

that the birds from the coast region north of San Francisco Bay are different from either of the above. These he separates as *A. californica oocleptica* (p. 413), type locality Nicasio.

He also differs from Dr. Oberholser's recent conclusion that *A. hypoleuca* is merely a race of *A. californica*, as maintained in the A. O. U. 'Check-List,' and would give it full specific rank. The facts in regard to this group would seem to be now before us and any difference of treatment must be due to personal opinion.—W. S.

Wetmore on *Palaeochenoides mioceanus* Shufeldt.¹—This name was based upon the fossilized distal end of the right femur of a bird which Dr. Shufeldt considered as related to the Anseres. Quoting from Dr. Shufeldt's paper we find "that this femur never belonged to any bird at all related to *Sula*, or to any of the Herons, or to *Pelecanus*, all of which have femora possessed of some characters, which, though not of wide difference, are quite sufficient to constitute discriminating ones, and to point to the fact that this great extinct fowl did not belong in any of those groups, as we know them, osteologically."

Now comes Mr. Wetmore with the results of another careful examination of this same bone fragment and we read that of five characters of the femur "*Palaeochenoides* agrees with the *Steganopodes* in four, while in only one does it approach the Anseres... and it is referred without question to the *Steganopodes*." He further suggests that it was a Pelican-like bird of a somewhat generalized type showing resemblances to the Gannets and remotely to the Cormorants and Darters.

It would seem desirable that those who name fossil birds should not fashion their generic names on those of existing birds as it is embarrassing to find them shifted into other families or orders where the name becomes somewhat of a misnomer!

Mr. Wetmore's argument in the present case seems much the more convincing of the two that have been presented.—W. S.

Economic Ornithology in recent Entomological Publications.—Some interesting original observations of the relations of birds to insect pests have recently been published by entomologists. They relate to the following insects:

Potato aphid (*Marcosiphum solanifolii*). This new pest, because of the thoroughness and insidiousness of its attacks, is popularly known as the "Kaiser bug" in Ohio where it destroyed many potato fields. The following birds were observed actively feeding on the aphids: Chipping Sparrow, Quail, and English Sparrow.²

¹ The Relationships of the Fossil Bird *Palaeochenoides mioceanus*. By Alexander Wetmore. The Journal of Geology, XXV, No. 6, Sept.—Oct., 1917.

² Houser, J. S., Guyton, T. L. and Lowry, P. R., Bull. 317, Ohio Agr. Exp. Sta., Nov. 1917, p. 80.