

Phillips on Birds Introduced in North America.¹—Dr. Phillips has been at much pains to compile a well annotated list of all wild birds introduced or transplanted in North America. The dates of the attempts to establish foreign species and the success or failure of the enterprise are given as well as comments upon the desirability and habits of the species, and lists of references to published articles and to records, letters etc. of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

As might be supposed, the game birds occupy the bulk of the report and in the case of the Bobwhite its introduction into the various western states is discussed at length. The introduction of southern stock, moreover, into New England, Ontario, etc. has affected the climatic resistance of the species in the northern part of its range and it will not persist as far north as it did twenty-five or fifty years ago.

The attempted introduction of the Bobwhite in England, France, China, and New Zealand furnishes interesting reading, as well as the remarkably successful introduction of the California Quail in New Zealand and Chile.

There are mentioned in the text about one hundred species which have been liberated in North America but only a very few have become permanently established, notably, of course, the Starling and the English Sparrow. Curiously enough the Hungarian Partridge has thrived in western Canada and some of the Rocky Mountain states, but attempts to introduce it in the east have almost always failed.

Those who have had no acquaintance with the subject of importation of foreign species of birds will be surprised to know that as many as 13,000 Australian Shell Parrakeets were brought into the country in one year; and when we consider the large number of other species imported it is surprising that more have not become established through accidental escape.

Dr. Phillips has performed a very important service in collecting the data that he has published, before it is too late, and his report becomes at once our leading work of reference on the subject.—W. S.

Swarth on Some Asiatic Birds in Alaska.²—During the summer of 1927, Mr. C. G. Harrold spent several months on Nunuvak Island, Alaska collecting birds for the California Academy of Sciences, and in the paper before us Mr. H. S. Swarth lists the Asiatic species that he obtained there with notes on their identification.

These are *Charadrius mongolus mongolus*, *Pyrhula pyrrhula cassini*, *Anthus spinoletta japonicus*, *Locustella ochotensis* and *Prunella montanella*. The last three are additions to the A. O. U. 'Check-List.' It is true that

¹ Wild Birds Introduced or Transplanted in North America. By John C. Phillips, Coöperating with the Bureau of Biological Survey. U. S. Dept. Agriculture Technical Bulletin No. 61. April 1928, pp. 1-63. Price 10 cents (address Supt. of Documents, Gov't. Printing Office.)

² Occurrence of Some Asiatic Birds in Alaska. By Harry S. Swarth. Proc. Calif. Academy of Sciences, Vol. XVII, No. 8, pp. 247-251, July 10, 1928.

there is a previous record of *A. s. japonicus* from Alaska, but a reëxamination of the specimen shows that it is really an example of *A. s. rubescens*.

With regard to the *Pyrrhula*, Mr. Swarth shows conclusively that the original specimen of *P. cassini* is the female of a form of *P. pyrrhula* and not a straggler of the central Siberian species, *P. cineracea*, as has generally been considered.

These Asiatic stragglers to Alaska have caused considerable trouble as to fixing their correct identity and Mr. Swarth has done a good service in so carefully studying his material before publishing his records.—W. S.

Recent Papers by Friedmann.—Dr. Friedmann has recently described¹ two additional birds from Tanganyika Territory collected for the Museum of Comparative Zoology by Mr. Arthur Loveridge. These he names *Apalis chapini* (p. 47) and *Turdinus rufipennis distans* (p. 48).

In another paper² he describes *Parisoma böhmi somalicum* (p. 51) from British Somaliland. He has also discussed³ the treatment of the African Hawks of the genus *Melierax* and proposes a new race *M. metabates ignoscens* (p. 94)—W. S.

Murphy on Birds Collected During the Whitney South Sea Expedition. IV.—In this brief paper⁴ Dr. Murphy discusses Petrels of the genera *Pterodroma*, *Puffinus* and *Fregetta*. *Pterodroma becki* (p. 2) from the Solomon Group and *Fregetta grallaria titan* (p. 4) from Rapa Island, Austral Group, are described as new.—W. S.

Sinclair on Omorhamphus a New Fossil Flightless Bird.⁵—Dr. W. J. Sinclair has recently described the remains of a remarkable fossil bird, possibly related to *Diatryma*, which was found in the Lower Eocene of Wyoming by Mr. T. C. von Storch, a member of the Princeton 1927 Expedition, and which he names *Omorhamphus storchii* (pp. 51-52).

The material consists of the tip of the beak, the left leg complete, except for a few phalanges, a number of broken vertebrae and other pieces. The bird is placed provisionally in the family Diatrymidae.

While there can hardly be any ambiguity regarding Mr. Sinclair's names since there is obviously only one species involved, he, nevertheless, has failed to follow the recommendation of the International Commission

¹ Two New Birds from Tanganyika Territory. By Herbert Friedmann. Proc. New England Zool. Club, X, pp. 47-50. April 14, 1928.

² Notes on *Parisoma böhmi* with a Description of a New Race. By Herbert Friedmann. *ibid.*, pp. 51-53. June 8, 1928.

³ Notes on *Melierax* with Description of a New Form. By Herbert Friedmann. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. 41, pp. 93-96. June 29, 1928.

⁴ Birds Collected During the Whitney South Sea Expedition. IV. By Robert Cushman Murphy. American Novitates Museum, No. 322, pp. 1-5. July 14, 1928.

⁵ *Omorhamphus*, a New Flightless Bird from the Lower Eocene of Wyoming. By William J. Sinclair. Proc. Amer. Philosophical Society, Vol. LXVII, No. 1, 1928, pp. 51-65.