

Whitney Island; *P. pectoralis whitneyi* (p. 14) for which no locality is given while the paragraphs relating to it are apparently placed by mistake under the preceding species; and *Mino dumontii sanfordi* (p. 18).

The third paper is by Dr. Murphy and consists of additional comments on Solomon Islands' Zosteropidae based on collections received subsequent to those studied by Dr. Hartert. *Z. alberti hamlini* (p. 3) Bougainville; *Z. metcalfi exigua* (p. 5) Shortland Isl.; *Z. rendovae tetiparia* (p. 7) Tetipari Isl.; and *Z. rennelliana* (p. 10) Rennell Isl. are described as new, while additional information on *Woodfordia superciliosa*, of which eight specimens were secured, is furnished.—W. S.

Nicholson's Census of British Heronries.—This interesting report,¹ the result of the efforts of 'British Birds,' Mr. H. F. Witherby and Mr. E. M. Nicholson and a corps of local observers, shows what can be done in the way of concerted effort, and also offers some interesting comparisons with Heron conditions in the United States.

Outside of the purely ornithological interest the census was undertaken as a contribution to our knowledge of the number of animals in relation to space and time.

From the tabulations presented we learn that there were in England and Wales, in 1928, 254 occupied heronries containing at least 3,744 nests which gives as a probable Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) population 20,000 birds, or one to three square miles, the human population for the same area being 2000 times more dense.

Some of the heronries, while they may have slightly changed their actual location, have been in existence for hundreds of years, that of Althorp Park, Northamptonshire, having a published record as early as 1634. Throughout the greater part of England heronries are rigidly protected by land owners and tenants and some leases have provisions for Heron protection, a custom dating back to the times of falconry, when Herons were used as game for the Falcons. The protection now so generally offered to the birds is a matter of personal concern and not due to law. In some counties where fishing interests predominate Herons are shot as apparently detrimental to this pursuit, but this charge seems not definitely proven. In past years they were esteemed as an article of food, especially the nestlings and young of the year, which as late as the thirties of the last century were eaten in Somerset, "skinned, stuffed and roasted like hare, with strawberries and cream to follow" and up to 1896, in Romney Marsh, they were shot for food.

The destruction of heronries was found to be mainly due to the felling of the trees in which the birds nested, some thirty having been thus destroyed or driven elsewhere during the World War, when timber was needed. Egg collecting has destroyed some heronries, and photographing

¹ Report on the "British Birds" Census of Heronries, 1928. By E. M. Nicholson. Reprinted from "British Birds" XXII, Nos. 11 and 12. Price 3s. 6d. (H. F. and G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, London.)

apparently drove others away, although some colonies have been persistently visited by photographers without apparent effect. A number of consistently protected heronries, too, have dwindled or disappeared entirely, without apparent cause, which shows how dangerous it is to draw conclusions from single cases.

There are data on the food habits of the birds, on the extent of ground occupied by the heronries, the sort of trees preferred and records of recovery of banded birds. The largest heronry recorded is at Milton Park, Northamptonshire, which consisted of 135 nests from which the numbers decrease to many heronries with only four nests, or less.

The census of Scottish heronries was not sufficiently complete to warrant publication at this time and will appear later while it is proposed to make another general census about 1940 from which comparative data may be obtained.

The work is most interesting and all concerned deserve much commendation.—W. S.

Bulletin of the International Committee for Bird Preservation.—

Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, chairman of the Geneva Conference of the International Committee, summarizes in this pamphlet,¹ the work of the meeting and the principal papers that were presented. These set forth the work of protection, or the need of it, in Italy, Holland, Germany, Bulgaria, New Zealand, Japan, and Hungary and furnish much information of interest to conservationists and to ornithologists. A complete list of the delegates follows.—W. S.

Hausman on the Woodpeckers, Nuthatches and Creepers of New Jersey.—

This Bulletin² of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station presents a popular account of the birds of these groups which might be termed "trunk feeders," including their habits, structure, food, etc. There are numerous illustrations taken from various publications and some original photographs of woodpecker nests and diagrams of food analyses. The pamphlet is excellently gotten up and should prove an important influence for protection of these valuable birds as well as an aid to young ornithologists.—W. S.

Riley on New Birds from Siam.—Continuing his studies of the collection of Siamese birds that Dr. Hugh M. Smith is sending to the U. S. National Museum, Mr. Riley names³ three new forms from the mountains of that country: *Hypothymis azurea montana* (p. 165); *Rhipidura albicollis celsa* (p. 166) and *Sibra picaoides cana* (p. 166).—W. S.

¹ Second Bulletin of the International Committee for Bird Preservation. Compiled by T. Gilbert Pearson, Chairman. 1974 Broadway, New York City. 1929. pp. 1-51.

² Woodpeckers, Nuthatches and Creepers of New Jersey. By Dr. Leon Augustus Hausman. Bull. 470 N. J. Agr. Exp. Sta., New Brunswick, N. J., pp. 1-48.

³ Descriptions of three New Birds from the Mountains of Northern Siam. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., Vol. 42, pp. 165-166, May 29, 1929.