

In glancing over the pages of Mr. Lincoln's pamphlet one cannot but be struck with the resemblance between the cuts here presented and those illustrating books on bird catching, published before the days of protection. We can never tell what revivals will take place and what methods once branded as nefarious will come into good and honorable use!—W. S.

**Murphy on the Results of the Whitney South Sea Expedition.**—

While we are informed that the American Museum will in due course publish an appropriate record of this investigation of the avifauna of Polynesia made possible by the generous patronage of Mr. Harry Payne Whitney, it has seemed desirable to publish, at once, lists of the birds so far obtained, and Dr. Murphy has prepared two contributions to this end.<sup>1</sup> The collecting is under the direction of Rollo H. Beck and so far no less than ninety of the South Pacific Islands have been visited, mainly in the Tuamotu, Marquesas, Society, Austral, Cook and Samoan groups.

The first paper deals with Gallinaceous birds and Pigeons and includes accounts of seventeen species. *Thyliphaps* (p. 7) is proposed as a new genus for *Ptilinopus huttoni* of Rapa or Oparo Island, known previously from a single specimen obtained in 1873. *Ptilopus dupetithouarsi viridior* (p. 4) is described as new, from Nukuhiva Island, Marquesas.

The second paper covers Pigeons, Rails and Petrels and we find the new genus *Nesophylax* (p. 5) proposed for *Porzana atra* of Henderson Island. Eight species are here considered.

It seems peculiarly fitting that this investigation should be undertaken by Americans since it was the U. S. Exploring Expedition which first made known many of the forms now being listed by Dr. Murphy and the name of Peale, the ornithologist of that famous expedition, occurs frequently as we turn the pages of these papers.—W. S.

**Murphy on the Ornithology of the Cape Verde Islands.**—This report<sup>2</sup> is based primarily upon a collection of 300 skins made in the islands by Mr. Jose G. Correia, in 1922. Besides a well annotated list in which the relationship of the species is considered and data presented on habits, food, etc., with extracts from publications of previous writers, there is a detailed consideration of the geographic relations of the group and of climate and oceanography.

There are 75 species of birds reported from the islands of which 38 are resident and 37 seasonal visitants. Of the first group three are introduced and nine are marine, leaving 26 which can be considered in judging the relationship of the avifauna.

<sup>1</sup> Birds Collected During the Whitney South Sea Expedition. By Robert Cushman Murphy. No. 1, May 29, 1924, Amer. Mus. Novitates, No. 115, pp. 1-11; No. 2, July 22, 1924; *ibid.* No. 124, July 22, 1924.

<sup>2</sup> The Marine Ornithology of the Cape Verde Islands, with a list of all the Birds of the Archipelago. By Robert Cushman Murphy. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. L, Art. III, pp. 211-278, July 3, 1924.

Dr. Murphy would group these as follows: Palaearctic Element eight; Ethiopian Element seven and Neutral eleven, and he considers that the bird life can be stamped as belonging to neither region, being distinctly transition in character. Wallace regarded it as Palaearctic and Bannerman and Neumann as Ethiopian, and their arguments are fully discussed.

In his interesting discussion of the distribution of the marine species Dr. Murphy states that "In general, the boundaries of the breeding ranges of tropical sea-birds are fixed by water temperatures rather than by atmospheric temperatures." Thus oceanographic conditions are responsible for the presence of breeding Frigate-birds, Boobies and Tropic-birds on the Cape Verdes and their absence on the Canaries, as well as their range far to the northward on the western side of the Atlantic. This publication is an important contribution to island ornithology especially with regard to marine species.—W. S.

**Beck's 'Ornithology of Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania.'**—Although including within its boundaries a region quite as interesting ornithologically as that of the adjoining county of Chester, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, has received in comparison but very meagre attention from bird students. The only county lists with which we are familiar are those of Judge Libhart, published in 1844 and 1869 and the only other contributions to the ornithology of the county are contained in Warren's 'Birds of Pennsylvania' and Stone's 'Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey.' It is therefore a matter for congratulation not only that the county has developed an able local ornithologist in Prof. Beck, of Franklin and Marshall College, but that he has published the results of his studies in the form of a fully up-to-date list of the birds.<sup>1</sup> Like the Libhart lists it forms a chapter in a history of the county, though the author has reprinted the list of birds and mammals in a separate brochure.

The work is carefully compiled and contains much original information. It should serve as a stimulus to bird study in the county and pave the way for a still more exhaustive treatise on the subject. The lower Susquehanna Valley which bounds the western side of Lancaster County is an extremely interesting region and though its flora has been pretty thoroughly studied much remains to be learned of its bird life while the power dam at McCall's Ferry has created a great body of still water which is bound to become a rendezvous for waterfowl, and add materially to the interest of the local bird student.—W. S.

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<sup>1</sup> A Chapter on the Ornithology of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, with Supplementary Notes on the Mammals. By Herbert H. Beck, Executive Curator of the Franklin and Marshall College Museum. Reprinted by Permission of the Copyright Holders, The Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., of New York City, from "Lancaster County, Pennsylvania; A History" 1924. Proof-reading by Witmer Stone, President of the American Ornithologists' Union. Map by Courtesy of the Steinman Hardware Company, pp. 1-39.