

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**The Japan Stork.**—My friend Mr. T. Kimura of Stanford University has kindly loaned me three interesting photographs showing the nest, adult, and young of the Japan stork,



THE JAPAN STORK, IZUSHI, JAPAN

*Ciconia boyciana* Swinhoe. These photographs were taken in June, 1904, at Izushi in the west central portion of the main island of Japan. The accompanying reproduction of one of the photographs shows the old bird and one young standing, and apparently one young lying in the nest. Another photograph, however, reveals four young in a sitting posture, together with the adult. Mr. Kimura informs me that the tortoise and stork are venerated in Japan as emblems of long life, and figures of them are used in the ceremony of marriage. A note on the back of the photograph, in the Japanese language, informs the reader that the storks recently returned to this locality after an absence of many years, having been formerly fairly common in the general region. This nest is viewed by many people every day. The coming of the stork is regarded as a happy omen pointing to the supremacy of Japan in the final outcome of the present war. The Japanese believe that the cannonading and noise of fighting have driven the storks out of their wonted homes to seek refuge in the flowery kingdom. I am indebted to Dr. Leonhard Stejneger for the identification of the birds. Dr. Stejneger writes that this species is closely allied to the white stork of Europe, but is larger; and while the former has a red bill with a black spot in front of the eye, the Japanese species has a black bill with a red spot of naked skin. The Japanese name

is Ko-dzuru. (See also: Stejneger, Proc. U. S. Nat. Museum, 1887, pp. 285-286.)—WALTER K. FISHER.

**The Flycatcher from the Santa Barbara Islands.**—In *The Auk* for July, 1897, pp. 300-303, Mr. H. C. Oberholser described an alleged new species of flycatcher from the Santa Barbara group of islands, calling it *Empidonax insulicola*. His material consisted of five specimens, two from Santa Rosa island, two from Santa Cruz island, and one from Santa Catalina island. Of these, one specimen is remarked upon as differing somewhat from the rest, thus interrupting the uniformity of the "series"! In his further remarks the author calls attention to the fact that among a lot of mainland examples of *Empidonax difficilis* are at least two which show close approach to "*insulicola*" in characters. He also recognizes "a considerable range of variation" in the mainland series "not satisfactorily attributable to geographical causes." It is this latter observation that I wish to concur with, and emphasize. In fact, I feel convinced that "*insulicola*" itself was based upon individual variants of *difficilis*!

In June, 1897, I secured an *Empidonax* on San Clemente island. The two skins obtained were submitted to Mr. Oberholser, who marked them *insulicola*, and these were so recorded in my paper. (Rep. Bds. Santa Barbara Ids., Aug. 1897, p. 15.) Also Mr. Oberholser has recorded the same birds in the Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum (Vol. XXII, 1900, p. 230), remarking that they were "substantially identical with those from the other islands." I now have these two skins before me, and another from the Mailliard collection, taken on Santa Cruz island in April 1898. I also have at hand a series of 50 mainland skins of *Empidonax difficilis*, including 9 from Sitka, Alaska, and several from Arizona. I am impressed with the great amount of variation shown, in intensities of dorsal brownness, pectoral brownish suffusion, and abdominal yellowness, all of which appears to me to be entirely independent of locality. I have carefully