

Recent Papers by Delacour.—M. Jean Delacour has recently published an account¹ of the birds of Japan in which he describes his observations during a visit to that country, as he returned from his collecting expedition to French Indo-China. There is a brief account of the wild bird life of the country but the paper is mainly devoted to avicultural matters. The aviaries, cages etc., used by the Japanese are explained and figured and the principal zoological gardens and private and public parks where birds are kept are described.

An account of the long tailed Japanese fowls is also given with details as to their breeding and care. Many excellent half-tones illustrate this interesting pamphlet.

Another paper² by the same author deals with the Black-necked Crane (*Megalornis nigricollis*) one of the rarest of the Cranes and next to the American Whooping Crane the nearest to extinction at the present time.

Mr. Delacour has also published a brief resume³ of his second expedition to French Indo-China.—W. S.

¹Bulletin of the International Committee for Bird Protection.—

This report⁴ published by the Committee and copyrighted by the president Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, lists the members of the committee and the societies coöperating with it. This is followed by an outline of the principles of the organization, an account of the activities of the president in visiting the various countries of Europe in the interests of bird protection, as well as the efforts made to stop the present exportation of Tinamous from Argentina and to check the destruction of Bald Eagles in Alaska, where no less than 41000 of these splendid birds have been slaughtered to date. There are also sectional reports from the various countries regarding the status of bird protection. The report is rendered more interesting by the inclusion of photographs of many of the members of the committee.

The International Committee deserves all praise for its work and every encouragement as only by such combined action can many of the problems of bird conservation be solved.—W. S.

Stresemann on Collocalia brevirostris.—Dr. Stresemann in a review⁵ of this species recognizes twelve subspecies of which *C. brevirostris vulcanorum* (p. 352) is described as new. A complete list of the names

¹ Les Oiseaux au Japon. By J. Delacour. Revue d'Hist. Nat. Appliquee, Deux. Partie. Vol. VII, No. 8-9-10. 1926. pp. 1-48.

² La Grue a Cou Noir. By J. Delacour. *ibid* Vol. VI, No. 9. Sept 1925. pp. 1-4.

³ Short Report on the Second Expedition to French Indo-China (1925-26). By J. Delacour, P. Jabouille and Willoughby P. Lowe. *Ibis*, January 1927, pp. 132-134.

⁴ Bulletin of the International Committee for Bird Protection. Published by the Committee, 1974 Broadway, New York, 1927. pp. 1-52.

⁵ Beiträge zur Ornithologie der indo-australischen Region. II. von E. Stresemann. Sonderabdruck aus Mitteilungen aus dem Zoolg. Museum in Berlin. 12. Bd. 2. H. August, 1926. pp. 349-354.

heretofore proposed for forms of *Collocalia* is appended with the status of each.—W. S.

Preble on the Woodcock.—Mr. E. A. Preble has published a most interesting and well written sketch¹ of the Woodcock and an earnest plea for saving the remnant of this once abundant bird from extinction.

Sportsmen may as well recognize the fact that certain species are bound to be exterminated if their hunting is continued and such birds should be placed on the protected list as soon as possible, while there is still a chance to save them.

With the adoption of the Migratory Bird Treaty in 1916 most of the shorebirds were placed on the closed list; last year the shooting of Black-breasted Plover was prohibited and this year the Yellow-legs receives complete protection. Why not add the Woodcock? Any objection that can possibly be made will come from those who are too selfish and greedy to give up their personal pleasure for the pleasure of a vastly larger proportion of the community who are interested in saving wild life from annihilation, and enjoying its presence.—W. S.

Miller on Structural Variations in Scoters.—Mr. Miller presents some important structural characters in this paper² which emphasize the difference between the two genera of Scoters, *Oidemia* and *Melanitta* now generally recognized. The most conspicuous of these are the great difference in the trachea and the remarkable abbreviation in the intestinal caeca of *Oidemia*, which resemble those of the Mergansers, while in most other ducks, including *Melanitta*, they are long and slender.

The Surf Scoter (*Pelionetta*) he still regards as close to *Melanitta* and best regarded as a subgenus. The paper is welcome as strengthening our present arrangement of these interesting Ducks.—W. S.

Recent Papers by Dwight and Griscom.—Mr. A. W. Anthony has been collecting birds in the mountains of northern Guatemala for Dr. Jonathan Dwight and among other interesting specimens has secured a remarkable Tyrant Flycatcher³ apparently belonging to a new genus and species which has recently been described by Dr. Dwight and Mr. Ludlow Griscom under the name *Xenotriccus callizonus* (p. 2) Lake Atitlan (5500 ft.). In color it is unique among Central American Flycatchers—brown above and yellow below, with a conspicuous rufous breast band—while in general appearance it suggests *Aphanotriccus* though it has an occipital crest and longer tail and tarsus.

¹ The Vanishing Woodcock. By Edward A. Preble. Nature Magazine, April, 1927. pp. 235-240.

² Structural Variations in the Scoters. By W. DeW. Miller. American Museum Novitates, No. 243, December 31, 1926. pp. 1-5.

³ A New and Remarkable Flycatcher from Guatemala. By Jonathan Dwight and Ludlow Griscom, American Museum Novitates, No. 254, March 8, 1927. pp. 1-2.