

CORRESPONDENCE

AFRICAN CAPITONIDAE

THE EDITOR OF THE AUK:—

In the Auk for October, 1945, Mr. S. Dillon Ripley discusses the Capitonidae. One or two aspects of it call for comment so far as the African species are concerned. In the species and subspecies listed, several very well marked forms are not mentioned. Thus there is no reference to either *Lybius rubrifacies* or *Lybius chaplini*; whilst among subspecies generally accepted as valid, *Gymnobucco calvus conigicus*, *Lybius torquatus zombae*, and *Buccanodon olivaceum belcheri*, as well as several others, are omitted from the lists. Mr. Ripley keeps the *Buccanodon anchietae* and *Buccanodon whytei* groups as conspecific and adds a footnote that the occurrence of *Buccanodon anchietae kalangae* and *Buccanodon whytei buttoni* in the Ndola district requires very careful checking. I may therefore be permitted to remark that the careful checking has already been done over a period of continuous field observation for more than two years by Mr. E. L. Button whilst he was stationed there and good series of both forms were collected. Both forms occur together throughout the year about the Ndola township and there cannot be the slightest excuse for regarding the *anchietae* group as conspecific with the *whytei* group.—CHARLES M. N. WHITE, *Balovale, Northern Rhodesia.*

BENT'S 'LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS'

EDITOR OF THE AUK:—It may interest some of your readers to know that I have a contract with Dodd, Mead and Company, 432 Fourth Ave., New York 16, N. Y., to publish a reprint of my Bulletin 107, Life Histories of North American Diving Birds. It will probably appear some time next fall or winter. The price and the format will be announced by the publishers in due course. As the edition will be limited by the probable demand, it might be wise for those who lack this number to notify the publishers that they would like to have an opportunity to purchase a copy.

If the demand seems to warrant it, some of the other rare numbers may be re-produced.

Also, I have a complete set of my Bulletins, 14 volumes, all published, including Bull. 107, for sale for the widow of a friend to whom I gave them. All but one of them are autographed by me for my friend. They are to be sold to the highest bidder, f. o. b. here and at buyer's risk.—A. C. BENT, *Taunton, Mass.*