RECENT LITERATURE

EDITED BY FRANK McKINNEY

ANATOMY AND EMBRYOLOGY

LOCKLEY, R. M., and D. SURREY DANE. 1954. Congenital abnormalities in a Gannet. British Birds, **47**: 23–24.—A full-grown fledgling *Sula bassana* showed absence of feathers on the back, malformed feathers, 10 instead of 12 tail-feathers, and 5 instead of 4 toes on each foot. 2 photographs.—F. M.

PRINS, F. X. 1951. Die "Musculus orbitoquadratus" en Constrictor 1—derivate van die pikkewyn. Ann. Univ. Stellenbosch, **27** (A): 101–130.—An embryological study of part of the trigeminal musculature in the South African Penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*). In Dutch, with English summary.—R. W. S.

BEHAVIOR

BAGNALL-OAKELEY, R. P. 1954. Observations on a Black-bellied Dipper [*Cinclus c. cinclus*] walking along the bottom of a stream. British Birds, **47**: 28.

CONDER, P. J. 1954. The hovering of the Wheatear. British Birds, **47**: 76–79.—Review of literature and personal observations convince the author that hovering in *Oenanthe oenanthe* is used as a technique for observing predators or potential predators and not as a display or to locate food.—F. M.

CROOK, J. H. 1953. An observational study of the gulls of Southampton Water. British Birds, **46**: 385–397.—An interesting description of the behavior of four species of gulls in winter. Black-headed Gulls (*Larus ridibundus*) have nine different feeding activities in the estuary. Roosts are used at high-tide and at night. The routes leading to roosts and the flight behavior of the birds under various wind conditions are described and figured.—F. M.

GOODWIN, D. 1953. The reactions of some nesting passerines towards live and stuffed Jays. British Birds, **46**: 193–200.—Small birds such as Warblers (*Phylloscopus* sp.) mob but do not risk an actual attack on a stuffed *Garrulus glandarius;* Thrushes (*Turdus* sp.) frequently attack. Many interesting observations are described, and there is a discussion of the Jay as a nest predator.—F. M.

GOODWIN, D. 1954. Juvenile Mistle Thrushes showing reproductive behaviour-patterns. British Birds, **47**: 81–83.—Captive, hand-raised *Turdus viscivorus* performed nest-building movements, and "mounting" occurred once.—F. M.

HINDE, R. A. 1956. A comparative study of the courtship of certain finches (Fringillidae). Ibis, **97**: 706–745; **98**: 1–23.—This important paper is concerned primarily with the causation of courtship behavior; the species studied were the Canary (*Serinus* sp.), Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*), Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*), Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*), Hawfinch (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*), Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*), Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*), and Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*). Each sex of each species shows tendencies to attack, flee from, and behave sexually toward its mate during courtship. Males are dominant over females until the pre-copulatory period is reached, at which time males tend to behave sexually more and more and to attack and flee from females less and less. Females thus become dominant in the pre-copulatory period. At copulation both sexes tend to behave sexually and to flee, but they rarely attack one another. Each display is analyzed into a number of components, and variation in these postures is related to the variation in the three basic drives.

Courtship feeding (and in the Canary and Greenfinch, nest building) is regarded as ritualized displacement activity, facilitating sexual behavior and reducing the tendency to aggression.

The behavioral evidence does not support Tordoff's recent suggestion that *Fringilla* is more closely related to emberizines than to carduelines, or that carduelines are very closely related to estrildines. It does indicate that the Greenfinch and Canary are closely related, and that the Chaffinch is not closely related to the carduelines.—R. F. J.

HUXLEY, J. S., and P. E. BROWN. 1953. The song of the Woodpigeon. British Birds, **46:** 399–404.—Nearly 4,800 songs of the Woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*) were noted down, and it was found that the popularly accepted version of the song was wrong. The different song types, their relative frequency, and the duration of the songs are analyzed.—F. M.

JACKSON, R. D. 1954. Territory and pair-formation in the Blackbird. British Birds, **47:** 123–131.—Describes territorial behavior of a small population of *Turdus merula*. Territories average about 1 acre and are held throughout the year by resident pairs, though they are completely defended by the pair only during the breeding season. In winter, immatures occur in the territories and many hold sub-territories. Some observations on pair-formation are given.—F. M.

