

Porzana nigra, (Mill.) from the Marquises, and *R. circoleps* Lesson, from the Philippines; the former is related to *P. tabuensis* and seems to be a very rare species, the latter name seems to have priority over *Coturniculus exquisita* Swinhoe and the bird, as suggested, may better be regarded as a subspecies of *C. noveboracensis* of North America.

A collection obtained by M. L. Blancou near Bangui, French Congo, including twenty-two species has been described¹ by M. Berlioz and *Thripis namaquus saturatus* (p. 230) described as new. A fourth² paper deals with the mutational dimorphism of Herons, and considers *Egretta dimorpha* of Madagascar (with a colored plate) and related Old World forms as well as *Florida caerulea* and *Dichromanassa rufescens* of America. Curiously enough there is no mention of the much debated case of *Ardea herodias* and *A. occidentalis*.—W. S.

Friedmann's Recent Papers.—Ethnological researches in ancient and more modern Eskimo habitations in the Bering Sea and Aleutian regions by H. B. Collins and others have brought to the U. S. National Museum several collections of bird bones which have been reported upon by Dr. Friedmann. One paper³ deals entirely with a collection from St. Lawrence Island which shows the former presence there of ten species not now known from the island, though all are known from not very distant localities. A second paper⁴ reports on collections from several of the Aleutian Islands and from the Alaskan mainland. Of especial interest is the presence on Kodiak Island of a humerus of *Phalacrocorax carbo* presumed on geographical grounds to be the Chinese Cormorant (*P. c. sinensis*). In another paper⁵ Dr. Friedmann reviews the species of Hawks of the genus *Chondrohierax* and describes several new forms: *C. uncinatus mirus* (p. 313) from Grenada; *C. u. aquilonis* (p. 314), Tamaulipas, Mexico; *C. u. immanus* (p. 315), Eastern Ecuador. A specimen of Wallace's Standard-wing Bird of Paradise in the Washington zoo gave an opportunity for a study⁶ of its display which is recorded with sketches by R. Bruce Horsfall. In still another publication⁷ Dr. Friedmann presents further additions to the list of birds victimized by the Cowbird.—W. S.

Brooks on the Water-fowl.—The series of articles on North American birds is continued in the 'National Geographic Magazine' for October, 1934, with an installment on the Ducks, Geese, and Swans, both plates and text by Major Allan Brooks. The author-artist is especially at home with the water-fowl and the sixteen colored plates are beautiful examples of his best work, while the terse accounts of the several species present the necessary general information, interspersed with bits from his personal experience. In regard to the identification of Ducks he voices the astonishment of many a beginner when he says: "The old wild fowler squints at a flock of birds too far away to show any color, and instantly identifies them by their contour, wing action, or some character imperceptible to the tyro."

Major Brooks is as much opposed to Loons as he is to various Hawks and claims that every pair of the thousands of Loons that are seen streaming along the Pacific Coast is responsible for the killing of two broods of young Ducks!

¹ Etude d'une Collection d'Oiseaux de l'Oubangui-Chari. Par M. J. Berlioz. Bull. Mus. Paris, VI, No. 3, 1934. Pp. 228-234.

² Le Dimorphisme Mutationnel chez les Ardéidés. Par M. J. Berlioz. Ann. Sci. Nat. Zool. 10 ser. XVII, 1934. Pp. 273-282.

³ Journal Washington Acad. Sci., Vol. 24, No. 2, pp. 83-96, February 15, 1934.

⁴ Ibid., No. 5, pp. 230-237, May 15, 1934.

⁵ Ibid., No. 7, pp. 310-318, July 15, 1934.

⁶ Scientific Monthly, July, 1934, pp. 52-55.

⁷ Wilson Bulletin, March and June, 1934, reprint unpagged.