

called Pygmy Goose, that it is found on fair sized expanses of water which are well overgrown with water lillies and when alarmed it dives at once reappearing at a considerable distance, its varied plumage harmonizing with the leaves and flowers so that it is not easy to see after having done its "vanishing trick."

Of Shelley's Francolin we learn that its call is heard about the houses almost every day in the year, a loud whistle that sounds like "I'll drink yer beer," repeated at least three times. So here, as in almost every country, we find birds with calls that at once seem like words or phrases and which are not infrequently adopted as the vernacular names of the species.

This volume covers the Ostriches, Penguins, Grebes, Petrels, Herons, Ducks, Hawks and Game Birds, and we shall look with interest for its successor, which is expected to appear early in March, 1934.—W. S.

**La Touche's 'Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China.'**—The latest part of this standard work,<sup>1</sup> rapidly approaching completion, is entirely devoted to the water birds from the Shore-birds to the Ducks. It fully maintains the high standard of the preceding parts and carries two halftone illustrations. We note that no less than 720 species have been described and discussed in the work up to and including this number.—W. S.

**Lynes on the Birds of the Ubena-Uhehe Highlands and the Iringa Uplands.**—In this paper<sup>2</sup> are presented the results of an expedition to southern Tanganyika Territory undertaken in 1930-31 by Admiral Lynes and Mr. Willoughby Lowe. There is a very fully annotated list of 324 species, collected or observed, in which will be found a wealth of data on molt, distribution, nesting, habits etc., with marginal symbols to indicate the relation of the distribution of each species to the discussion on faunal relationships which forms the preceding portion of the report.

Admiral Lynes' conclusions on this problem, after an intimate study of the country and of his collections, is that the avifaunae of what he terms the highlands, lying above the 1900 meter contour line, and the upland lying below this level, are so strikingly different that their differences cannot be explained by altitude nor by environment, and that they are in fact as different as are those of parts of Africa which are considered as constituting different avifaunal subdivisions. In other words it is suggested that differences in the two regions under discussion are due mainly to some much less obvious cause, doubtless originating from conditions in the remote past.

There are many illustrations of the country from photographs and an account of the itinerary of the party and of the climate and physical features of the regions traversed.

<sup>1</sup> A Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China. By J. D. D. La Touche, Vol. II, Part V. Pp. 401-496, January, 1934. Price 7s. 6d. net, per part. Taylor and Francis, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, London, E. C. 4.

<sup>2</sup> Birds of the Ubena-Uhehe Highlands and Iringa Uplands. Contribution to the Ornithology of southern Tanganyika Territory. Jour. f. Ornith. Vol. 82, 1934, Sonderheft. Pp. 1-147, pl. 15. February 20, 1934.