stantly being proposed to meet ignorant or selfish wishes for the destruction of some bird or other, and the constant attention of such a body of trained men as the Audubon Societies provide is necessary to controvert such action.

We can only speak in this connection of these few activities of the Association; everyone should get the report and read it for themselves. Besides the reports of the field agents,— always interesting and instructive,— there are reports from seventeen state societies and forty-two bird clubs and other affiliated organizations. In the report of the treasurer we note that the annual membership contributions amount to nearly $27,000; while a single anonymous subscription to the children's educational fund is for $20,000. Truly the pioneers in this work can feel amply repaid for the time they unselfishly devoted to starting the movement for bird protection.— W. S.

Zimmer on Rare Birds from Luzon and Mindoro.[1]— Mr. Zimmer presents notes on specimens of forty-two species, which on account of rarity, unusual distribution, or peculiar plumage are worthy of record. The specimens are from collections made by himself during the years 1913–1916. One new form *Hyloterpe crissalis*, a Thickhead Shrike, is described as new (p. 230), from Mt. Banahao, Laguna, Luzon. A number of specimens of the hitherto unique *Zosterornis affinis* McGregor, were also obtained.— W. S.

Recent Papers by Wetmore.[2]— Mr. Wetmore has recently made a study of the anatomy of *Nyctibius* and upon comparing it with *Podargus* and several of the Caprimulgidæ he comes to the conclusion that the differences between the Podargi and the Caprimulgi, recognized as superfamilies of the suborder Nycticoraciæ by Ridgway, are not so trenant and sharply defined as has been supposed. *Nyctibius* appears to be about midway between the Caprimulgidæ and the Podargidæ and of twelve principal structural characters, used in the classification of these birds, it agrees with each group in five particulars. Mr. Wetmore would arrange the Nycticoraciæ in two superfamilies, the Steatornithoidæ and the Caprimulgoidæ, the former containing the single genus *Steatornis* and the latter the families Podargidæ, Nyctibiidæ, Ægothelidæ and Caprimulgidæ, the last being regarded as the highest. Attention is called to the need of further study of the anatomy of *Ægotheles* and *Batrachostomus* in order to arrive at a clearer conception of their exact relationship. Our Australian coworkers should be able, with Mr. Wetmore's paper as a basis,

[1] A Few Birds from Luzon and Mindoro. The Philippine Jour. of Science, Vol. XIII, Sect. D. No. 5, September, 1918, pp. 219–232.

[2] On the Anatomy of Nyctibius with Notes on Allied Birds. By Alexander Wetmore. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. 54, pp. 577–586.

to supply the desired information, or to furnish him with some of the needed material.

In a second paper [1] he describes some bird bones from Kitchen Midden deposits on the islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix. These represent nine species from the former and seven from the latter. A femur and tibia from St. Thomas form the basis of a new genus and species of Rail-like bird, here named *Nesotrochis debooyi* (p. 516), while some vertebræ from a large cooking vessel buried low in the deposit proved those of *Gallus*, agreeing exactly with recent bones of a female domestic fowl.— W. S.

Five Contributions to Economic Ornithology by Collinge.— Dr. Walter E. Collinge of the University of St. Andrew's, Scotland, in recent years has been the most active student of Economic Ornithology in Great Britain. It is of interest to note that he is convinced of the superiority of the volumetric method of analyzing the contents of birds' stomachs, he being the first British investigator to adopt it. Two [2] of his recent papers dwell more or less on this topic and in one of them he notes that upon reëxamination of his material representing the missel-thrush, adopting the volumetric instead of the numerical method he formerly used, he is compelled to reverse his estimate of its economic value. This is a striking illustration of the difference in results under the two systems. In this paper Dr. Collinge briefly treats of the economic status of eight common British birds of which two are distinctly injurious, viz., the House Sparrow and the Wood Pigeon; two are too numerous, and consequently injurious, viz., the Rook and the Sparrow Hawk; one is locally too numerous, viz., the Missel Thrush; and four are highly beneficial, viz., the Skylark, the Green Woodpecker, the Kestrel, and the Lapwing.

The other three papers [3] by Dr. Collinge note the necessity of rational bird protection in Great Britain. All inclusive protection urged by propagandists has been overdone, and reaction has followed. Despite the long existence of a government bureau for the scientific investigation of economic ornithology, the United States has not entirely escaped harm resulting from the activities of bird protection zealots. It will be well if the lessons we have had are taken to heart and trouble avoided in the future. Dr. Collinge's summing up of the situation in Great Britain may be quoted:

"1. That in the past the question of wild bird protection and destruction has never received really serious consideration. The objects sought

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[1] Bones of Birds Collected by Theodor De Booy from Kitchen Midden Deposits in the Islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix. By Alexander Wetmore. Ibid., pp. 513–522.

[2] On the Value of the Different Methods of Estimating the Stomach Contents of Wild Birds. Scottish Naturalist, May 1918, pp. 103–108, 2 figs.

Some Recent Investigations on the Food of Certain Wild Birds. Journ. Bd. Agr. [London], Vol. XXV, No. 6, Sept. 1918, pp. 668–691, 17 figs.

[3] Wild Birds in Relation to Agriculture, Jour. Land Agents' Society, Vol. XVII, No 5. May 1918, pp. 202–208, 1 fig.

Wild Birds and Legislation, Ibid., No. 7, July 1918, pp. 278–285.

The Value of Insectivorous Birds, Nature, July 25, 1918, Reprint pp. 1–4.