

**University** of California, Annual Report, January 24, 1914.

**University** of Michigan Museum, Report of Director, November, 1913.

**Wilson** Bulletin, XXV, No. 4, December, 1913.

**Zoölogist**, The, (4), XVII, Nos. 204, 205 and 206. December, 1913-February, 1914.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

### The Gannets of Bonaventure.

EDITOR OF 'THE AUK,' SIR:

With reference to your review of 'The Gannet, a Bird with a History,' may I use your columns to make a request for more information about the early history of the important Gannet settlement upon Bonaventure Island, which lies some way to the south of Cape Gaspé in the Gulf of St. Lawrence? I learn from Mr. F. A. Lucas that in 1813, Commander Wakeham of the cruiser 'Princess,' was in the vicinity of Bonaventure, on which he did not land, but understood that the Gannets had been established there a long time. But one would like to have some definite written information about them, and proof of their presence on the island, not only in 1813, but at a much earlier date, which ought to be obtainable. Unfortunately neither Audubon nor Dr. Henry Bryant went to Bonaventure, nor does there appear to be a record of any naturalist having actually been there before 1881, in the summer of which year it was visited by Mr. William Brewster and Professor Hyatt, who were members of a small party organized by The Boston Society of Natural History for scientific exploration. Mr. Brewster did not actually land on Bonaventure, but great numbers of Gannets were flying about when he sailed past it, although the weather was too misty to permit of a good view of the cliffs.

J. H. GURNEY.

Keswick Hall, Norwich.

### Researches of Gerhard Heilmann on the Origin of Birds.

EDITOR OF 'THE AUK':

Last autumn my attention was called to the unusual and very excellent work now being published by the Danish ornithologist, Mr. Gerhard Heilmann, of Copenhagen. Through my correspondence with this painstaking researcher, it came about that I was in a position to be of some slight

service to him in this country in securing the data of literature and other material.

Mr. Heilmann still stands in need of some similar assistance, a part of which I have been unable to secure for him in Washington. The literature gives no trouble as we have large libraries here; but I should very much like to borrow, for short periods of time and for the purpose of making photographs, some of the following specimens, namely, (1) a good example of a nestling Hoatzin (*Opisthocomus cristatus*) in alcohol; (2) specimens, also in alcohol, of the male reproductive organs of any of the ratite birds but especially of the common ostrich; (3) microscopic slides of the spermatozoa of any of the *Ratitæ* or of reptiles; (4) alcoholic specimens of anything showing the *pecten* of the eye in birds or reptiles, and (5) any other specimens along similar lines. For the loan of such material I will be glad to meet the expense both ways, and full credit will be given to the individual or institution loaning it in Mr. Heilmann's forthcoming work, which is now in hand and in part published.

This work has the general title of "Our present knowledge in regard to the origin of Birds," and is published in Danish in *The Journal of the Ornithological Society of Denmark* (Copenhagen). It is profusely illustrated by drawings made by the author and selected from the works of other authorities on the subject. Parts I and II have already appeared, the first in Hæfte I and II, Vol. 7, Jan. 1913, and the second in Hæfte I and II, Vol. 8, Oct., 1913. There is an excellent introduction to these researches in Part I, wherein the contributions of Lütken, Huxley, Balfour, and others are quoted and compared. Chapter I is a classic in itself, for all the early bird-forms are compared and beautifully figured, such as *Archæopteryx*, *Hesperornis*, *Phororhacus*, *Pachyornis*, and numerous others, full credit being given to Marsh, Owen, Dames, Brehm, Sternberg, and others.

Part II is a remarkable production, treating, as it does, of the "Resemblances between *Aves* and ancient or prehistoric Reptiles." The figures are extremely interesting, and the labors of Cope, Cuvier, and many other authorities are compared. In Section II of this chapter, wherein the principal species of Dinosaurs are taken up, Mr. Heilmann gives us some of his own very clever restorations, and the works of Dollo, Pycraft, and many others are reviewed and compared in commendable detail.

An almost unique feature of the work, as thus far published, is the comparison of the modes of locomotion in birds and reptiles, existing and extinct. Here the admirable studies of Saville Kent and others come into play with striking examples to illustrate the author's views. Work of Americans in these fields is used with good effect, as the contributions by Schuchert, Lull, Eaton, Osborn, and others.

Mr. Heilmann intends to complete this work in five Parts; the next Part (III) will be devoted to comparative embryology; Part IV, to the Anatomy and Biology of *Aves* and *Reptilia*, and, finally, Part V, to a recapitulation and summing up of conclusions. Mr. Heilmann has extended to me the right to bring this work out in English; and should my time admit of it,

after the Parts have all appeared, I trust to be able to do so. In the meantime, however, I hope our application for assistance in the matter of material, as set forth in this letter, will result in obtaining in this country what has been asked for above.

Faithfully yours,

R. W. SHUFELDT.

3356-18th Street, Washington, D. C.  
January 8th, 1914.

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### NOTES AND NEWS.

THE feeling at the present moment against the traffic in wild bird plumage is stronger and more widespread than ever before. Following the lead of the United States, England has a bill in Parliament prohibiting the importation of plumage, and from practically all other countries come letters endorsing this stand. Quoting from the winter number of 'Bird Notes and News' we find the following from Prof. C. G. Schillings, the distinguished German naturalist: "The United States has found the only satisfactory solution of this question. Only direct prohibition will reach the core of the matter. . . . We German friends of nature and of the birds only wait anxiously that England, too, may get its Feather Importation law. We certainly will follow. If Australia, North America, England and Germany close the market, the trade will die out."

'German Fashion' for October 26, 1913, says: "Thanks to the prohibition of import into America and the coming Plumage Bill in England, the end is at hand of the use of the Egret in fashionable Millinery."

In a discussion at the Academy of Sciences at Paris, M. Perrier, Director of the Natural History Museum, protested strongly against the destruction of birds. He begged the Academy to decline the trade offer of \$2000 for the best method of domesticating egrets in farms. It was a mere blind, he said, to gain time and divert attention; everyone knew that these birds could not be domesticated.

In Holland Professor Swaen states that steps are being taken to prepare the public for a favorable reception of a bill to prohibit importation of wild bird plumage, and similar statements and letters of approval come from Denmark, Austria and Switzerland.

The direct effect of the American tariff prohibition is shown with great clearness when one studies the catalogues of the London feather auctions. In the 'N. Y. Zoological Society Bulletin' for January, Dr. Wm. T. Hornaday states that "exactly ten days from the signing of our tariff law by