

called Pygmy Goose, that it is found on fair sized expanses of water which are well overgrown with water lillies and when alarmed it dives at once reappearing at a considerable distance, its varied plumage harmonizing with the leaves and flowers so that it is not easy to see after having done its "vanishing trick."

Of Shelley's Francolin we learn that its call is heard about the houses almost every day in the year, a loud whistle that sounds like "I'll drink yer beer," repeated at least three times. So here, as in almost every country, we find birds with calls that at once seem like words or phrases and which are not infrequently adopted as the vernacular names of the species.

This volume covers the Ostriches, Penguins, Grebes, Petrels, Herons, Ducks, Hawks and Game Birds, and we shall look with interest for its successor, which is expected to appear early in March, 1934.—W. S.

La Touche's 'Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China.'—The latest part of this standard work,¹ rapidly approaching completion, is entirely devoted to the water birds from the Shore-birds to the Ducks. It fully maintains the high standard of the preceding parts and carries two halftone illustrations. We note that no less than 720 species have been described and discussed in the work up to and including this number.—W. S.

Lynes on the Birds of the Ubena-Uhehe Highlands and the Iringa Uplands.—In this paper² are presented the results of an expedition to southern Tanganyika Territory undertaken in 1930-31 by Admiral Lynes and Mr. Willoughby Lowe. There is a very fully annotated list of 324 species, collected or observed, in which will be found a wealth of data on molt, distribution, nesting, habits etc., with marginal symbols to indicate the relation of the distribution of each species to the discussion on faunal relationships which forms the preceding portion of the report.

Admiral Lynes' conclusions on this problem, after an intimate study of the country and of his collections, is that the avifaunae of what he terms the highlands, lying above the 1900 meter contour line, and the upland lying below this level, are so strikingly different that their differences cannot be explained by altitude nor by environment, and that they are in fact as different as are those of parts of Africa which are considered as constituting different avifaunal subdivisions. In other words it is suggested that differences in the two regions under discussion are due mainly to some much less obvious cause, doubtless originating from conditions in the remote past.

There are many illustrations of the country from photographs and an account of the itinerary of the party and of the climate and physical features of the regions traversed.

¹ A Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China. By J. D. D. La Touche, Vol. II, Part V. Pp. 401-496, January, 1934. Price 7s. 6d. net, per part. Taylor and Francis, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, London, E. C. 4.

² Birds of the Ubena-Uhehe Highlands and Iringa Uplands. Contribution to the Ornithology of southern Tanganyika Territory. Jour. f. Ornith. Vol. 82, 1934, Sonderheft. Pp. 1-147, pll. 15. February 20, 1934.

Admiral Lynes has made another valuable contribution to the zoogeography of Africa as well as to the ornithology of the area covered, which should be considered in connection with the publications of Loveredge, Chapin and Bowen on the distribution of African birds.—W. S.

Holman's 'Sheep and Bear Trails.'—Mr. John P. Holman has recently published an attractive series of hunting experiences in Alaska and British Columbia, under the above title,¹ dealing mainly with white sheep, Rocky Mountain goats, and bears, with a little prelude dealing with the lure of the 'Rivers of the North.' There are a number of good half-tone illustrations from photographs of the country and the game.

While ornithologists with a liking for the wilderness trail will find much good reading in Mr. Holman's accounts of his trips it is his final chapter that will appeal especially to the bird lover: 'The Keeper of the Swans.' This consists of verbal accounts and letters of Ralph A. Edwards, of British Columbia, who located on one of the lonely lakes of this country where a few Trumpeter Swans come every year. He has taken upon himself the protection of these fast disappearing birds and does all in his power to guard them against any possible enemies. Severe winters prove very hard on the birds and some of them perish though others were saved from starvation by feeding them on cabbage until their strength was regained. The history and personality of the "keeper" are as interesting as his account of the birds.—W. S.

New Boat-tailed Grackles.—While the recent discussion in 'The Auk' on the color of the iris of the Boat-tailed Grackle brought out the apparent fact that there were two forms of the bird, no one seemed anxious to pursue the matter further until quite recently, when two papers on the subject appeared almost simultaneously. One by Mr. Alexander Sprunt, Jr.,² names the brown-eyed bird as new under the name *Cassidix mexicanus westoni*, type from St. John's River Marshes, Indian River County, Florida; the other by Dr. Francis Harper³ describes the yellow-eyed bird as new with the name *Cassidix major torreyi*, type from Chincoteague, Virginia.

The first Boat-tail to be described was named by Vieillot *major* and was from Louisiana; it was therefore necessary at the outset to find out what the color of the eye was in Louisiana birds, since Vieillot failed to mention this point, in order to fix his name on one form or the other. Mr. Sprunt says "the fact that the birds of the type locality are yellow-eyed proves it to be a characteristic of that form (*major*)," but gives no further evidence

¹ Sheep and Bear Trails | A Hunter's Wandering in | Alaska and British Columbia | by | John P. Holman | introduction by | Capt. Robert A. Bartlett | Approved by the | Boone and Crockett Club | With 43 Illustrations | New York | Frank Walters | Grand Central Palace | 1933. Pp. 1-xvi + 1-211. Price \$3.00.

² A New Grackle from Florida. By Alexander Sprunt, Jr. Charleston Museum Leaflet, No. 6. February 24, 1934. Pp. 1-5.

³ The Boat-tailed Grackle of the Atlantic Coast. By Francis Harper. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., LXXXVI, 1934, pp. 1-2. March 8, 1934.