MORLEY, A. 1953. Field observations on the biology of the Marsh Tit. British Birds. **46:** 233–238, 273–287, 332–346.—An important paper which reports the results of a long-term study of color-banded individuals of *Parus palustris* in Bagley Wood, N. Berkshire. Detailed observations on the following topics are described and discussed: flocking and its relation to territorial behavior and to the flocking of other species, songs and call notes and their meaning, aggressive and territorial behavior, breeding behavior (including the growth of interest in holes, nest-building, the characteristics of the nest-site, competition for holes, laying, and the behavior of the parents during incubation, hatching and fledging). Roosting habits are also described.—F. M.

MORRIS, D. 1954. The snail-eating behaviour of Thrushes and Blackbirds. British Birds, **47:** 33–49, 3 photos, 4 figs., 2 tables.—Behavior associated with finding snails (*Helix aspersa* and *Cepaea nemoralis*), carrying them to "anvils," breaking the shell by hammering, extracting the snail, wiping and swallowing it, is described and discussed in the Song Thrush (*Turdus ericetorum*). The Blackbird (*T. merula*) was not seen to use hammering movements but was successful in robbing Song Thrushes of snails which the latter had just extracted from the shell.—F. M.

PEAKALL, D. B. 1953. On the feeding habits of the Redshank and the Spotted Redshank. British Birds, **46:** 304.—Counts indicate that *Tringa erythropus* feeds in deeper water than the closely related *T. totanus*.—F. M.

PENNYCUICK, C. J. 1956. Observations on a colony of Brunnich's Guillemot *Uria lomvia* in Spitsbergen. Ibis, **98:** 80–99.—Breeding behavior, flight, and diurnal activity are described for a colony of about 500 pairs of birds.—F. R. J.

RADFORD, M. C. 1954. Notes on the winter roosting and behaviour of a pair of Nuthatches. British Birds, **47:** 166–168, 1 graph.—Records of the time of entering and leaving the roost in a nesting-box were made for a female *Sitta europaea*. Morning departure was closely correlated with the amount of light, but the time of entering was more variable and was late in very cold weather when the bird was thought to be feeding late.—F. M.

SIMMONS, K. E. L., and R. W. CROWE. 1953. Displacement-sleeping in the Avocet and Oystercatcher as a reaction to predators. British Birds, **46:** 405–410.—"The displacement-sleeping activity of the Avocet [*Recurvirostra avosetta*] and Oystercatcher [*Haematopus ostralegus*] is reviewed in its role as a predator-

reaction, especially as shown by breeding birds. The view is put forward that this behaviour, both as an element of intraspecific fighting and of predator-reaction, is a result of the joint stimulation, at relatively low intensity, of attack and escape. Some other displacement-activities of a similar nature are also dealt with." Excellent drawings.—F. M.

Diseases and Parasites

Guilford, H. G., and C. A. Herrick. 1954. The effect of gapeworm disease in pheasants. Trans. Wisc. Acad. Sci. Arts and Letters, **43:** 25–50.—Gapeworms experimentally introduced as eggs into young pheasants developed and multiplied from the 15th to the 27th day, then declined to the 48th day. A resistance to a second infection developed after the 37th day.—J. T. E.

Ornithosis. (Unsigned editorial.) 1956. The Journal of the American Medical Association **160** (No. 12): 1057.—Since World War II "psittacosis" has increased in the United States. Between 1945 and 1951 there were about 28 reported cases per year; about 444 were reported in 1954. Recently, several epidemics have been reported among turkey-processing plant employees. Ornithosis may be transmitted by finches, pigeons, ducks, and galliform birds as well as by parrots. "If effective control measures are not promptly applied, a continued increase in the incidence of this disease may be expected."—D. A. Z.

Sladen, W. J. L., and P. K. C. Austwick. 1955. The mycoflora of wild Pink-footed Geese sampled in Iceland and Scotland, 1953. The Wildfowl Trust Seventh Annual Report, 1953–1954: 133–138.

Woodman, W. J., and R. J. Dicke. 1954. Population fluctuations of the Mallophagan parasite Bruelia vulgata (Kellogg) upon the Sparrow. Trans. Wisc. Acad. Sci. Arts and Letters, **43:** 133–135.—Fifty-five per cent of 391 House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) collected throughout the year at Madison, Wisconsin, were infested with an average of 6 Mallophagan parasites per bird. A significantly high incidence of parasitism occurred in June. Lowest infestations were in August, September, and January.—J. T. E.

