

former. His method of making a series of trips over essentially the same route is explained and the almost constant observations and counting of the birds seen, which could later be correlated with the ship's position at the time of observation. The average number of individuals of each species for different parts of the ocean was then calculated.

Incidentally the conditions of life in pelagic birds are discussed and the fact pointed out that truly pelagic species must drink salt water and will not drink fresh and that other groups of sea birds may drink salt water to some extent. Food seems to have a great deal to do with their distribution which is often clearly marked where no observable causes for limitations are evident.

The author divides his oceanic birds into three groups: (1) Inshore—Cormorants, Scoters, Eiders, most of the smaller species of *Larus* and, at certain seasons, Terns. (2) Offshore—Gannet, all Auks (except the Dovekie), *Larus fuscus* and *L. argentatus*. (3) Kittiwake, almost all Petrels and Shearwaters and at certain seasons, Phalaropes and Jaegers. The Dovekie is also provisionally placed here.

Mr. Wynne-Edwards's work is apparently the first attempt to treat comprehensively of the birds of any ocean area, even so well known an area as the North Atlantic. His paper should be read by every ornithologist interested in sea birds or in problems of distribution; it is an outstanding faunal work.—W. S.

Wetmore and Brooks on American Owls.—The tenth of the 'National Geographic' series of portraits of North American birds by Allan Brooks, appears in the February, 1935, issue of the magazine with excellent text by Alexander Wetmore, covering the general habits and history of Owls and biographies of the several species. The plates reproduced from Major Brooks' paintings are very pleasing and fully up to his usual high standard. Several half-tones from photographs add to the interest of the article.

We have already protested against the captions to the plates obviously composed by someone on the editorial staff and following the style of newspaper illustrations. It would be far better to make the names of the birds the prominent feature of the caption instead of burying them in the midst of several lines of description. What this sort of thing may lead to is seen in a recent advertisement of the 'National Geographic' in which a colored plate of the Belted Kingfisher is shown as a sample of the illustrations; the caption reading "A Belted Kingfisher of the *Flycatcher Family*" (italics ours). Most readers will know, what the editor responsible for this caption did *not* know, that it is the Kingbird not the Kingfisher that is a member of the Flycatcher family, but if these pictures are to be, as stated "of permanent reference value" it would be well to put the preparation of the captions as well as the text in the hands of an ornithologist!—W. S.

Greenway on New Guinea Birds.—Mr. Herbert Stevens was engaged in collecting for the Museum of Comparative Zoology during the years 1932 and 1933 in the coastal range of northeastern New Guinea, between the Markham and Waria Rivers. Mr. James C. Greenway, Jr., who has already described some new forms of birds from the material sent home, now presents¹ the results of his study of the entire collection, consisting of some 1300 specimens representing 207 forms.

There is a preliminary discussion of literature and of the range of species; then a narrative by Mr. Stevens; and finally the annotated list which occupies the bulk of the paper. Three new forms are here described, *Rallus striatus insulsus* (p. 28),

¹ Birds from the Coastal Range between the Markham and Waria Rivers, northeastern New Guinea. By James C. Greenway, Jr., Proc. New England Zool. Club, Vol. XIV, pp. 15-106. February 1, 1935.

Mirafra javanica aliena (p. 50), and *Anihus australis exiguus* (p. 53). The notes refer mainly to relationship and plumage but the stomach contents of a number of specimens are given, the insects identified by Dr. Philip Darlington. We note that eighteen Birds of Paradise and Bower Birds were obtained on the expedition.

Mr. Greenway has done a good piece of work in his study of this collection and has made a valuable contribution to the ornithology of New Guinea.—W. S.

van Rossem on Birds of Middle America.—As a result of his examination of types in various European museums and his study of Central American and Mexican collections in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Mr. van Rossem has published a composite paper¹ on Middle American birds which adds greatly to our systematic knowledge.

The first section relates to the birds of Guatemala and is supplementary to, and critical of, Griscom's admirable work on the birds of this country. Besides adding several species to the list and straightening out the nomenclature of others the following new forms are proposed: *Burhinus bistriatus vigilans* (p. 388), Costa Rica; *Coccyzus minor continentalis* (p. 389), El Salvador; *C. m. cozumelae* (p. 390), and *Xanthoura luxuosa cozumelae* (p. 397), Cozumel Isl.; *X. l. centralis* (p. 397), Guatemala; *Pheugopedius pleurostictus oblitus* (p. 399), El Salvador; *Mimus gilvus clarus* (p. 401), Quintana Roo, Mex.; and *Granatellus sallaai griscomi* (p. 403) and *Zarhynchus wagleri ridgwayi* (p. 405), Costa Rica.

The second section of the paper deals with the types of Middle American birds in foreign museums and their identity. In this connection *Caprimulgus vociferus setosus* (p. 408) is proposed for *C. v. macromystax* Wagler, which proves to be a synonym of *C. v. vociferus*.

Mr. van Rossem's last section is an annotated list of William Brewster's Mexican collections now in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy made by Abbott Fraser, Cahoon and McLeod. Itineraries of the three are presented and then a complete list of their material.

In this the following new forms are proposed: *Ortalis wagleri griseiceps* (p. 431), *Anthoscenus constantii surdus* (p. 439), *Trogon elegans canescens* (p. 441), *Turdus rufopalliatu grisor* (p. 461), *Vireo hypochryseus nitidus* (p. 465), *V. solitarius pini-colus* (p. 467), *Pheucticus chrysopeplus dilutus* (p. 479), *Pipilo masculatus griseipygius* (p. 482), *P. fuscus perpallidus* (p. 483), *Aimophila quinquestriata septentrionalis* (p. 485), and *A. bilineata confinis* (p. 487).

These collections were made from 1884 to 1888 and after describing a few novelties Mr. Brewster did no further work upon them. It will be a satisfaction to his friends that the material that he brought together has at last been studied and the results made available to all. Mr. van Rossem is to be congratulated upon a valuable contribution to the ornithology of a region upon which he is at present one of our leading authorities.—W. S.

Mousley on the Woodcock.—The entire January issue of the 'Canadian Field Naturalist' is devoted to a paper by Mr. Henry Mousley on the Woodcock—both the English and the American species, beginning with certain ancient drawings of the bird in the Emma Shearer Wood Library in McGill University and coming down to the most recent field observations of American and British ornithologists.

One will find in this paper a summary of the various theories and facts regarding the anatomy of the birds, the movement of the upper mandible, the source of the various noises made both in the air and on the ground, the carrying of the young and

¹ Critical Notes on Middle American Birds. By A. J. van Rossem. Bull. Museum Comp. Zoölogy, Vol. LXXVII, No. 7. December, 1934. Pp. 387-490.