

The result is a mass of detailed and important data on the birds of Russia, Siberia and north China, which will prove of great benefit to students of this part of the Palaearctic region.—W. S.

Wetmore on the Food of Phalaropes, Avocets, and Stilts.—This is one of the series of bulletins on the food habits of various water birds being issued by the U. S. Biological Survey.¹ Dr. Wetmore gives very full tables of the food of the groups under consideration and discusses their feeding habits and behaviour, much of this data being from his personal observations in the Salt Lake region of Utah. He finds all the species harmless or beneficial, so far as their economic relations are concerned, and well worthy of the protection now afforded them, while none of them are of value as game and should not be carelessly shot by so called sportsmen as has sometimes been done.

The Northern and Wilson's Phalaropes, he points out, devour large numbers of mosquito larvae and are therefore of special importance as a check against these pests. The pamphlet is a carefully prepared and important contribution to economic ornithology. There are full page illustrations of two species of Phalarope and the Stilt from paintings by E. L. Poole one of the most promising of our younger bird artists.—W. S.

Recent Papers by Hartert.—In the last part of the 'Novitates Zoologicae' are several important papers by Dr. Ernst Hartert. In a report² on a collection of birds from New Ireland made by A. F. Eichorn, seventy-one forms are listed, of which *Gallinocolumba beccarii nodifica* (p. 118), *Micropsitta bruijnii necopinata* (p. 124), *Halcyon tristrami navaehiberniae* (p. 125), are described as new, while incidentally the collection shows the distinctness of forms from neighboring islands of which *Ninox variegata superior* (p. 121) from New Hanover, and *Lalage karu falsa* (p. 131) from Duke of York Island, are here named. Collecting was carried on from sea level to the tops of the highest mountains which reach an altitude of 3000 feet. Two interesting Parrots of New Ireland are figured, *Domicella albidinucha* and *Micropsitta meeki*.

Dr. Hartert also has a description³ of a new Chukar Partridge, *Alectoris graeca kleini* (p. 137).

In continuing his list of types⁴ in the Tring Museum, he covers the "Picarian" families, Woodpeckers, etc., and describes as new *Ramphastos monilis aurantiirostris* (p. 143) from British Guiana.

He also presents a review⁵ of the genus *Cacomantis* in which four races of

¹ Food of American Phalaropes, Avocets and Stilts. By Alexander Wetmore. Department Bulletin No. 1359 U. S. Department of Agriculture, October, 1925, pp. 1-20.

² A Collection of Birds from New Ireland (Neu Mecklenburg.) By Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. XXXII, No. 2, October, 1925, pp. 115-136.

³ A New Form of Chukar Partridge. By Ernst Hartert. *ibid.* p. 137.

⁴ Types of Birds in the Tring Museum. By Ernst Hartert. *ibid.* pp. 138-157.

⁵ Review of the Genus *Cacomantis*. By Ernst Hartert. *ibid.* pp. 164-174.