de danske Fyr i 1888 | 6te Aarsberetning om danske Fugle | Ved | Herluf Winge | (Med et Kort) | < Vidensk. Meddel. fra den naturh. Forening i Kbhvn. XLII, pp. 54-105 (1890) 1891.
 7. Fuglene, etc., i 1889, 7de Aarsberetning, etc., *Ibid.*, XLII, pp. 106-157 (1890), 1891.
 8. Fuglene, etc., i 1890, 8de Aarsberetning, etc. *Ibid.*, XLIII, pp. 61-132, (1891), 1892.
 9. Fuglene, etc., i 1891, 9de Aarsberetning, etc. *Ibid.*, XLIV, pp. 77-130, Tab. IV (1892), 1893.
 10. Fuglene, etc., i 1892, 10de Aarsberetning, etc. *Ibid.*, XLV, pp. 21-77 (1893) 1894.
 11. Fuglene, etc., i 1893, 11te Aarsberetning, etc. *Ibid.*, XLVI, pp. 15-71 (1894) 1895.
 12. Fuglene ved de danske Fyr i 1894 | 12te Aarsberetning om danske Fugle | Med Tillæg om nogle islandske og grønlandske Fugle | Ved | Herluf Winge | *Ibid.*, XLVII, pp. 1-66 (1895), 1896.
 13. Fuglene, etc., i 1895, 13de Aarsberetning, etc., (as in titles previous to No. 12). *Ibid.*, XLVIII, pp. 65-117 (1896), 1897.
 14. Fuglene, etc., i 1896, 14de Aarsberetning, etc. *Ibid.*, pp. 238-310. 1897.

Mr. Winge and his brother have published, are almost wholly unknown to American readers. This is to be regretted, as a more admirably conceived and executed series of observations could scarcely be imagined, and the work might well be used as a model to be followed—with necessary modifications to suit local conditions—by local ornithological societies. With the exception of some of the earliest papers, all are arranged on essentially the same plan, so that a brief outline of the last will give an idea of the scope and contents of each number of the series.

The report for 1896 occupies 72 pages, slightly more than the average, and is divided into six sections. The first of these contains the following miscellaneous introductory matter: A statement of the number of species (65) and specimens (1048) of birds sent by light keepers to the Zoölogical Museum at Copenhagen; a list of the lights (35) from which returns were received; a nominal list of the species represented, together with the number of specimens of each received, as well as the number killed where this is known; a statement of the total number of species recorded during the past ten years (134); the author's personal observations on the movements of birds in the neighborhood of Copenhagen. The five sections into which the main body of the report is divided are arranged under headings which may be translated as follows: (1) Catalogue of the Birds sent in from the Lights; (2) Summary of the Nights on which Birds came to the Lights; (3) Various Observations from the Lights; (4) Unusual Occurrences in 1896; (5) Observations from the Faroes.

In the first section the nominal list from the introduction is repeated, now, however, profusely annotated, always with the locality and date for each specimen sent in (for some species this alone occupies a page or more of text arranged chronologically and with the months alone paragraphed), and often with extended critical remarks of varied character.

The second section consists of the keepers' observations on weather conditions during the nights when birds were observed, together with their accounts of the actions of the birds themselves. In this section the matter is arranged chronologically, the various reports for each night grouped together. The keepers naturally refer to the birds by their common Danish names, but at the end of each day's series of observations Mr. Winge gives technical names of such species as were forwarded to the Zoölogical Museum. Owing to the author's peculiar views on the subject of nomenclature the vernacular names are to an American reader in many instances the more intelligible of the two.

In the third section the keeper's report from each light for the whole year is given entire. These reports are not classified alphabetically, but are arranged in a rough geographical sequence, beginning with the lights on the west coast and ending with those at the extreme southeast. Some of these reports cover more than three pages of running text and indicate a remarkable amount of interest on the part of the keepers.

The fourth and fifth sections, which together occupy only four pages,

contain respectively comments on such occurrences during the year as seem of special interest, and the observations received from the Faroes.

The paper ends with a map, showing the locations of about eighty Danish lights. — GERRIT S. MILLER, JR.

Lane's Field-Notes on the Birds of Chili.¹ — Students of South American birds should be grateful to Dr. Sclater for publishing the valuable series of notes constituting this paper. Mr. Lane was sent to Chili by the late Mr. H. B. James to gather material which, in connection with his own observations, was to be used in a proposed work on Chilean birds.² Lane was in the field from November, 1889, to December, 1890, during which time he made collections and observations near Santiago, in the Province of Tarapacá, in northern Chili, and in the Provinces of Arauco and Valdivia and the Island of Chiloe in southern Chili. The notes here given by Dr. Sclater from Lane's journals relate to 124 species and are of exceptional interest. They were evidently written by a keen, appreciative observer, and he gives us well-drawn character sketches of birds concerning whose life histories we previously had very little reliable information. Often a page or more is devoted to a description of the habits and haunts of a single species and there are particularly satisfactory accounts of such representative Chilean species as members of the genera *Phytotoma*, *Pteroptochus*, *Hylactes*, *Thinocorus*, *Nothoprocta* and others. — F. M. C.

Richmond on Madagascan Birds.³ — As a result of a few months' collecting (February to July, 1895) in Madagascar, mainly on the east coast, Dr. Abbott has forwarded to the U. S. National Museum 217 specimens of birds. These are referred by Dr. Richmond to 83 species, one of which, *Ægialitis thoracica*, he has before described,⁴ while two others, *Thalasornis insularis* and *Copsychus inexpectatus*, are here for the first time described as new. — F. M. C.

An Ohio Grackle Roost.⁵ — This paper contains the results of one season's work, from the arrival of the Grackles on March 9 to their

¹ Field-notes on the Birds of Chili. By Ambrose A. Lane. With an Introduction and Remarks by P. L. Sclater. The Ibis, January, 1897, pp. 8-51; April, pp. 177-195; July, pp. 297-317. Figg. 5.

² Cf. Auk, X, 1893, p. 354.

³ Catalogue of a Collection of Birds made by Doctor W. L. Abbott in Madagascar, with Descriptions of three new species. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XIX, pp. 677-694. Received May 19, 1897.

⁴ Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., X, 1896, p. 53.

⁵ The Oberlin Summer Grackle Roost. By Lynds Jones. = Bulletin No. 15, Wilson Ornithological Chapter of the Agassiz Association. Oberlin, Ohio, July 30, 1897. 12mo. pp. 37-56, 2 maps, 1 cut in text.



Miller, Gerrit S. and Winge, H. 1897. "Winge on Birds at the Danish Lighthouses." *The Auk* 14, 415–417. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4068497>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/87800>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/4068497>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/88049>

Holding Institution

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Sponsored by

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.