

*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 described<sup>1</sup> by M. Berlioz and *Thripis namaquus saturatus* (p. 230) described as new. A fourth<sup>2</sup> 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 paper<sup>3</sup> 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 paper<sup>4</sup> 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 paper<sup>5</sup> 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 study<sup>6</sup> of its display which is recorded with sketches by R. Bruce Horsfall. In still another publication<sup>7</sup> 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!

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., No. 5, pp. 230-237, May 15, 1934.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., No. 7, pp. 310-318, July 15, 1934.

<sup>6</sup> Scientific Monthly, July, 1934, pp. 52-55.

<sup>7</sup> Wilson Bulletin, March and June, 1934, reprint unpagged.

Several half-tones from photographs add to the interest of this excellent article.—  
W. S.

**Kelso's 'A Key to Species of American Owls.'**—In a handsomely printed little book<sup>1</sup> Leon Kelso and Estelle H. Kelso present several articles dealing with the Owls of the Americas. These are entitled: A Key to Species of American Owls; A List of the Owls of the Americas; Notes on the Habits of the Cholibá Screech Owls; Relation of the Diurnal Habit to Distribution and Abundance of American Owls; and Notes on the Habits of the Spectacled Owls.

The "List" is by Estelle Kelso; the others apparently all by Leon Kelso although the authorship of most of them is not definitely stated.

The "Keys" do not carry one to the subspecies but the "List" includes them and gives the range and an English name for each, with reference to the original description for all forms not included in Cory's 'Birds of the Americas.'

The articles on habits are compiled from various authors and there are half-tone reproductions of plates of three species of Owls from standard works. There are also five plates of outline drawings of the pattern of breast feathers from various species of Screech Owls, usually from the type specimen.

The Kelsos have given us a handy volume with up-to-date information on this rather neglected and difficult group of birds, which will be of great assistance to anyone engaged in their systematic study and will form a basis for further research.—  
W. S.

**Rusby's 'Jungle Memories.'**—Although the main theme of this book<sup>2</sup> is of particular interest to botanists, it also includes much of value to the ichthyologist, the entomologist and the ornithologist as well. It is a narrative of an expedition across the Andes and through the jungles of South America in search of new medicinal plants. It is crowded with incident and adventure sometimes of an almost fantastical character. The data of ornithological value include discussions of such a variety of themes as mountain-top observations made from above on the flight of an Eagle; the variously colored gorgeous plumage of a species of Trogon; observations on the habits of Rheas on the tablelands, particularly their swiftness in running; interesting species of long-tailed Cuckoos frequenting banana fields; the indescribable beauty of a "swallow-tail" Hummingbird and the habits of a related species in building nests among the thorns of a huge columnar cactus; the flitting and sailing habits of Parrots and Paroquets; notes on the collection of various species of Hummingbird nests; an incident of two serpents frequenting the vicinity of Hummingbird nests; methods used by Indians in obtaining prey of Eagles; observations on the "toonkie" (or Cock-of-the-Rock) and on the Sun Bittern (*Eurypyga helias*); observations on the habits and articulation of Macaws; the avoidance of certain pools by Ducks where the savage carib fishes were present; difficulties presented under tropical conditions in collecting and preserving bird skins; discussion of the song notes of the mysterious Bell-bird; observations on collecting the Amazonian Water Turkey or "snake-bird" and the great Horned Screamer; difficulties in collecting birds shot from tropical tree tops but caught while falling in tangled vines and branches. There are also narrations of an interesting experience in a Gull

<sup>1</sup> A Key to Species of American Owls. By Leon Kelso. U. S. Biological Survey with A List of the Owls of the Americas. By Estelle H. Kelso. Constituting Biological Leaflet No. 4. Intelligencer Printing Company, November, 1934. Pp. 1-101 with eight plates. Privately published.

<sup>2</sup> Jungle Memories By Henry H. Rusby, Emeritus Dean and Professor of Materia Medica, College of Pharmacy, Columbia University, 8 vo., 388 pp., illus. N. Y. McGraw-Hill Company, 1933. Price, \$3.50.