

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.)

**Chapin, James P.**—Fourteen New Birds from Tropical Africa. (Amer. Mus. Novitates. No. 570, September 23, 1932.)

**Chapman, Frank M.**—From a Tropical Air Castle. (Nat. History, Nov.–Dec., 1932.)—An account of the Courtship of Gould's Manakin (*Manacus vitellinus*).

**Davidson, M. E. McLellan.**—New Birds from Chiriqui Province, Panama. (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. 45, pp. 167–168. September 27, 1932.)—*Automolus xantippe* (p. 167), *Spodiornis barrilesensis* (p. 167), *Hylophilus viridiflavus pallescens* (p. 168).

**Fargo, Wm. G.**—Red-breasted Mergansers on Tampa Bay. (Florida Naturalist, October, 1932.)—With excellent photographs.

**Friedmann, Herbert.**—Notes on the Abyssinian Red-capped Lark and Long-billed Pipit. (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. 45, pp. 163–164. September 27, 1932.)—*Tephrocorys cinerea fuertesi* (p. 163) subsp. nov.

**Friedmann, Herbert.**—On the Supposed Visual Function of the Nictitating Membrane in the Domestic Pigeon. (Jour. Comp. Psychology, Vol. XIV, No. 1, pp. 55–61. August, 1932.)—The possibility of vision being momentarily prevented by the act of nictitation during quick head movements was the problem. Experiments with blinded birds and those from which the membrane had been removed showed that there was apparently a correlation between head movement and nictitation but that it involved no visual consequences, though it probably is a protection to the eye during jerky movements of the head.

**Grey, Viscount.**—Canvasback Ducks in Northumberland. (Natural History, Sept.–Oct., 1932.)—Account of the birds on his estate in England.

**Grimes, S. A.**—Notes on the 1931 Nesting Season in the Jacksonville (Florida) Region. III. (Florida Naturalist, October, 1932.)

**Gross, Alfred O.**—Heath Hen Report—1931–1932. (The Collecting Net, Vol. VII, No. 10. p. 278, August 27, 1932.)

**Kelso, Leon.**—Synopsis of the American Wood Owls of the Genus *Ciccaba*. (Privately printed, September 20, 1932, pp. 1–47.)—A careful résumé of the species and subspecies of this genus, nine species and six additional subspecies being recognized, none new. Three subgenera are recognized of which *Pseudociccaba* (p. 39) for *C. albogularis* is proposed as new.

**Kloss, C. Boden.**—An Account of the Sumatran Birds in the Zoological Museum, Buitenzorg, with Descriptions of Nine New Races. (De Treubia, Vol. XIII, Livr. 3–4. December, 1931.)—The new forms belong to the genera: *Treron*, *Pitta*, *Aethostoma*, *Stachyris*, *Cettia*, *Munia*, and *Zosterops*.

There is much valuable discussion of the relationship and validity of various species and subspecies of southern Sumatran birds and two colored plates representing races of *Arborophila orientalis* and *Pycnonotus bimaculatus*.

**Kloss, C. Boden.**—Some Birds of Billiton Island. (De Treubia, Vol. XIII, Livr. 3-4. December, 1931.)—Forty-one species are listed of which *Eurylaimus javanicus billitonis* (p. 295) is described as new with indications that several others will have to be recognized as distinct from forms to which they are here provisionally referred. The island lies nearly midway between Borneo and Sumatra.

**Lloyd, Hoyes.**—The Birds of Ottawa (concluded). (Canadian Field Naturalist, Sept. and Nov., 1932.)

**McAtee, W. L.**—The Need for Studies in Bird Control in California. (Monthly Bull. Calif. Dept. Agr. April-June, 1932.)—This is apparently the result of a call upon the Biological Survey by California for aid in offsetting criticism of bird destruction in that state. Mr. McAtee has clearly shown, with the assistance of various complainants, that many birds do serious damage to fruit and crops, although, as in similar cases, and recognizing the difficulty of estimating the actual value of produce destroyed, we do not place too much credence on the dollars and cents claims submitted by his various correspondents.

