

may act as a strainer to prevent hard portions of food, bones and chiton, from passing into the intestines until softened by digestion. Grebes which feed on hard substances have more feathers in the stomach and those which contain soft food have less. The great destruction of Grebes for millinery purposes prior to 1903 is also referred to though at the present time Dr. Wetmore thinks that these birds have largely recovered from this slaughter. Now, however, they face a more dangerous condition in the extensive draining of marsh lands and ponds which if not checked will drive away or exterminate many of our birds.—W. S.

Wetmore on Fossil Birds.—Collections in the American Museum of Natural History and Princeton University, and the private collection of Mr. Harold J. Cook, all from the Miocene and Pliocene of Sioux County, Nebraska, have recently been studied by Dr. Wetmore¹ and have yielded six new species: *Geranoaëtus conterminus* (p. 497); *G. contortus* (p. 492); *Ortalis phengites* (p. 487); *Buteo typhoivus* (p. 489); *Urubitinga enecta* (p. 500); *Proictinia effera* (p. 504), other bones being indeterminate.

Another collection² made by Dr. J. W. Gidley in the Pliocene of the upper San Pedro Valley, Cochise Co., Arizona, also submitted to Dr. Wetmore, contained a number of interesting specimens, among others a bone which is identified with the genus *Agriocharis*, the Ocellated Turkey, also a Grebe, a Teal, a Bobwhite, a Gallinule, a Crow, a Junco, and the following new species: *Chloroenas micula* (p. 13); *Dendrocygna eversa* (p. 3); *Branta minuscula* (p. 6); *Micropalama hesternus* (p. 11).—W. S.

Recent Papers by Mailliard.—An expedition sent out by the California Academy under the leadership of Mr. Joseph R. Slevin to the Gulf of California made a collection of birds' eggs and secured a few bird skins and Mr. Slevin made a number of ornithological entries in his note book, all of which were used by Mr. Joseph Mailliard in preparing an account³ of the birds of the expedition, which consists mainly of descriptions of the series of eggs secured and a list of 32 species observed with dates and localities. A general account of the expedition will be found in Vol. XII, No. 6, of the 'Proceedings' of the Academy.

Another paper⁴ by Mailliard describes the birds and mammals seen and obtained on a second trip to Siskiyou County, California. One of the objects was to determine which race of Fox Sparrow, if any, bred in the mountains west of Shasta Valley and specimens showed it to be *Pas-*

¹ Avian Fossils from the Miocene and Pliocene of Nebraska. By Alexander Wetmore. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XLVIII, Art. XII, pp. 483-507, December 3, 1923.

² Fossil Birds from Southeastern Arizona. By Alexander Wetmore. Proc. U. S. Nat. Museum, Vol. 64, Art. 5, pp. 1-18, 1924.

³ Expedition of the California Academy of Sciences to the Gulf of California in 1921. Birds. By Joseph Mailliard. Proc. Calif. Acad. Sciences, Fourth Series, XII, No. 24, pp. 443-456, August 21, 1923.

⁴ Further Notes on the Birds and Mammals of Siskiyou County, California. By Joseph Mailliard. Ibid., XIII, No. 3, pp. 7-28, September 13, 1923.