

ant check on the insect and that it is known to be eaten by 25 species. This list has been increased to 42 of which the crow, crow blackbird and starling are the most effective.—W. L. M.

Economic status of the Kingfisher and Rook in Great Britain.—Dr. Walter E. Collinge's latest publications in economic ornithology deal with these two species. The paper on the Kingfisher is the detailed report of which an advance summary has previously¹ been reviewed.

"A summary of the percentages of the various food items shows that 77.4 per cent of the food is of a neutral nature, 15.66 per cent is beneficial, and only 7.28 per cent is injurious." The bird is considered useful rather than otherwise in relation to trout streams.

Respecting the Rook, Dr. Collinge finds² that the species has increased in recent years, with probably some change in feeding habits so that it is doing more harm than good. Its economic tendencies are rated as: injurious 52 per cent, beneficial, 28.5 per cent, and neutral, 19.5 per cent. Repressive measures are recommended in the hope that reduced to normal numbers the species will again prove a help rather than a hindrance to agriculture.—W. L. M.

The Ornithological Journals.

Bird-Lore. XXII, No. 6. November–December, 1920.

A Partridge Don Quixote. By H. H. Cleaves.—An account of a tame Ruffed Grouse with illustrations from life.

Why do Birds Bathe. By E. T. Seton.—Discusses sun baths, dust baths, showers and plunges, and their practice by different groups of birds. As this is a topic about which comparatively little has been written attention might be called to Mr. Howard Seudder's paper in 'The Auk' for 1915, p. 455, which treats the subject from a slightly different angle.

The Migration and plumages of N. A. birds covers the Cowbirds with a plate by Fuertes.

Dr. A. A. Allen discusses nests with a key to those of eastern birds.

The Boat-Blind in the Snow. By G. A. Bailey. Excellent photographs of winter birds.

Bird-Lore. XXIII, No. 1. January–February, 1921.

The twenty-first Christmas census takes up the entire number except for 'The Season' and the editorial and Audubon Society departments. There are 134 lists of which those for Montauk Point, N. Y., and Cape May, N. J., with thirty-eight species each, are the largest for the Northern

¹'The Auk' Vol. 37, No. 3, July, 1920, p. 484.

²On the Economic status of the Kingfisher, *Alcedo ispida* Linn. The Ibis, Jan., 1921, pp. 139–150.

³The Rook: its relation to the Farmer, Fruit Grower and Forester. Journ. Ministry Agr., Vol. 27, No. 9, Dec. 1920, reprint 8 pp.

and Middle states. We notice that the Broad-winged Hawk appears again in a Pennsylvania list, a very unlikely occurrence.

Dr. A. A. Allen has an excellent article in the school department on the flight of birds.

The Condor. XXII, No. 6. November-December, 1920.

The Wing Claw in Swifts. By Alexander Wetmore.—Decides that it is not of taxonomic value but is generally present and is probably an archaic character of no present use.

Nesting of the Olive-sided Flycatcher in Berkeley, Calif. By Jos. Dixon.

The Condor. XXIII, No. 1. January-February, 1921.

Acorn Storing by the California Woodpecker. By William E. Ritter.—A valuable study of this much neglected subject. The evidence indicates that the grubs that develop in the acorns are the chief object in storing them, although the meat of sound acorns is also eaten by the birds, after the supply of grub-infested ones is exhausted. It also seems clear that the holes are made solely for the purpose of storing acorns and are often made sometime in advance of the ripening of the crop. There is no evidence that they were originally made in the course of digging for boring larvae but rather that the habit developed from an original process of sticking the acorns in natural holes or crevices in the bark, which is still sometimes done. An additional argument in favor of this theory which the author does not mention is that the Red-headed Woodpecker, of the east, has this habit occasionally developed although it has never advanced to the stage of digging special holes or attempting to store acorns on a large scale. Prof. Ritter finds also that the instinct of the birds occasionally goes wrong and they store pebbles by mistake, while they make many holes that are never used and he considers that the habit is at bottom a rather generalized one which accounts for the maladaptations which are exhibited.