We think that everyone appreciates the necessity of controlling certain species especially where "wild" areas are being brought under cultivation but there is naturally much difference of opinion as to how this control should be effected. Mr. McAtee argues that if shooting is adopted it must be entrusted to ordinary agricultural laborers who cannot discriminate between species and, as shooting involves maiming, it is less humane than poisoning. It would seem however, that the administering of poison has also fallen into the hands of inexperienced persons and this has been the cause of most of the criticism. If, as he contends "the poisoning is placed in the hands of naturalists who are known to be sympathetic in their attitude toward wild life and who are instructed to use the utmost care and in general to hold bird control to a minimum" all would be well, but when the Survey acts in conjunction with State boards the authority and responsibility are divided and the results are often disastrous in more ways than one. We still feel that the Survey's proper function is in furnishing advice and data and to practise *protection* leaving *destruction* to the states, where the officers will be directly responsible to their constituents. Another great "control measure" seems today about to be returned to the states and an army of Federal agents abolished. We should not like to see the Survey with all of its admirable scientific and conservation work of the past suffer from trying to carry on work which in the opinion of many people properly belongs to the States.

Mr. McAtee has published other papers dealing with the same subject

from rather different angles. 'Confusions of an Economic Biologist' (Bird-Lore Sept.-Oct., 1932) cites opinions from correspondents for and against various birds but such diversity of opinion is familiar to anyone who has solicited the views of the public upon almost any question. 'Economics and Management of Bird Control' (Condor, Sept.-Oct., 1932) argues for the necessity of "public agencies" making investigations as to what control is necessary and perhaps passing it on to the individual suffering losses from bird depredations, which seems like a very satisfactory solution of the problem.

Mr. McAtee does not distinguish between State and Federal agencies but, as stated above, if the Federal Agency (Biological Survey) could and would limit its activities to furnishing the necessary information regarding the necessity of control and the various methods of effecting it, leaving the destruction of birds to State authority it would relieve itself of criticism which will continue so long as it engages actively in the work of destroying wild life. It would also concentrate responsibility upon *one* agency which cannot be done under the present "coöperation," and would meet Dr. Merriam's criticism of the whole United States paying for control which is necessary in only a few (cf. also Rept. A. O. U. Com. Bird Protection, p. 87 *antea*).

Mr. McAtee's papers deserve careful reading.

**Meylan, Olivier.**—The Molts and Sequence of Plumage in Birds. (Alauda, IV, No. 1, 1932.) [In French.]

**Meylan, Olivier.**—A Contribution to a Study of the Avifauna of the Alps II. (Bull. Murithienne, Soc. valaisanne Sci. Nat. Fasc. XLIX, 1931-32, pp. 34-43.) [In French].

**Moore, Robert T.**—A New Motmot from Mexico (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. 45, pp. 109-112. July 19, 1932.)—*Momotus mexicanus vanrossemi* (p. 109) Chinobampo, Sonora.

**Mousley, Henry.**—Further Notes on the Birds, Orchids, Ferns and Butterflies of the Province of Quebec. (Canadian Field Nat., Nov., 1932.)

**Munro, J. A.**—Food of the American Merganser in British Columbia. (Canadian Field Nat., Nov., 1932.)

**Murphy, Robert Cushman.**—Moving a Museum. (Natural History, Nov.-Dec., 1932.)—Illustrated account of the moving of the Tring collection of birds from England to New York.

**Nelson, E. W.**—A New Subspecies of *Colinus nigrogularis* (Gould). (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. 45, pp. 169-172. October 11, 1932.)—*C. n. coffini* (p. 170) Peten, Guatemala.

**Oberholser, Harry C.**—Descriptions of New Birds from Oregon, Chiefly from the Warner Valley Region. (Sci. Publ. Cleveland Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. IV, No. 1. September 19, 1932.)—Eighteen new races usually slightly paler than the contiguous forms.

**Peters, James L.**—*Laterallus* Gray Antedates *Creciscus* Cabanis. (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. 45, pp. 119–120, June 30, 1932.)

**Portenko, L.**—On the Economic Resources of the Avifauna of Novaya Zemlaya (Publications of the Bio-Chemical Laboratory of the Acad. Sci. URSS., 1931.)—An account of the bird rookeries of the islands with numerous illustrations and suggestions regarding the marketing of eggs and eider down. [In Russian with a brief résumé in French.]

**Portenko, L.**—Some New Subspecies of Palaearctic Birds. (Mittl. Zool. Mus. Berlin Bd. 17, Heft 3, pp. 415–423. August 1931.)—Races of *Cerchneis*, *Lagopus*, *Cuculus*, and *Pipicola* from Kascharia, Mongolia and Tobolsk. [In German.]

**Robinson, H. W.**—Changes in the Distribution of British Grey Geese. (Scottish Natur. Sept.–Oct., 1932.)

**Shaw, Tsen-Hwang.**—Notes on Some Passerine Birds from Szechwan. (Bull. Fan Mem. Inst. Biol., Vol. III, No. 15. August 30, 1932.)—Completion of a previous report. [In English.]

