

cussion of relationships and nomenclature, and incidentally comment is made upon various species from other parts of South and Central America. Five new forms are described from Surinam and thirteen from other places — Panama, Mexico, St. Vincent, Trinidad, etc., while two new genera are erected; *Helicolestes* for *Falco hamatus*, and *Hypocnemoides* for *Hypocnemis melanopogon*. Thirteen names not in current use have been revived and recognized.

The paper is a valuable contribution to the ornithology of a region upon which comparatively little has been written in late years.— W. S.

Riley on a New Bullfinch from China.¹— A single specimen of a Bullfinch from Peking recently presented by Mr. Geo. D. Wilder to the U. S. National Museum proves to belong to an undescribed race allied to *Pyrrhula erythraca* from Sikhim but widely separated geographically. Mr. Riley names it in honor of its discoverer, *P. e. wilderi*.— W. S.

McGregor on New or Noteworthy Philippine Birds.²— This contribution consists of notes on twenty-two species of birds Philippine, including an additional record of the Monkey-eating Eagle, *Pithechophaga jeffreyi*, an account of a living specimen of *Leucotreron merrilli* with a colored plate. For this species the new subgeneric name *Neoleucotreron*, (p. 2) is proposed. The other notes deal mainly with terns, shore-birds and swifts.— W. S.

Gabrielson on the Birds of Clay and O'Brien Counties, Iowa.³— This list of 136 species is the result of a number of field trips during several years prior to 1912. It is not presented with any idea of its being complete but mainly because conditions in the last few years have so altered the region that any record becomes of great interest. Extensive draining, the author tells us has destroyed almost all the swamps and ponds, and he goes on to say: "Where in 1909 and 1910 cat tails and other aquatic vegetation, teeming with bird life, flourished, solid fields of corn now stand and the birds have vanished." Unfortunately this is not the only spot where such changes are going on and he who saves for posterity some record of the original faunal conditions deserves the highest commendation.— W. S.

Recent Papers on Bird Preservation.— The Annual Report of the State Ornithologist of Massachusetts⁴ is as usual full of interesting matter to the conservationist. We learn with regret of the depletion of the Heath

¹ A New Bullfinch from China. By J. H. Riley. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., Vol. 31, pp. 33-34. May 16, 1918.

² New or Noteworthy Philippine Birds, II. By Richard C. McGregor. Philippine Jour. of Science, D. Vol. XIII, No. 1, pp. 1-19. January, 1891.

³ A List of the Birds of Clay and O'Brien Counties, Iowa. By Ira N. Gabrielson. Proc. Iowa Acad. of Sciences, Vol. XXIV, 1917. pp. 259-272.

⁴ Tenth Annual Report of the State Ornithologist of Massachusetts. By E. H. Forbush. pp. 1-27. 1918.

Hen colony on Martha's Vineyard by fires which swept the island in May 1916. Starlings come in for a good deal of attention and in connection with the roosting of this species and the Blackbirds in shade trees, which habit often proves a nuisance, a novel method is described for driving them away. A heavy pad is fastened to the trunk of a tree which is then struck several times with a large sledge hammer. By repeating this for several nights the birds become discouraged and leave.

Mr. W. S. Taylor¹ has prepared a bulletin on the Bobwhite in Texas, which however, is much broader than its title would imply, being an admirable plea for the protection of game in the state, with information regarding bird conservation work in the schools and lists of publications available for study.

The U. S. Biological Survey has issued two pamphlets recently, one by the late Prof. Beal² dealing with the food habits of the swallows which follows the plan of other similar publications issued by the Survey. The large numbers of dragonflies eaten by the Purple Martin leads the author to think that the birds must search especially for them. As a matter of fact along the coast of New Jersey where the Martins nest regularly they forage naturally over the great expanse of salt marshes where dragonflies abound, and it would seem difficult for the birds to avoid catching them. The other paper referred to is by Dr. Oberholser³ on the breeding grounds of the water fowl on the Great Plains. This is a plea for the protection of the few suitable breeding grounds still remaining for these birds if we would save them from extermination. The Sand-Hill Region of Nebraska and the Lake Region of the Dakotas are especially considered as offering ideal conditions.

The admirable 'Biennial Report of the Department of Conservation of Louisiana',⁴ contains the reports of E. A. McIlhenny, Superintendent of the State Game Farm and of S. C. Arthur, State Ornithologist which are full of valuable information. The fact that Night Herons, or 'gros becs' as they are locally termed, are regarded as legitimate game in the state and form an important item of food for the residents of many of the bayous will be news to most persons outside the boundaries of Louisiana.

Wallace Craig⁵ has recently prepared a valuable series of directions for making a wire bird cage which will be welcome to many who have temporary use for some sort of receptacle in which live birds may be kept safely.—
W. S.

¹ The Bobwhite. By W. S. Taylor. Univ. of Texas Bulletin, No. 1748. August, 1917.

² Food Habits of the Swallows. By F. E. L. Beal. U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Bull. 619. March 8, 1918. pp. 1-28.

³ The Great Plains Waterfowl Breeding Grounds and their Protection. By Harry C. Oberholser. Yearbook of the Dept. of Agriculture 1917. Separate from the No. 723, pp. 1-10.

⁴ Biennial Report of the Department of Conservation State of Louisiana from April 1, 1916 to April 1, 1918. pp. 1-180. M. L. Alexander, Commissioner.

⁵ Directions for Making a Metal Bird-Cage. By Wallace Craig. Reprint from The Avicultural Magazine. August, 1917, pp. 1-6.