Suggestions Regarding the Systema Avium. By R. C. McGregor.—We are glad to see Mr. McGregor's views on what he considers an ideal 'Systema Avium' though the opinion of each one of us will differ materially. It is however Utopian to expect to reach the ideal at one stroke. The proposal of the B. O. U. which was accepted by the A. O. U. was for a series of regional lists, which should agree in nomenclature in all cases where they overlap, and if this can be accomplished a great step will have been made toward Mr. McGregor's ideal. Even the preparation of a Nearctic and a Palearctic volume with uniform nomenclature will be a great accomplishment. The two most serious features in the whole problem Mr. McGregor fails even to mention i. e., (1) How shall we finance the publication of such a work as he suggests? and (2) Where shall we find a "small committee" of men with the time and ability to do the work properly? We however welcome heartily his remarks on two other matters, (1) his willingness to follow an official list and sink his personal opinions.

Only by such action can uniformity in nomenclature be attained and the frequent ignoring of our standard lists today only retards our work and limits the usefulness of the papers by authors who follow such practices. (2) The inclusion in the list of all subspecies not absolutely proven worthless, to be weeded out later as our knowledge increases. It is a waste of time for any committee to try to settle, off-hand, all such cases as these.

A Hunter's Notes on Doves in the Rio Grande Valley. By Aldo Leopold.

Concerning the Status of the Supposed Two Races of the Long-billed Curlew. By Joseph Grinnell.—Seems to pretty thoroughly dispose of the alleged differences.

Notes on Some Specimens in the Ornithological Collection of the California Academy of Sciences. By Joseph Mailliard.

The Oologist. XXXVII, No. 12. December 1, 1920.

Watching a Hummingbird Feed her Young. By R. A. Sell.

El Hornero. II, No. 2. December, 1920. [In Spanish.]

The Ostriches of the Argentine Republic. By R. Dabbene.—A synopsis of the species of *Rhea* and *Pterocnemia* found in the Argentine.

The Birds of the Chaco. By Enrique L. Arribalzaga.

Notes on the Shorebirds of North America which Winter in the Argentine Republic. By R. Dabbene.

The Ibis. (XI Series.) III, No. 1. January, 1921.

On a Recently Described Woodpecker (*Picus rubricollis*) from Siam. By E. C. Stuart Baker.—With a colored plate.

Notes on the Birds of Northeast Chihli, in North China. By J. D. D. La Touche. Part III.—Nos. 182-307, apparently completing the list.

On Some Western Australian Birds collected between the Northwest Cape and Albany (950 miles apart.) By Thomas Carter. With nomenclature and remarks by G. M. Mathews. (Continued.)

Remarks on Rare and otherwise Interesting Birds contained in Collections made by Mr. G. L. Bates in Southern Cameroon. By D. A. Bannerman.

On the genus *Macrosphenus* Cassin, with special reference to the races of *Macrosphenus flavicans*. By D. A. Bannerman.

A Note on the Breeding Birds of Crete. By Col. R. Meinertzhagen.

On the Economic Status of the Kingfisher, *Alcedo ispida*. By W. E. Collinge.—Found to feed on quantities of insect larvae injurious to fish spawn and very young fish. The injurious elements in its food far outnumber the beneficial, and protection for the bird is strongly advocated. Further examination of the food of our own Kingfisher might be well worth while, though it is doubtless far more injurious to fish than its little trans-Atlantic relative.

Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club. No. CCLIII. November 9, 1920.

Forty new forms of birds are described from East and West Africa, India and other parts of Asia, and Crete.

Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club. No. CCLIV. November 30, 1920.

Six new forms from Africa and the Malay region are described.

In the discussion on the increased cost of printing the 'Bulletin' the suggestion was made that the length of the descriptions of new forms could be shortened considerably, which seems to us a very unfortunate possibility as it would be better not to publish new forms at all, until it is possible to publish them properly.

Mr. Mathews has two new genera *Proseisura* (p. 35) for *Arses lorealis* and *Nesoceryx* (p. 35) for *Charadrius bicinctus*. The editor calls attention to the fact that *Siphia obscura* Sharpe supposed to be from Borneo is really *Basileuterus rivularis*.