**Stoneham, H. F.**—A Taxonomic Note on the Races of *Halcyon chelicuti* Stanley. (Bull. Stoneham Mus., No. 11. August, 1932.)—Answering criticism by van Someren.

**Todd, W. E. Clyde.**—Seven Apparently New South American Birds. (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. 45, pp. 215–220. November 26, 1932.)—*Odontophorus capistratus* (p. 215) Cerro Hosane, Bolivia; *Laterallus viridis brunnescens* (p. 216) Santander, Colombia; *Galbula rufoviridis heterogyna* (p. 217) Chiquitos, Bolivia; *Conopophaga castaneiceps subtorridus* (p. 217) Heights of Caldas, Colombia; *Conirostrum cyanonotum* (p. 218) Aragua, Venezuela; *Agelaius thilius alticola* (p. 219) Desaguadero, Bolivia; *Buarremon phaeopleurus exortus* (p. 219) Sucre, Venezuela.

**Todd, W. E. Clyde.**—A New Weaver-bird from Cameroun. (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. 45, pp. 221–222. November 26, 1932.)—*Symplectes amaurocephalus analogus* (p. 221) Jele, Caranoun, West Africa.

**Todd, W. E. Clyde.**—Critical Notes on the Cracidae. (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. 45, pp. 209–214. November 26, 1932.)—New forms proposed: *Penelope argyrotis olivaceiceps* (p. 210) Sucre, Venezuela; *P. jacquacu orienticola* (p. 211) Rio Solimoës, Brazil; *Ortalis guttata subaffinis* (p. 211) Buenavista, Bolivia; *Pipile cumanensis naumbergae* (p. 213) Rio Purus, Brazil.

**Trautman, Milton.**—A Revised List of the Birds of Ohio. (Bull. Bureau Research Div. Conserv. Ohio Dept. Agr., Vol. I, No. 3. April, 1932.)—A nominal list of 366 species with letters indicating character of occurrence and abundance. Ten others are added in a hypothetical list.

**vanRossem, A. J.**—The Avifauna of Tiburon Island, Sonora, Mexico, with Descriptions of Four New Races. (Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist. Vol. VII, No. 12, pp. 119–150. July 28, 1932.)—Eighty-two species are listed with notes on their occurrence etc., the new forms are: *Lophortyx gambelii pembertoni* (p. 132), *Heleodytes brunneicapillus seri* (p. 138), *Polioptila melanura curtata* (p. 140), and *Richmondia cardinalis townsendi* (p. 142).

**vanRossem, A. J.**—El Salvador Races of *Dactylortyx thoracicus*. (Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. 13. July 28, 1932.)—*D. t. taylori* (p. 151) described as new.

**vanRossem, A. J.**—A Southern Race of the Spotted Screech Owl. Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. VII, No. 17, pp. 183–186. October 31, 1932.)—*Otus trichopsis mesamericanus* (p. 184) Los Esesmites, El Salvador.

**Wetmore, Alexander.**—The Generic Name *Haplornis*. (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. 45, pp. 103–104. July 15, 1932.)—*Mayrornis* is proposed as a new genus with *Rhipidura lessoni* as type. (cf. Auk, 1920, p. 160.)

**Wynne-Edwards, V. C.**—Notes on Some Rare Birds in the Montreal District. (Canadian Field Nat., Nov., 1932.)

#### The Ornithological Journals.

**Bird-Lore.** XXXIV, No. 5. September–October, 1932.

Home Life of the American Pipit. By William Gross.—Excellent account of the nesting of the bird on Saint Mary's Island, Canadian Labrador.  
Spirit of the Tules—The Coot. By Lewis W. Walker.—Its nesting in California

Further Observations on the Flight of the Chimney Swift. By Herbert Z. Kip.—Suggests that the apparent peculiarity in the flight of this bird is due to the absence of the short terminal pause which is characteristic of practically all rhythmic movements in animals. Also calls attention to Dr. Townsend's statement that young birds execute a reptilian scramble with wings often moving alternately.

There is a colored plate of the Carolina Paroquet by W. A. Weber and an interesting discussion of the plumages and history of the bird by Dr. Chapman.

Dr. A. A. Allen's illustrated life-history deals with the Red-eyed Vireo.

**Bird-Lore.** XXXIV, No. 6. November–December, 1932.

Bird-Neighbors at Anvik, Alaska. By Mrs. J. W. Chapman.

Mike, the Shrike. By F. R. Flickenger and L. D. Hiatt.—No indication of where this study was made or what species of shrike was under observation!