RECENT LITERATURE
EDITED BY FRANK MCKINNEY


BORROR, D. J., and C. R. REESE. 1954. Analytical studies of Henslow's Sparrow song. Wilson Bull., 66: 243–252, 3 plates, 4 tables.—Songs of Passerherbulus henslowii, as analyzed by audio-spectrographs, are described in detail; they are far more complex than appears to the ear.—J. T. Tanner.


GEORGE, C. J., and K. R. MENON. 1954. The physiological lag of the domestic fowl. Journ. Animal Morph. Physiol., 1 (1): 77. Glucose and fat levels of blood correspond more closely to those found in lizards than in other birds. This physiological insufficiency plus organic deficiency of flight muscles are both responsible for lack of flight power.

GIBB, J. 1954. Feeding ecology of tits, with notes on Treecreeper [Certhia familiaris] and Goldcrest [Regulus regulus]. Ibis, 96: 513–543.—Tits (Parus major, P. caeruleus, P. ater, P. atricapillus, P. palustris, and Aegithalos caudatus) often eat the same food but their seasonal preferences, foraging behavior, diversity of forage preferences, and singing and calling while foraging varies significantly from species to species. In winter when food is short the birds are more clearly different from each other in foraging ecology than at other times of the year. Proportionally more time is spent foraging in winter, although this varies with body weight, and the incidence of intra- and inter-specific conflict over food is higher. This work, part of a population study, is based on a single, standardized type of observation repeated some 12,000 times; the data are of high caliber and are not done justice by a short abstract.—R. F. Johnston.


Canada, 1951–1952: 1–52 (repaged reprint).—Annotated list of birds observed and collected in Manitoba.


HAFSTROM, S. 1954. Contribution to the food biology of tits especially about storing of surplus food. Part I. The Crested Tit (Parus c. cristatus L.) Det Kgl Norske Videnskabers Selskabs Skrifter, 1953 (4):1–124. (In English.) Foraging behavior and food storage in coniferous forests in Norway were studied in three years during which food availability differed markedly. Storing of 642 items by P. cristatus is discussed; 80 per cent were vegetable, chiefly conifer seeds. Each of three species of titmouse which wintered in the conifers was found to hide food items (chiefly during summer) in the foraging sites used by that species in winter. Individual items probably are not remembered, a kind of hiding place being sought instead. Possibly the search may be concentrated in areas where storing activity of that individual was intense. Stored items usually are not visible from above; thus they may still be located when snow covers the branches. Attachment of stored items is partly by mechanical means, partly by organic substances (saliva of bird, body fluids of arthropod prey). Three-fourths of all stored items were concealed in contact with lichens. In severe winters, over one-half the diet of the Crested Tit consisted of stored vegetable food, an indication of the necessity of this behavior for survival.—K. L. Dixon.


HERROELEN, P. 1953. Inventaire des Oiseaux de la Tshuapa. Zooleo, no. 23, September, pp. 195–200.—The first part of a list of the birds recorded from the Tshuapa District, central Belgian Congo. This installment covers the grebes, cormorants, anhingas, herons, storks, hammerheads, ibises, and the ducks and geese, totalling 34 species in all.


KNORR, O. A. 1954. The effect of radar on birds. Wilson Bull., 66: 264.—When the beam of a radar was pointed at flocks of ducks, the birds' flight was greatly disorganized.—J. T. Tanner.
Kornfeld, W., and A. V. Nalbandov. 1954. Endocrine influences on the development of the rudimentary gonad of fowl. Endocrin., 55 (6): 751-761. Small amounts of exogenous estrogen can suppress the development of the rudimentary right gonad of ovariectomized fowl. The demonstration of substantial quantities of estrogen in the blood of very young female chicks makes it probable that a hormone of this type is responsible for the failure of the development of the rudimentary gonad in the presence of the functional left ovary.


Kuroda, N. 1954. On the classification and phylogeny of the order tubinares, particularly the shearwaters (Puffinus), with special considerations on their osteology and habit differentiation. (Tokyo; published by the author) 179 pp., 38 pls., 5 maps.—The genus Calonectris is recognized for Puffinus diomedea and P. leucomelas, which are more highly specialized for flight and less specialized for swimming and diving than are the other shearwaters. A phylogenetic tree of the tubinares and a discussion of the spread of the group from its presumed place of origin in the North Atlantic are included.


McClure, H. E. 1954. Unusual migration of birds at Tokyo, Japan. Wilson Bull., 66: 259-263, 3 tables.—Migrant species were more common during and after the arrival of a cold front.


MURPHY, R. C., R. J. NIEDRACH, and A. M. BALLEY. Canton Island. Mus. Pictorial (Denver Mus. Nat. Hist.) 10, 78 pp.—Fifty pages of this attractive publication are devoted to an annotated list of the birds of the island, one of the Phoenix Group. Many excellent photographs.