Mr. J. L. Bonhote made an address on Bird Protection, treating the matter impartially and with great fairness. He points out that sentiment is the most powerful element in securing the protection of any animal, and if well developed is all sufficient. Apathy and ignorance on the part of the general public are the cause of lack of sentiment and are the most serious obstacles to making protective laws effective. Sentiment on the other hand is a dangerous hindrance to the operation of a law for the decrease of a species proven to be noxious. Mr. Bonhote seems to us to underestimate the value of birds as insect destroyers, though we grant that excessive protection may make a bird so numerous that its injurious qualities outrank its beneficial ones, although the opposite may have been the case before it became so plentiful—as for example the Thrushes in England and the Robin in certain parts of America. In connection with collecting of birds or eggs he points out that the critical period of a bird's life with regard to the perpetuation of the species is the breeding season and the collecting of eggs, which affects directly the breeding season, is more serious than the collecting of skins. Collecting of eggs as he also points out comes especially into prominence, from the fact that the rarer a bird is the greater are its eggs prized.

A few years ago the Kite in England was reduced to nine birds and it was necessary to provide absolute protection by law as well as barbed wire protection, two keepers and several watch dogs to save from the egg collectors, the three nests that were built. The same absolute disregard by collectors in this country for the preservation of a species on the very verge of extinction is seen in the case of the California Condor, the Raven, etc., where the possession of the eggs by collectors seems to be paramount to every other consideration.

Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club. CCLV. December 24, 1920.

Six new forms from Africa and India are described.

Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club. CCLVI. January 27, 1921.

Seven new birds from Africa and Asia are described as well as a new snipe, *Coenocorypha aucklandicae iredalei* (p. 63), from New Zealand, by Lord Rothschild.

British Birds. XIV, No. 7. December 1, 1920.

Some Notes on the Ruff. By Miss E. L. Turner.—An exceedingly interesting paper illustrated by photographs of Ruffs fighting.

Notes on the Nestling-Downs of the British Hawks. By H. F. Witherby. A valuable contribution to the study of molts and plumages. The author finds three distinct sets of down in these birds; (1) a fairly short and not very thick down, which is present when the bird is hatched; (2) short tufts of white down growing here and there amongst the former; and (3) a thick woolly, usually gray, down, which covers 1 and replaces 2 and grows in many places where no down grew before. It is in turn superceded by the plumulae or under down feathers of the regular plumage, but it is not, as considered by Mr. C. Ingram, identical with them.

The Food of the Peregrine Falcon. By J. F. Peters.—A remarkable list of birds upon which it preys.

British Birds. XIV, No. 8. January 1, 1921.

Notes on the Breeding of the Leaser Kestrel. By F. N. Chasen.

Further Notes on the Nesting of the Storm-Petrel. By Audrey Gordon

A Contribution to Swan History. By N. F. Ticehurst.—The keeping and marking of Swans dates back to a very early period of English history and has resulted in curious "swan laws" and "rights." Mr. Ticehurst has traced these back and presents a diagram of a "swan mark" used by Sir Richard de Totesham about 1370—perhaps the earliest "bird-band" on record!

British Birds. XIV, No. 9. February, 1921.

The Avocet at Home. By E. L. Turner. With interesting photographic illustrations.

The Avicultural Magazine. XI, No. 12. December, 1920.

A Control Board for the Export of Australian Animals.—Presents details of the laws now in effect.

The Avicultural Magazine. XII, No. 1. January, 1921.

Diet for Rearing Young Birds. By M. Amsler.

The Emu. XX, Part. 3. January, 1921.

This number is almost entirely devoted to the ornithology of Western Australia in connection with the holding of the annual congress of the R. A. O. U. in this territory for the first time. The completion of the transcontinental railway has made such a trip as this possible, and Americans who have not considered the matter carefully, may be interested to know that the distance from coast to coast is approximately the same in Australia as it is in the United States, while some of those who participated in the trip travelled at least half as far again. When we learn that 31 of the eastern Australian ornithologists made the trip we are forced to admit that their enthusiasm is far greater than that of the mem-

bers of the A. O. U. as judged by the attendance of easterners at San Francisco or of westerners at the eastern meetings, but it might be interesting to know what the railroad fares might be in the southern continent!

The train was stopped in the great interior desert where opportunity was given to see some of the strange birds and wild flowers, while during the whole journey the nomenclature committee kept steadily at work. The report of this committee is very encouraging and the new list will go far toward the uniformity of nomenclature for which we are all striving.

Besides the reports of the meeting and the results of the field trips made in connection with it, there is a valuable account of the birds of the Swan River district by W. B. Alexander and of those of Dirk Hartog Island by F. Lawson Whitlock.

