

ornithologists an opportunity to appreciate the distinctness of this rare species, of which but few will ever see specimens. No mention is made of the locality where this bird was found nor of the number of specimens obtained for obvious reasons. There are other illustrations from photographs which add to the interest of the publication.—W. S.

La Touche's Handbook of the Birds of East China.—Part III of this work¹ maintains the high standard of the previous installments and covers the families *Pericrocotidae*, *Artamidae*, *Dicruridae*, *Sylviidae*, *Regulidae*, *Oriolidae*, *Eulabetidae*, and *Sturnidae*. We note but one new form described in the present part, *Cisticola exilis courtoisi* (p. 237) from South Yunnan, but as usual there is much valuable comment on the relationship and distribution of the various species.

Some of the groups here covered are difficult ones, notably the *Sylviidae*, and the full descriptions of the plumages of the 57 forms which occur in East China will be particularly welcome though it seems a pity that the author could not have included a key for their determination instead of referring to available keys in other works, which may not happen to be at the disposal of the reader.

Several photographic reproductions of characteristic scenery illustrate this installment of the work to which is added a valuable sketch map of east China.—W. S.

Duck Protection.—We have before us several publications dealing with the necessity for further limitation of the bag limit for game birds and water fowl in the United States as well as with the present abundance of Ducks.

Two of these unfortunately are anonymous and we are therefore in doubt just what weight to attach to them. Why anyone enough interested in game protection to write pamphlets for publication should wish to withhold his name we are at a loss to understand. The first publication² issued by "The National Committee of One Hundred" is a strenuous attack upon the present federal bag limit and the policies of the advisory committee of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This publication is so full of extravagant statements and black letter type that it gives one the impression that its claims are not capable of presentation in a moderate and more convincing form.

Next there is a dignified pamphlet³ issued by the National Association of Audubon Societies which purports to give the facts in the case and which puts the whole matter in a different light.

¹ *A Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China*. By J. D. D. La Touche Part III. May, 1926, pp. 193-292, pl. VIII-IX and map. Price 7s. 6d. net per part. Taylor and Francis, Red Lion Court, Fleet St., London, E. C. 4.

² *Wasting America's Game Birds*. "National Committee of One Hundred." New York, January 5, 1926. pp. 1-61.

³ *Federal Power and Duck Bag Limits: Facts*. A Study. National Association of Audubon Societies, Bulletin 6. 1974 Broadway, N. Y. Price 25 cents. 1926.

Finally there is the address of Dr. E. W. Nelson¹ before the Outdoor Recreation Conference on the present status of our wild fowl which is likewise not in accord with the statements given in the first publication.

There are and always will be extremists on both sides of all such questions as conservation and game protection whose extravagant statements may be discounted; but when "doctors disagree," and those who at one time worked together are opposed to one another, vast harm is done to the whole policy of conservation, the public becomes disgusted and do not know what to believe and legislative bodies do not know how to vote.

The same difference of opinion among the conservationists seems to have held up the national game refuge bill and doubtless will prevent action by Congress on bag limits or any similar subject. Meanwhile why cannot the extremists realize what harm they are doing and join with other forces in at least getting at the facts in the case. From entirely independent evidence we doubt very much the efficacy of bag limits on the rank and file of unprincipled and irresponsible gunners. Such men can easily get the bag limit again and again without detection.

It seems to be admitted on all sides that there are something like a million unlicensed gunners in the United States and that the unwarranted draining of marsh lands is depriving the Ducks of necessary retreats. Why not then concentrate upon remedying these conditions rather than publishing broadcast opposing views on bag limits. The U. S. Department of Agriculture has accomplished a great deal for conservation and the public we feel has not yet lost confidence in its officers.—W. S.

Recent Papers by Domaniewski.—M. Janusz Domaniewski has recently published a review of the Woodpeckers of the genus *Picumnus*² in which he recognizes no less than 52 species and subspecies. *P. irenae* (p. 292) from central Peru, *P. jelskii vitocensis* (p. 233) central Peru, *P. buffoni meridionalis* (p. 296) for *P. b. amazonicus* Snethl. preoccupied, and *P. punctifrons taczanowskii* (p. 297) n. e. Peru are proposed as new. A full bibliography of 151 titles and a plate complete the paper.

In another paper³ he lists the Polish Anatidae and presents a key to the thirty-seven species with notes on three others of probable occurrence.—W. S.

Clark on Animal Voices.—This paper⁴ is an interesting popular presentation of a subject to which Dr. Clark has given much attention

¹ Our Migratory Wild Fowl and Present Conditions Affecting their Abundance. By E. W. Nelson. Washington, D. C., March, 1926. (Mimeographed) p. 1-17.

² Uebersicht der Formen der Gattung *Picumnus* Temm. By J. Domaniewski. Annal. Zoöl. Mus. Polon. Hist. Nat. IV, 4, December 1, 1925, pp. 287-308 with one plate.

³ Uebersicht einheimischer Formen der Familie Anatidae. By J. Domaniewski. Osobne odbicie z T. LX. Spraw. Kom. fizjogr. Polskiej Akademji Umiej. 1925, pp. 113-127

⁴ Animal Voices. By Austin H. Clark Scientific Monthly January, 1926, pp. 40-48