

Lönnerberg on Birds from Southern Gobi.—The Sino-Swedish Expedition to Central Asia under Dr. Sven Hedin (1927-1929) was not primarily concerned with zoological collecting but a number of birds were secured by the members and, although most of these had to be simply dried as mummies, they were easily identifiable and a list of them, with annotations, is presented in the paper¹ before us. Seventy species are listed, many of which were previously unknown from this little studied region, while the data presented sheds some light upon the migration routes of certain species.

In a previous paper² Dr. Lönnerberg describes from the collection a new Gull *Larus melanocephalus relictus*.—W. S.

Taverner on Canada Geese.—It has been known for some time that a small Canada Goose occurred in migrations in the Mississippi Valley and casually on the Atlantic coast, similar to Hutchins's Goose but smaller, and for lack of definite knowledge of its breeding place it has been referred to the latter race, or to *minima*, which it resembles in size but not in color.

Mr. Taverner now shows³ that the birds found breeding on Baffin Island by J. Dewey Soper, of the Canadian Arctic Expeditions, represent this form and that, furthermore, Richardson's name *hutchinsi* belongs to it rather than to the larger bird of the west, to which it has usually been applied.

We thus have five forms of these Geese instead of four which Mr. Taverner separates as follows:

(1) A large light-breasted form breeding across the continent; *canadensis*.

(2) A large dark-breasted form breeding on the Queen Charlotte Islands; *occidentalis*.

(3) A medium sized light-breasted form breeding in the northwest; *leucopareia* [several times spelled "leucoperia" in the paper before us] formerly known as *hutchinsi*.

(4) A small dark-breasted form breeding on the east coast of Bering Sea; *minima*.

(5) A small light-breasted form breeding in eastern Arctic America (Baffin Island, etc.) hitherto unrecognized but which is the *hutchinsi* of Richardson.

The three larger birds are regarded as races of *canadensis* but the two small ones Mr. Taverner prefers to consider as full species, though through an apparent slip of the pen he continues to call their characters "sub-

¹ A Contribution to the Bird Fauna of Southern Gobi. By Einar Lönnerberg. Arkiv för Zoologi, Band 23A, No. 12, Pp. 1-18, August 4, 1931.

² A Remarkable Gull from the Gobi Desert. Arkiv för Zoologi, Band 23B, No. 2, pp. 1-5, June 1, 1931.

³ A Study of *Branta Canadensis* (Linnaeus) The Canada Goose. By P. A. Taverner. Ann. Rept. Nat. Mus. Canada, 1929, pp. 30-40, pl. 1, fig. 1, 1931.

specific." This attitude regarding their specific relationship is taken because of the fact that *minima* and *leucopareia* have been found breeding together by Conover (Auk, 1926, 174) and *canadensis* and *hutchinsi* by Soper (1929).

Our author's points seem to be well taken and he is able to base his conclusions upon more definite data than have yet been available on the breeding ranges of the several forms.

As to his changes in the vernacular names of the birds we cannot agree. *Branta canadensis occidentalis* is changed from "White-cheeked Goose" to "Western Goose" because the Latin name *leucopareia* (i.e. white-cheeked) is applied to another form, but this hardly seems necessary since the ornithologists who are also Greek scholars are becoming so few that this inconsistency will hardly be noticed and the Queen Charlotte Goose is known through nearly all of our literature by the name "White-cheeked." The dropping of the name "Hutchins's Goose" may have more justification but in view of the rather indefinite understanding of this form that has always prevailed, it seems better to retain "Hutchins's" [not "Hutchin's" as our author has it] as the English name for the bird called "*hutchinsi*" instead of bringing in a new name "Richardson's Goose." For the other form a new name is of course necessary and "Lesser Canada Goose" is most acceptable.

Mr. Taverner is to be congratulated upon a most valuable contribution to the much vexed question of the Canada Geese and their relationships.—W. S.

Lowe on the Occurrence of Broadbills in Africa.—This notable paper¹ is primarily a detailed study of the anatomy of the curious little bird *Pseudocalyptomena graueri*, described by Lord Rothschild in 1909 from a single specimen secured by Rudolf Grauer in the bamboo forests of the region above Lake Kivu, Africa, and hitherto not rediscovered, although searched for by several explorers.

James P. Chapin has maintained that the true home of the bird was in the canyons above the bamboos and here it was finally obtained by Alan Moses of the Sterling Rockefeller-Charles Murphy Expedition from the American Museum of Natural History, and specimens in spirits were submitted to Dr. Percy R. Lowe for study.

Lord Rothschild struck by the apparently superficial resemblance of the remarkable bird to *Calyptomena* of the Malay region, a member of the Broadbill family (Eurylaemidae), named it as above. This family was supposed at that time to be restricted to the Oriental Region, covering part of India, the Malay countries and the Philippines and the possibility of its extension to Africa was not even suspected until in 1924, when Dr. Lowe proved that the supposed Flycatcher genus, *Smithornis*, of Africa,

¹ On the Anatomy of *Pseudocalyptomena* and the Occurrence of Broadbills (Eurylaemidae) in Africa. Proc. Zool. Soc. (London), Part II, June 29, 1931.