

Cooke's 'Second Annual Report of Bird Counts in the United States.'¹—This posthumous work of Prof. Cooke's is a further report upon an investigation which was originated by him and in which he was deeply interested. His idea was to obtain as many carefully made counts as possible of the number of birds breeding on definite areas of farm land and with these as a basis, estimate the actual number of breeding birds over much larger areas. No less than 315 counts were received for 1915, covering nearly all the States of the Union, but mainly as in 1914, from the northeast. A comparison of the reports from this region for the two years, we have as the average bird population for each 100 acres of the area covered, 119 pairs in 1914 and 125 pairs in 1915.

Many other interesting facts are demonstrated and while it is too early to draw detailed deductions the practicability and importance of this line of investigation are clearly shown, and it is to be hoped that the Biological Survey will continue the compilation of data on the lines which Prof. Cooke laid down.—W. S.

Pearl and Curtis on Dwarf Eggs.²—In this paper the character and cause of 'runt' eggs are discussed at great length. It seems that these dwarf eggs usually occur but once or twice in the history of one bird, and are generally due to some temporary stimulation and are not correlated with a morphological disturbance of the sex organs.

Some dwarf eggs are yolkless while others contain small yolks. While the authors' study has been based entirely upon eggs of the domestic fowl their conclusions undoubtedly apply to other birds as well.—W. S.

Shufeldt's 'Osteology of *Palaeornis*, with other Notes on the Genus.'³—In spite of a colored plate and numerous photographic reproductions of portions of the skeleton, this paper is disappointing, since one fails to get a clear idea upon what points the author bases his conclusion that *Palaeornis* and its allies "constitute a subfamily" of Psittacidae. There are detailed descriptions of the skeletal parts, most of which "seem to form no exception to the general rule for Psittaci," "are as in all of the Psittaci examined" etc. In other cases comparisons are made with *Ara* and *Amazona* and less frequently with *Cacatua* and *Conurus*, but nowhere is there a comparative table or a summary from which one can get the evidence.

The nomenclature used is a little unfortunate for while *Amazona* is rightly used instead of *Chrysotis*, the present day changes in the names

¹ Second Annual Report of Bird Counts in the United States with Discussion of Results. By Wells W. Cooke. Bull. 396, U. S. Dept. Agriculture. October 23, 1916. pp. 1-20.

² Studies on the Physiology or Reproduction in the Domestic Fowl—XV. Dwarf Eggs. By Raymond Pearl and Maynie R. Curtis. Jour. Agr. Research, VI, No. 25. September 18, 1916. pp. 977-1042, pl. CXII-CXIII.

³ Osteology of *Palaeornis*, with Other Notes on the Genus. By R. W. Shufeldt. Trans. Royal Soc. of South Africa. Vol. V, pt. 5, June, 1916. pp. 575-591, pl. XXXIX-XLI.

Palæornis and *Conurus*, as adopted in Ridgway's 'Birds of North and Middle America,' are nowhere indicated. — W. S.

Shufeldt on Fossil Birds. — A portion of the right femur of a bird, larger than any now known in North America, which was found in Miocene (Salkehatchie Ooze) formation of the Stone River, South Carolina, is named by Dr. Shufeldt¹ who regards it as related to the Anseres, *Palæochenoides mioceanus* (p. 347).

In another paper² treating of the Bermuda 'bird-caves' he gives a popular summary of a much more comprehensive paper to appear later elsewhere. To this is added an 'Addendum' rather longer than the paper itself, in which new species based upon the bones found in the caves are described. These were intended for the later paper which is now indefinitely postponed, although references to the unpublished plates are here given! Unfortunately in two instances, no definite type specimens are designated in the descriptions and considering the number of species represented in the deposits and the fact that the new forms recently described in 'The Auk' (1916, pp. 194–195), probably represent some of them, serious questions of synonymy are likely to arise, which carelessness systematic work of this sort will further complicate. The new species named by Dr. Shufeldt are *Puffinus mcgalli* (p. 630), *P. parvus* (p. 632) and *Æstrelata vociferans* (p. 633). Measurements are given under only one of the species and while the other descriptions refer in detail to the amount of material described and figured in the unpublished paper, it is questionable whether enough data are here presented to constitute a recognizable description. — W. S.

Peters on a New Swift from Santo Domingo.³ — In working over the collection made in a trip to Santo Domingo during the winter and spring of 1916, in the interests of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Mr. Peters finds the resident Collared Swift much blacker on the sides of the head than birds from Cuba and Jamaica and upon this difference establishes a new race, *Streptoprocne zonaris melanotis* (p. 37). — W. S.

Riley on New Birds from Santo Domingo.⁴ — This paper describes three new birds recently obtained by Dr. William L. Abbott, of Philadelphia on an expedition to Santo Domingo, and presented to the U. S. National Museum. He visited the highlands of the interior where few zoölogical

¹ New Extinct Bird from South Carolina. By R. W. Shufeldt. Geological Magazine (VI) Vol. III, No. 626, pp. 343–347. August, 1916.

² Bird-Caves of the Bermudas. By R. W. Shufeldt. The Ibis. October, 1916. pp. 623–635.

³ A New Swift from Santo Domingo. By James Lee Peters. Proc. N. E. Zool. Club, VI, pp. 37–38, Nov. 23, 1916.

⁴ Three Remarkable New Species of Birds from Santo Domingo. By J. H. Riley. Smithsonian Misc. Collns. 66, No. 15. December 1, 1916, pp. 1–2.