

Sepik Valley, German New Guinea, consisting of an annotated list of 369 species with a summary of previous expeditions, a list of the ornithological contributions relating to this country and a discussion of its faunal divisions.

Under each species are listed all of the subspecies with their distribution and reference to place of description, the race or races represented in the collection under discussion being printed in heavier type, so that the work is far more than a report on the collection and serves as an important contribution to our knowledge of New Guinea birds. There appear to be no new forms described.—W. S.

**Riley and Richmond—A Bibliography of Chinese Birds.**—This list<sup>1</sup> which contains the titles of some 700 papers dealing with Chinese birds while admittedly not complete is evidently sufficiently so to be of the greatest value to those who have to deal with the avifauna of China which is for the most part scattered in various journals. As always in cases of compilation of this kind we are much indebted to the authors, how much only those who have attempted similar compilations will appreciate.—W. S.

**Rothschild on Birds of Yunnan.**—This paper<sup>2</sup> is a report on a third collection made by Mr. George Forrest in North-west Yunnan, a very fine collection according to the author, with a magnificent series of game birds. There were 1172 specimens representing 198 species of which 13 were not previously obtained by Mr. Forrest. *Cephalopyrus flammiceps olivaceus* (p. 263) is described as new.—W. S.

**Wetmore on the Food of Grebes.**<sup>3</sup>—After a careful study of the stomach contents of all six of our North American Grebes, Dr. Wetmore concludes that none of them is really injurious although the Pied-billed Grebe when it visits fish ponds may do damage by devouring young fish and in such cases it should be driven away or killed. The food of the larger Grebes consists largely of fishes of little or no value to man while the smaller kinds eat various sorts of water beetles and other insects found alive or floating on the surface of the water and all Grebes destroy crawfish.

Dr. Wetmore describes the mass of feathers which is almost invariably found in the stomach of Grebes. It consists of feathers which are dislodged when preening and devoured. He suggests that this feather mass

<sup>1</sup> A Partial Bibliography of Chinese Birds. By J. H. Riley and Dr. C. W. Richmond of the Smithsonian Institution. Journal of the North China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, Vol. LIII—1922, pp. 196-237 and LIV—1923, pp. 225-226.

<sup>2</sup> On a Third Collection of Birds made by Mr. George Forrest in North-west Yunnan. By Lord Rothschild, F. R. S. Novitates Zoologicae, XXX, pp. 247-267, October, 1923.

<sup>3</sup> Food and Economic Relations of North American Grebes. By Alexander Wetmore. U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Department Bulletin No. 1196, January, 1924, pp. 1-24.

may act as a strainer to prevent hard portions of food, bones and chiton, from passing into the intestines until softened by digestion. Grebes which feed on hard substances have more feathers in the stomach and those which contain soft food have less. The great destruction of Grebes for millinery purposes prior to 1903 is also referred to though at the present time Dr. Wetmore thinks that these birds have largely recovered from this slaughter. Now, however, they face a more dangerous condition in the extensive draining of marsh lands and ponds which if not checked will drive away or exterminate many of our birds.—W. S.

**Wetmore on Fossil Birds.**—Collections in the American Museum of Natural History and Princeton University, and the private collection of Mr. Harold J. Cook, all from the Miocene and Pliocene of Sioux County, Nebraska, have recently been studied by Dr. Wetmore<sup>1</sup> and have yielded six new species: *Geranoaëtus conterminus* (p. 497); *G. contortus* (p. 492); *Ortalis phengites* (p. 487); *Buteo typhoivus* (p. 489); *Urubitinga enecta* (p. 500); *Proictinia effera* (p. 504), other bones being indeterminate.

Another collection<sup>2</sup> made by Dr. J. W. Gidley in the Pliocene of the upper San Pedro Valley, Cochise Co., Arizona, also submitted to Dr. Wetmore, contained a number of interesting specimens, among others a bone which is identified with the genus *Agriocharis*, the Ocellated Turkey, also a Grebe, a Teal, a Bobwhite, a Gallinule, a Crow, a Junco, and the following new species: *Chloroenas micula* (p. 13); *Dendrocygna eversa* (p. 3); *Branta minuscula* (p. 6); *Micropalama hesternus* (p. 11).—W. S.

**Recent Papers by Mailliard.**—An expedition sent out by the California Academy under the leadership of Mr. Joseph R. Slevin to the Gulf of California made a collection of birds' eggs and secured a few bird skins and Mr. Slevin made a number of ornithological entries in his note book, all of which were used by Mr. Joseph Mailliard in preparing an account<sup>3</sup> of the birds of the expedition, which consists mainly of descriptions of the series of eggs secured and a list of 32 species observed with dates and localities. A general account of the expedition will be found in Vol. XII, No. 6, of the 'Proceedings' of the Academy.

Another paper<sup>4</sup> by Mailliard describes the birds and mammals seen and obtained on a second trip to Siskiyou County, California. One of the objects was to determine which race of Fox Sparrow, if any, bred in the mountains west of Shasta Valley and specimens showed it to be *Pas-*

<sup>1</sup> Avian Fossils from the Miocene and Pliocene of Nebraska. By Alexander Wetmore. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XLVIII, Art. XII, pp. 483-507, December 3, 1923.

<sup>2</sup> Fossil Birds from Southeastern Arizona. By Alexander Wetmore. Proc. U. S. Nat. Museum, Vol. 64, Art. 5, pp. 1-18, 1924.

<sup>3</sup> Expedition of the California Academy of Sciences to the Gulf of California in 1921. Birds. By Joseph Mailliard. Proc. Calif. Acad. Sciences, Fourth Series, XII, No. 24, pp. 443-456, August 21, 1923.

<sup>4</sup> Further Notes on the Birds and Mammals of Siskiyou County, California. By Joseph Mailliard. Ibid., XIII, No. 3, pp. 7-28, September 13, 1923.