The Austral Avian Record. IV, No. 4-5. December 16, 1920.

A Name List of the Birds of Australia. By G. M. Mathews and Tom Iredale. (Completed)—With annotations.

Forgotten Bird Artists and an Old-time Ornithologist. By G. M. Mathews and Tom Iredale.—An interesting review of the Watling drawings and suggestion that certain other drawings sometimes attributed to him were by Gen. Davies who was evidently an ornithologist of considerable attainments.

Snipe and Sandpipers. By G. M. Mathews and T. Iredale.—Some further suggestions on their classification.

The South Australian Ornithologist. V, Part 4. October 1, 1920.

The Birds of Kuitpo Forest. By S. A. White.

Revue Francaise d'Ornithologie. XII, No. 139. November 7, 1920. [In French.]

On the nesting of *Aquila fasciata*. By M. Mourgue and J. L. Hermitte.

Revue Francaise d'Ornithologie. XIII, No. 141. January 1921.

By-Laws for the proposed French Ornithological Society.

Study of a Collection of Birds from Equatorial Africa. By J. Berlioz.

L'Oiseau. I, No. 8. August, 1920. [In French.]

Breeding of the Nightingale in captivity. By N. Mayer.

L'Oiseau. I, No. 9. September, 1920.

The Gang-gang Cockatoo. By J. Delacour. With colored plates (continued).

Experiences of a Naturalist in French West Africa. By Mr. Millet-Horsin. (Continued.)

Experiments in Masculinity. By A. Pezard.—Male Pheasants with female characters etc. (Continued.)

Hybrid between the Mikado and Elliot's Pheasants. By P. Crepin.

Ardea. IX, No. 2. September, 1920. [In Dutch.]

Biographical sketches of J. Buttikofer; and J. Ritzema Boz; who died during the year, and also an account of the life of Temmink by W. H. de Beaufort with two portraits.

Ornithologische Beobachter. XVIII, No. 3. December, 1920. [In French and German.]

Ornithological Notes from the Region of the Bosphorus. By A. Mathey-Dupraz. (Continued.)

The issues for October, November and January are devoted mainly to local notes.

Danske-Fugle. 1920. No. 1. [In Danish.]

Contains an article on the food of the Stork (*Ciconia alba*) by P. Skovgaard, with detailed list of insects, etc., and a list of the birds banded by the Danish Ornithological Society.

Danske-Fugle. 1920. No. 2.

Contains a detailed account of the food habits of the Short-eared Owl (*Otus vulgaris*).

Proceedings of the Ornithological Society of Bavaria. XIV, No. 4. December, 1920. [In German.]

Miscellanea Ornithologica. By C. E. Hellmayr. Contains a number of nomenclatural changes and a record of *Vermivora leucobronchialis* in W. Venezuela.

A New Woodpecker from Sumatra. By E. Stressemann. *Dryobates canicapillus volzi* (p. 288) and a new name *Picus myrmecophoneus* (p. 289) proposed by the same for *Picus striolatus* Blyth.

Ornithologische Monatsberichte. 28. No. 11-12. November-December, 1920. [In German.]

Our Knowledge of the Geographic Forms of *Alseonax murinus*. By H. Grote.—*A. m. subtilis* (p. 114) is described as new from Beni, central Africa.

Falco. For 1917. [In German.]

Contains a number of new names for varieties of European birds proposed in the author's peculiar way. What status his work will have in systematic ornithology may be open to question.

Tori. II, No. 10. December, 1920. [In Japanese.]

A List of the Birds of Dagelet Islands, Corea, with Detailed References to Some Species, By N. Kuroda and T. Mori.—Five new forms are described as follows: *Dryobates leucotos takahashii*, *Parus major dageletensis*, *P. varius saisiuensis*, *P. v. utsorioensis*, and *Chloris sinica clarki*. There is an English translation of the descriptions of the new forms and a colored plate of the races of *Parus varius*.

Ornithological Notes from the Neighborhood of Sasanami, Prov. Nagato. By Y. Kanetsune.

On the Breeding Seasons of Some Birds in Prov. of Miyagi. By S. Kumagai.

Notes on the Breeding Habits of *Ninox scutulata* (Raffl). By M. Kawaguchi and H. Ikemura.