

sider that all the digits of the right hand have been lost and only four scattered phalanges, two of them claws, remain of the left hand, we cannot wonder that the primaries borne on them have disappeared.

Acceptance of such a reconstruction of the wing of the British Museum specimen would support the correlations listed by de Beer and justify the inclusion of the Berlin specimen in *Archaeopteryx*. If, however, it be maintained that the impressions in the British Museum specimen represent the entire wing, not only must the Berlin specimen be left in *Archaeornis*, but the two genera must be regarded as rather distantly related despite their close skeletal resemblances. I find it hard to believe, however, that an arboreal, climbing bird, such as *Archaeopteryx* must have been, could have had long, straight distal primaries that would have seriously interfered with the use of its fingers.

It may be noted in closing that, from its narrow front web and the backward sweep of its shaft, von Meyer's isolated feather is seen to be a distal or subdistal primary. If it belonged to *Archaeopteryx* it must, from its size, have been number 7, according to my interpretation.

LITERATURE CITED

- DE BEER, G. 1954. *Archaeopteryx lithographica*. A study based on the British Museum specimen. (London, British Museum), xi + 67 pp.
- HEILMANN, G. 1926. The origin of birds. (London, H. F. & G. Witherby), 208 pp.
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Merlin Attacks Brown-eared Bulbuls.—We were crossing a broad gravel-filled stream bed near Toyama, Japan, on the west-central coast of Honshu when a flock of Brown-eared Bulbuls (*Ixos amaurotis*) numbering about 70 birds approached upstream and crossed the river bed ahead of us. As they approached the bank a half a mile away a Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) appeared, flying parallel to our route, and headed toward the bulbuls. It reached them just as they left the river bed and were above a farm home surrounded by dense trees, mainly *Cryptomeria japonica*. The Merlin immediately attacked and the flock wheeled and circled about the trees attempting to avoid it. It stayed on the periphery of the flock attempting to isolate an individual or break up the flock. Oddly enough the bulbuls made no effort to alight in the trees but flew around and over them as though to confuse the falcon. The flock had been over a hundred feet high when attacked and in its frantic maneuvering gradually descended to nearly ground level. After a full three minutes of this an individual swung too far out of the flock and the Merlin stooped, taking it to the ground. The Merlin was only slightly larger than the bulbul which lay on its back pecking valiantly at the raptor. Undaunted by its ultimate fate it continued to fight until the Merlin flipped it over and quickly bit it at the base of the skull. Meanwhile the flock had regrouped and disappeared southward. The raptor, disturbed by us, flew heavily with its victim to a spot far out on the river bed. We decided from its small size and strong barring that it was an immature male.

Two days previously we had seen a Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) work a flock of Gray Starlings (*Sturnus cineraceus*) in the same way, but it made no stoop. On previous years we had seen Kestrels and accipiters attack flocks of bulbuls in Kyushu. —H. ELLIOTT McCCLURE, *406th Medical General Laboratory, APO 500, San Francisco, California.*