

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. Harrisson 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.

The report is further interesting in showing what may be accomplished by combined effort. Not only ornithologists but land owners, keepers, etc., furnished information of the greatest value and entered into the work heartily.

While conditions in America are not so favorable as in Great Britain for encouraging the breeding and presence of water birds nevertheless efforts to protect the late summer flight of white herons from thoughtless gunners has already accomplished much and added greatly to the attractiveness of our inland waters. Many of the artificial lakes and dams which are yearly attracting more and more water fowl are constructed primarily to supply drinking water for nearby communities and sooner or later there will be objections to the presence of the birds by the boards of health. It is none too soon to ascertain just what danger, if any, results from the presence of water fowl on such bodies of water while owners of large estates may be induced to construct lakes or ponds for the exclusive use of the birds, which are attracted by any large stretch of water, as they fly over

'British Birds' and its publishers the Messrs. Witherby as well as the compilers of the data, Messrs. T. H. Harrison and P. A. D. Hollom, deserve the thanks of all bird lovers not only for making possible a valuable contribution to ornithology but for presenting an example which may lead to important results elsewhere.—W. S.

Shorter Publications.

Bailey, A. M. and Niedrach, R. J.—The Domain of the Camp Robber. (American Forests, Sept., 1932.)—The Rocky Mountain Jay, with excellent photographs.

Bailey, A. M. and Dickinson, F. R.—Through the Lens. (American Forests, Aug., 1932.)—Lessons in the photography of wild birds.

Ball, W. Howard.—Some Notes on Rare Birds of the Washington Region. (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. 45, pp. 165-166. September 27, 1932.)

Bangs, Outram.—Birds of Western China Obtained by the Kelley-Roosevelts Expedition. (Publ. 314, Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser. Vol. XVIII, No. 11. October 12, 1932.)

Beveridge, George.—Changes in the Distribution of British Wild Geese. (Scottish Nat., Nov.-Dec., 1932.)

Bishop, H. O.—The Wild Pigeon. (American Forests, Nov., 1932.)—A résumé of its history, illustrated.

Buswell, W. M.—The Song of the Shrike. (Florida Naturalist, October, 1932.)