NAIR, K. K. 1954. A comparison of the muscles in the forearm of a flapping and a soaring bird. Journ. Animal Morph. Physiol., 1 (1): 26–34. Certain wing muscles of a kite have two origins, or two bellies, or are split into two parts, whereas in the parakeet they have a single origin, one belly, or exist as a single muscle. It is concluded that with this doubling feature in the soaring bird, each part can act independently and alternately and thereby prevent fatigue.

NAIR, K. K. 1954. The bearing of the weight of the pectoral muscles on the flight of some common Indian birds. Journ. Animal Morph. Physiol., 1 (1): 71–76. The weights of the pectoralis major and minor are compared to body weight and show very low values for the domestic chicken and duck (non-flyers), high for the pintail and pigeon (flapping flight) and next highest for the kite (soarer). Crow, parakeet, partridge, and house sparrow fall in between the kite and the non-flyers. Therefore soaring birds do not necessarily have low values nor is relation between muscle weight and wingspread always inverse.

PAYNTER, R. A., JR. 1954. Three new birds from the Yucatán Peninsula. Postilla, 18, 4 pp.—Dendrocolaptes certhia legtersi (Carrillo Puerto, Quintana Roo), Platyrrinchus mystaceus timothei (24 km. NW. Xtocomo, Quintana Roo), and Dumetella glabrirostris cozumelana (Isla Cozumel, Quintana Roo), new subspecies.


Ramsay, A. O., and E. H. Hess. 1954. A laboratory approach to the study of imprinting. Wilson Bull., 66: 196–206, 3 figs., 3 tables.—A series of experiments were performed with Mallard ducklings and with chicks to determine the optimum age for imprinting (13 to 16 hours) and to test other behavior related to imprinting.—J. T. Tanner.


Richdale, L. E. 1954. Duration of parental attentiveness in the Sooty Shearwater. Ibis, 96: 586–600.—Puffinus griseus is highly irregular in the timing of visits to its nestling young. Inattentive periods before the period of desertion range from 1 to 25 days (X = 4.3 days), attentive periods 1 to 11 (X = 2.4). Young remain in the burrows from 86 to 106 days. They leave, regardless of the degree of parental attention, apparently because of an internal urge. Following the regimen of parental duty, the adults desert the breeding area, apparently in response to an urge to migrate. This leaves numerous young still in burrows deserted for from 0 to 27 days (X = 12 days). Evidence indicates that young weighing more than
455 grams at desertion can survive; those weighing less probably cannot. This is another excellent report of work done on Whero Island, New Zealand.—R. F. Johnston.


**Ripley, S. D.** 1954. Birds from Gough Island. Postilla, 19, 6 pp.—Annotated list of 12 species. *Daption capensis, Fulmarus glacialoides, Bulweria m. macroptera, B. incerta, and B. breviostris* are recorded as new to the fauna. *Porphyrio rionensis* is merged with *Galina*, and the Gough form (comeri) is considered a subspecies of *G. nesiotis* of Tristan da Cunha.


**Shelkford, V. E.** 1954. An experimental approach to the study of bird populations. Wilson Bull., 66: 253-258, 2 figs.—A few experiments, mostly concerned with the effect of ultra-violet radiation on reproduction of animals, are summarized, and suggestions are given for methods of studying environmental factors.—J. T. Tanner.


**Snow, D. W.** 1954. The habitats of Eurasian tits (*Parus* spp.). Ibis, 96: 565-585.—This paper examines the habitats of and habitat selection in Eurasian and some Nearctic members of the genus *Parus*. Species near the same size live in different habitats or occupy distinct niches within a single habitat. Species differing in size may be found in the same habitat. Bill-shape varies with habitat, being longer and slenderer in coniferous forests, shorter and heavier in broad-leaved habitats.


**Stewart, P. A.** 1954. The value of the Christmas bird counts. Wilson Bull., 66: 184-195.—Several suggestions are presented for standardizing the making and reporting of Christmas bird counts which should make the data more comparable and more easily analyzed.—J. T. Tanner.


**Sutton, G. M., and D. F. Parmelee.** 1954. Nesting of the Snow Bunting on
Baffin Island. Wilson Bull., 66: 158–179, 2 figs., 1 table.—Results of a study of Plectrophenax nivalis thru one nesting season, from building thru fledging. There was remarkably high nesting success.—J. T. Tanner.


SEVENTY-THIRD STATED MEETING

The Seventy-third Stated Meeting of the A.O.U. will take place October 25 to 30, 1955, at Boston, Massachusetts. C. Russell Mason is Chairman of the General Committee on Arrangements. Chairmen of the subcommittees are G. Wm. Cottrell, Jr., Exhibits; Henry M. Parker, Finance; Henry H. Cutler, Printing; Joseph A. Hagar, Reception; Wm. H. Drury, Jr., Rooms; Margaret L. Argue, Women’s Tours; Ruth P. Emery, Field Trips; Richard Stackpole, Meals; Richard Borden, Publicity; Marjory B. Sanger, Registration; and Robert L. Grayce, Visual Aids.