

on Zoological Nomenclature in definitely naming a type species for his genus.—W. S.

**Wetmore on *Cyphornis magnus*.**—Dr. Wetmore has recently<sup>1</sup> made a careful examination of the type specimen of the fossil bird described by Cope as *Cyphornis magnus* from the tertiary of Vancouver island, and now in the collection of the National Museum of Canada. It is the proximal portion of a left metatarsus, representing probably less than one-fourth of the entire bone.

Cope's idea that *Cyphornis* is most closely related to the Pelicans is upheld but from the fact that it also shows affinities to the Sulidae, and more distantly to the Phalacrocoracidae and Anhingidae, Dr. Wetmore proposes to erect a new family Cyphornithidae for it, and in the same family would include *Palaeochenoides* Shufeldt, which he has already shown belongs to the Pelecaniformes and has nothing to do with the Geese. Dr. Wetmore's paper is rendered more valuable by an excellent figure of Cope's type.—W. S.

**Bowen on the Classification of the Pteroclididae.**—In this study Mr. Bowen comes to the conclusion that neither the elongation of the central pair of rectrices nor the number of rectrices is of sufficient importance for use in generic separation in the Sand Grouse, and therefore he declines to recognize the genus *Eremialector*, based chiefly on the former character, and relegates it to the synonymy of *Pterocles*.

He does however divide *Pterocles* into two genera upon other characters, proposing *Dilophus* (p. 11) for *P. lichtensteinii* and its allies. In a footnote however he cancels this genus in favor of *Nyctiperdix* Roberts, 1922, which has priority. Inasmuch as one species in each genus fails to agree with the others in several characters it would seem that the proposed groups might better be regarded as subgenera.

Mr. Bowen at all events has brought together a valuable mass of information regarding the structural characters and habits of the Sand Grouse, which will prove of much value to all who have occasion to study them.—W. S.

**Stone on a Collection of Birds from Para, Brazil.**<sup>3</sup>—Between Feb. 23 and May 26, 1926, Messrs. Rodolphe M. de Schauensee and James Bond of Philadelphia collected birds and mammals in the lower Amazon region, Brazil, near Pará, and along several rivers in the vicinity. A

<sup>1</sup> The Systematic Position of the Fossil Bird *Cyphornis magnus*. By Alexander Wetmore. Bulletin 49, Geological Survey, Canada Department of Mines, March 15, 1928, pp. 1-4.

<sup>2</sup> Remarks on the Classification of the Pteroclididae. By W. Wedgwood Bowen. American Museum Novitates, No. 273. September 6, 1927, pp. 1-12.

<sup>3</sup> On a Collection of Birds from the Pará Region, Eastern Brazil. By Witmer Stone (with Field Notes by James Bond and Rodolphe M. de Schauensee.) Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, LXXX, 1928, pp. 149-176.

series of 509 birds, representing 243 species, and a small collection of mammals were obtained for the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. This collection of birds has been identified by Dr. Stone whose report constitutes a valuable addition to the list of faunal papers of Eastern Brazil. It is interesting to note that 22 species of birds obtained by this expedition are not included in the list of birds of the Pará district published by Dr. Hellmayr's in 1912.

Bird life was abundant, and although a number of nests were found, relatively few birds were breeding at this season. Among North American species a Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) was secured as late as April 24, a Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) as late as April 20, and a Greater Yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*) Oct. 30. Only seven species of Parrots are mentioned but twice as many kinds of Humming birds. The collection contains two examples of the rare *Antiurus maculicaudus* of which, according to Hellmayr, there are only ten other specimens in collections and these two are the first obtained at Pará since the type was collected many years ago. It is to be regretted that the collectors' field notes which add so much to the value of a paper of this kind are not more voluminous and are entirely lacking for more than one third of the species.—T. S. P.

**Revoil on the Passenger Pigeon.**<sup>1</sup>—In a work by the French traveler and naturalist, Benedict Henry Revoil, entitled 'Chasses dans l'Amerique du Nord' is a chapter, "Les Pigeons," in which he describes a flight of Passenger Pigeons observed by him in the autumn of 1847, near Hartford, Kentucky, with some observations on other flights and the tremendous destruction of the birds. His account published in 1869 is graphic and gives one an excellent picture of the multitude of birds which composed these wonderful flocks.

We are indebted to Mr. William Benignus of New York City for translating the account at the instance of Col. Henry W. Shoemaker, and it has been published as 'Wild Life Bulletin No. VIII' of the Pennsylvania Alpine Club.

Perhaps the most interesting point in Revoil's chapter is his prophesy: "The Pigeons," he writes, "which cannot endure isolation and are forced to flee or to change their manners of living according to the rate in which the territory of North America will be populated, . . . will simply end by disappearing from this continent, and, if the world does not end this before a century, I will wager . . . that the amateur of ornithology will find no more Wild Pigeons except those in the Museums of Natural History." As a matter of fact the end came long before a century had elapsed!—W. S.

<sup>1</sup> Les Pigeons. An Article Dedicated to the Wild or Passenger Pigeon of North America. By Benedict Henry Revoil. Translated into English from the original French by William Benignus, New York, from the Volume "Chasses dans l'Amerique du Nord." English translation printed by Altoona Tribune Press, Altoona, Pennsylvania, 1927, pp. 1-20. Bulletin VIII, Pennsylvania Alpine Club.