

San Pedro Martir, citing various unusual conditions of distribution and summarizing his conclusions to the effect that the position of these mountains between two areas of varying desert character and two large bodies of water of different temperature, tends to replace the effects of altitude with the effects of aridity.—W. S.

Wetmore on Fossil Birds from Colorado, and a New Bird from Haiti.—Dr. Wetmore has recently described several new species of fossil birds from the collection of the Colorado Museum of Natural History¹ obtained from the Oligocene of Weld Co., Colo. They are as follows: *Phasmagyps patritus* (p. 3), related to the Black Vulture; *Palaeogyps prodromus* (p. 5), a small Condor but not closely related to the California Condor; *Palaeocrex fax* (p. 9), a large Gallinule with affinities with the Cranes; *Bathornis veredus* (p. 11), a giant Thick-knee apparently the first fossil species of the group that has been described. For it Dr. Wetmore establishes a subfamily *Bathornithinae*.

Recent explorations by Dr. Wetmore in the island of Haiti and San Domingo¹ have yielded among other interesting data a new species of Thrush which he has named *Haplocichla swalesi*.² It was obtained at an altitude of 6000 ft. in the Massif de la Selle. While structurally like *H. aurantia* of Jamaica it is entirely different in color.—W. S.

Riley on East Indian Birds.—In recent papers on East Indian birds Mr. J. H. Riley has described three forms from the Mentawi Islands:³ *Muscadivores aeneus vicinus* (p. 95), *Microtarsus melanoleucos proximus* (p. 96) and *Orthotomus sepium concinnus* (p. 96). Also a new Owl from Engano Island,⁴ *Otus umbra enganensis* (p. 93). All these forms came to light in a restudy of the collection made by C. Boden Kloss and a party from the Raffles Museum, all of which was submitted to the U. S. National Museum for comparison and study.—W. S.

Cormorants Again on Trial.—In his 'Observations on the Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) on Lake Manitoba,'⁵ J. A. Munro reports on another of the repeated investigations demanded by fishermen of the destructiveness of these birds. In general notes on the district, Mr. Munro lists the common birds and fishes. The study of the Cormorants included general field observations, visits to breeding colonies, and examinations of stomach contents. About a fourth of the food consisted of commercial fishes, but this was offset by consumption of an

¹ Fossil Birds from the Oligocene of Colorado. By Alexander Wetmore. Proc. Colo. Mus. Nat. Hist. VII, No. 2, July 15, 1927, pp. 1-14.

² A Thrush New to Science from Haiti. By Alexander Wetmore. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. 40, pp. 55-56, June 30, 1927.

³ Spolia Mentawiensia—Three New Birds from the Mentawi Islands. By J. H. Riley. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. 40, pp. 95-96, June 30, 1927.

⁴ Description of a New Owl from Engano Island. By J. H. Riley. Ibid. pp. 93-94, June 30, 1927.

⁵ Can. Field-Nat., 41, No. 5, May, 1927, pp. 102-108.

equal proportion of crayfishes besides piscivorous fishes themselves enemies of the commercial species. The author does not believe that destruction of the birds is called for.—W. L. M.

Insect Food of the Black-headed Gull.—Doctor Collinge has recently demonstrated¹ that the Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) like our Franklin's Gull is decidedly insectivorous. About a third of the total food is insects and a full fourth is composed of destructive species. The consumption of wireworms and leather-jackets is prodigious and the bird must be regarded as an exceedingly beneficial species. The present seems to be an advance report on analyses of a collection of more than 600 stomach contents, and it is assumed there will be a later and fuller paper covering all elements of the food.—W. L. M.

The Ornithological Journals.

Bird-Lore. XXIX, No. 4. July–August, 1927.

A Pet Kittiwake. By E. R. Warren.—Involving an account of Prof. Hyatt's cruise to the Gulf of St. Lawrence in 1881.

Variation in the Song of the Meadowlark in Edgar Co., Illinois. By John Steidl.—One thousand songs were recorded, ranging in number of notes from one to eight, while of these there were 112 variations.

Nest-Stealing Tactics of the Starling. By G. M. Sutton.—Condemns this "interloper" in favor of our native species which it tends to drive away.

The Mourner of the Slashings. By Clarence M. Beal.—A study of the Mourning Warbler.

The Canyon Towhee. By Angeline M. Keen.

The Migration and Plumage studies of N. A. Birds covers the Red-bellied, Golden-fronted and Gila Woodpeckers.

There are excellent photographs of the Black Skimmer by Henry Carey; Nighthawk by F. M. Weston and Horned Grebe by H. H. Pittman.

Dr. A. A. Allen has a very clever article entitled Jenny Wren's Diary based on his several years' study of the bird. It gives, perhaps, the better idea of the life and troubles of the species than anything previously published.

The Condor. XXIX, No. 4. July–August, 1927.

John Ridgway's Drawings for the Bendire Plates. By Harry Harris.—Personal recollections of Mr. Ridgway communicated to the author.

Cormorants in Relation to Fisheries. By Arthur H. E. Mattingley.—Discusses the problem as it is presented in Australia but the same conditions are present elsewhere. Before the advent of man both fish and Cormorants were more abundant than they are today, but with the

¹ The Ibis, April, 1927, pp. 196–201.