

described a dark breasted *longicaudus* from West Greenland. (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., 1892, pp. 147-148.)

Mr. Löppenthin records the occurrence of *Rissa tridactyla tridactyla* in Greenland, a fact that was not mentioned in the A. O. U. 'Check-List,' while we notice that the occurrence of *Cepphus grylle mandti* in Greenland is not definitely stated in the latter work although implied and of course well known.

He claims that the A. O. U. 'Check-List' is wrong in referring the Greenland records of White-fronted Goose to *Anser a. albifrons*, saying that they belong to *A. a. gambeli*, but we think he is not familiar with the most recent discussions regarding these birds.

There is a good bibliography and a map and this publication together with those of Pederson, 1926 and 1930 and Bertelsen, 1932 give one an excellent idea of the avifauna of this isolated and barren coast.—W. S.

Hand-List of Japanese Birds.—In commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Ornithological Society of Japan, the Society has published a new Hand-List¹ of the birds of Japan, including Korea, Sakhalin and Formosa. It is almost entirely in English. The Committee in charge of the work consisted of Mr. Hachisuka, Dr. Kuroda, Prince Taka-Tsukasa, Dr. Uchida and Mr. Yamashina. The arrangement is much like that of the A. O. U. 'Check-List', species and subspecies being treated alike, but there are no references to place of publication of genera and no mention of type species. Some synonymy is given under the species but apparently includes only names based upon Japanese forms. The sequence begins with the Passeres and ends with the Gallinaceous birds which is quite at variance with other modern check-lists.

No less than 856 species and subspecies are listed, referred to 311 genera. There is an appendix consisting of a list of the 'Birds of Micronesia under Japanese Mandatory Rule' which includes the Mariana, Palau, Caroline and Marshall Islands. This list totals 169 species and subspecies, referred to 85 genera.

The nomenclature conforms in the main to that of the A. O. U. 'Check-List' in regard to such species as are common to the two, the differences being for the most part questions of the generic limits of the ducks, linnets, etc. We note, however, that *Bucephala* of Baird is retained for the Golden-eye and Bufflehead which are regarded as strictly congeneric while *Macrorhamphus* is used for the Dowitcher.

The work is well printed with an excellent index and is a credit to all concerned.

As a side issue in the preparation of this 'Hand-List' Dr. Kuroda has

¹ A Hand-List of the Japanese Birds Revised, Issued for the Commemoration of the 20th Year of the Foundation of the Ornithological Society of Japan, 1932. Pp. i-iv + 1-211. (A list of corrigenda (misspellings) accompanies the List.) Copies of the List to be secured from the Society c/o Zool. Inst. Sci., Imperial Univ., Tokyo.

published a very useful list¹ of 120 species and subspecies proposed in recent years by Japanese ornithologists showing which are valid in the opinion of the Committee and which are synonyms. As in nearly all cases critical material is to be found only in Japanese collections, this list becomes of great assistance to ornithologists in other countries. It develops that of the many forms recently described by Mr. Momiyama over one hundred are regarded as synonyms, the result of "unwarranted splitting."
—W. S.

Howard on Eagles of the Rancho La Brea Pleistocene.²—Miss Howard has presented an admirable study of the fossil eagles and eagle-like vultures of the Rancho La Brea, southern California, formation, in connection with which descriptions of similar birds from other parts of the United States and skeletons of various recent types have been studied. Each important bone of every species is described and compared with corresponding bones of allied forms and a scheme of classification of these birds is presented which differs slightly from that of the A. O. U. 'Check-List.' She recognizes the subfamily Aquilinae as distinct from Buteoninae; places the old world vultures after *Haliaeetus* and includes *Morphnus* in the Buteoninae ahead of *Aquila*.

A remarkably fine series of half-tones of portions of the skeletons of the birds considered pictures 180 bones so accurately that they would appear almost as satisfactory to the student as the specimens themselves. We congratulate Miss Howard upon a valuable contribution to avian anatomy and phylogeny.—W. S.

The "Crested Grebe Enquiry" in Great Britain.—The results of this coöperative investigation, reported on from time to time in 'British Birds,' which fostered the enquiry, have now been published in pamphlet form³ and are well worth careful study. The Great Crested Grebe was first given adequate protection in 1880 and immediately began to increase and spread and from about fifty lakes occupied by at least a pair of the birds, in that year, nearly 500 now have them present as breeders. The total number of pairs today is about 1160, the county of Norfolk leading with 202. The investigation did not deal wholly with a census of the birds but included data on early history, character of increase, factors involved, food, habits, migration, nesting, etc., etc.—forming in fact a monograph of the species.

¹ A Revision of the Types of Birds Described by Japanese Authors During the Years 1923-1931. By Nagamichi Kuroda. *Novit. Zool.*, Vol. XXXVII, pp. 384-405. June, 1932.

² Eagles and Eagle-like Vultures of the Pleistocene of Rancho La Brea. By Hildegard Howard. *Contrib. to Palaeontology*, Carnegie Inst. Washington. Pp. 1-82, pl. 1-29. October, 1932.

³ The Great Crested Grebe Enquiry, 1931. By T. H. Harrison and P. A. D. Hollom. Reprinted from 'British Birds' H. F. and G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, London, W. C. 1. Price 2 shillings 6 pence.