

southern Nevada, during a visit in June, 1926. Forty species were seen, some of which, from the nature of the case, are not identified subspecifically. The list is, so far as we recall, the first for this range. A previous paper<sup>1</sup> on the flora of the mountains, the result of previous trips to the same region, is illustrated with photographs of the mountains and contains a more detailed account of their physiography.—W. S.

**Howard on Parapavo californicus.**—This interesting fossil Gallinaeous bird was first described by Loye H. Miller from a tarso-metatarsus bone from the Pleistocene, of Rancho La Brea, California. With the subsequent investigation of this deposit no less than one thousand specimens of bones of this species have been secured, and in this paper<sup>2</sup> Miss Howard has studied in detail the various parts of the skeleton making hundreds of measurements and comparing these with measurements of allied recent forms. By a mathematical method, explained in an appendix by Frederick H. Frost, a definite ratio of resemblance of difference is obtained for each bone as compared with the corresponding bone of *Meleagris*, *Pavo* etc. Prof. Miller originally referred the species to the genus *Pavo* but later decided that it differed from the Peafowl and should stand as a distinct genus between this and the Ocellated Turkey of Yucatan, *Agriocharis*, forming as it were a connecting link between the Phasianidae and the Meleagridae.

Dr. Alexander Wetmore still later suggested that the bird was in reality a Turkey standing between *Meleagris* and *Agriocharis* and not closely related to the Peafowl. This view is fully confirmed by Miss Howard's investigation and further indicates that it is most closely related to *Agriocharis*.

There are thirteen half-tone plates illustrating the various bones of the skeleton.—W. S.

**Wetmore on Migrant Shorebirds in South America.**—Dr. Alexander Wetmore, when connected with the Biological Survey, spent a year, May 1920 to May 1921, in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, for the purpose, primarily, of studying the winter Shorebird life. As is well known most of the waders that breed in the arctic or subarctic life zones migrate to the southern parts of South America to spend the winter and while the United States-Canadian treaty protects them while in North America there has been little or no protection accorded them in South America.

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<sup>1</sup> A Preliminary Report on the Flora of the Charleston Mountains of Nevada. By Edmund C. Jaeger. *Ibid.*, Vol. 1, No. 1. April 1, 1926.

<sup>2</sup> A Review of the Fossil Bird, *Parapavo californicus* (Miller) from the Pleistocene Asphalt Beds of Rancho La Brea. By Hildegard Howard. With an Appendix, Statistical Identification as Applied to *Parapavo*. By Frederick H. Frost. Univ. of Calif. Publications, Bull. Dept. Geological Sciences, Vol. 17, No. 1, pp. 1-62, plates 1-13. Berkeley, California. 1927. pp. 1-62. [Plates numbered as pages.]

Dr. Wetmore's report<sup>1</sup> is discouraging. He finds that in the settled regions birds of all sorts are hunted extensively during the winter and hunters in small numbers are about constantly while on holidays, they spread all over the fields and marshes. Ducks, Tinamous, Snipe, Stilts, Sandpipers, Thrushes, and apparently anything with feathers is regarded as game.

Some far-seeing men have interested themselves in having protective legislation enacted but these laws are not enforced and the public has not been educated as to the importance of birds and their protection, although efforts are now being made in this direction. In other words Argentina is about thirty years behind the United States in the matter of bird conservation. Moreover the same process of improvement of marsh land is in progress as in this country, and former feeding grounds of the waders are being converted for building or cultivation. Immigrants, too, from the south of Europe slaughter all birds as they were accustomed to do at home.

The Eskimo Curlew has been, practically, if not absolutely, exterminated and the Field Plover is rapidly following, being eagerly sought after as a table delicacy and a substitute for the Curlew. Formerly abundant it is now found only with difficulty, and is definitely rare.

The Hudsonian Godwit which occurred in the eighties in flocks of thousands has been so reduced that Dr. Wetmore saw only two flocks of four birds in three weeks time. Birds are sold regularly during the hunting season and the hotels and cafes manage to furnish game to their guests throughout the year.

While Dr. Wetmore considers that the smaller species are not in serious danger of extermination and that the wide range of the Yellow-legs will help them in maintaining their existence, the chances of the other birds mentioned above as well as larger species are very slim.

It seems deplorable that all of our efforts in behalf of the Shorebirds in the north are to be thwarted to a great extent by our neighbors in the south, but when we consider how difficult it is to educate even our educated classes in this country as to the general value of certain birds which seem to affect their personal needs—as the question of the Hawks and the sportsmen, we realize that it will be a long time before conservation education will make much headway in South America.

Dr. Wetmore has done an admirable service in gathering and placing before us this authentic information regarding a condition that we have been speculating on for many years past.—W. S.

**Annual Report of the Audubon Societies.**—The twenty-third annual report<sup>2</sup> of the National Association of Audubon Societies is, as always,

<sup>1</sup> Our Migrant Shorebirds in Southern South America. By Alexander Wetmore. Technical Bulletin, No. 26, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, October, 1927. pp. 1-24. Price 5 cents. Sup't of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

<sup>2</sup> Twenty-third Annual Report of the National Association of Audubon Societies pp. 463-532. (The report is an excerpt from 'Bird Lore' although not so indicated on the cover.)