Distribution

Boase, H. 1954. Movements and numbers of Tufted Duck in E. Scotland. British Birds, **47:** 65–76, 3 graphs.—Seasonal fluctuations in numbers of *Aythya fuligula* on lochs in Angus and Perthshire and tidal waters of the Tay Estuary.—F. M.

Bond, J. 1956. Check-list of Birds of the West Indies. Fourth Edition. Philadelphia: Academy of Natural Sciences. ix + 214 pp.—A bringing up to date of this familiar work. See Auk, **53:** 105, 1936, and **62:** 318, 1945, for reviews of the first and second editions, respectively.—R. W. S.

Bond, J. 1956. First Supplement to the Check-list of Birds of the West Indies (1956). Philadelphia: Academy of Natural Sciences. 8 pp.

Brown, L. 1955. The Breeding of Lesser and Greater Flamingoes in East Africa. Journ. E. Afr. Nat. Hist. Soc., **22:** 159–162.—The largest breeding colony, on Lake Natron, comprised 500,000 adults, mostly of the Lesser Flamingo. First breeding record of the Greater Flamingo in East Africa.—H. F.

Fisher, J. 1953. The Collared Turtle Dove in Europe. British Birds, **46:** 153–181, 3 maps.—During the last twenty years, *Streptopelia decaocto* has spread "about 1,200 miles north-westerly across Europe from the Balkans, and has been observed at 468 different new places at least, at many of which it has become a

resident breeder within a year or two of its first arrival." The distribution and spread are documented fully and analyzed.—F. M.

FORD, E. R. 1956. Birds of the Chicago Region. Special Publ. No. 12, Chicago Acad. Sci., 1956: VII + 117 pp. Map, 2 photos, price $1.50.—An annotated list of 382 species and subspecies of birds which have been found within the "Chicago Region," with migration dates and local status; separate lists of permanent residents and average dates of spring arrival for 170 of the more common forms; bibliography of 260 titles; separate indexes to English names and scientific names; biographical sketch and portraits of author. This important paper supplants, and is a considerable improvement over a publication (1934) of the same title by Ford, Sanborn, and Coursen.—E. R. B.

KASPARYAN, A. 1956. A Preliminary Systematic List of the Birds of Turkey. Rev. Faculté Sci. Univ. Istanbul, **21** (1–2): 27–48.—A short introduction (in Turkish and English) is followed by a systematic list without annotations.—R. W. S.

MASON, C. R. 1955. Twenty years of Cape Ann bird counts. Bull. Mass. Aud. Soc., **39**: 61–67.—Table, by years, of species seen and discussion of the highlights.—L. M. B.

PARKES, K. C. 1956. A Field List of Birds of the Pittsburgh Region. Pittsburgh: Carnegie Museum. 48 pp.—Information on distribution, abundance, and seasonal occurrence presented graphically. Maps of the area and selected references to works on birds of the region add to its usefulness.—R. W. S.

PARRINDER, E. R. 1954. The Little Ringed Plover in Great Britain 1951–53. British Birds, **47**: 198–203.—*Charadrius dubius* continues a slow, steady increase and spread in England, from the first pair which bred in 1938 to the 54 pairs which were recorded in 1953 of which 37 are known to have bred.—F. M.

THEARLE, R. F., J. T. HOBBS, and J. FISHER. 1953. The birds of the St. Tudwal Islands. British Birds, **46**: 182–188.—The bird records of two small islands in Cardigan Bay, Caernarvonshire.—F. M.

WOLFE, L. R. 1956. Check-list of the Birds of Texas. Lancaster, Pa: Intelligencer Printing Co. 89 pp., 1 map. Price, $1.75.—This first list of the birds of Texas since 1912 will prove very useful. In the past forty-four years, the number of species and subspecies of birds recorded in Texas has jumped from 546 to 737. The species and subspecies accounts are brief, averaging eight per page, and include short statements of seasonal status, abundance, and range. The last is in terms of the eight areas into which the Texas Ornithological Society has divided the state. Col. Wolfe wisely used vernacular names only for species and was conservative in selecting the records included. The resulting work should be valuable for many years.—R. W. S.

WILLIAMSON, K. 1953. Rare Larks and Pipits at Fair Isle in 1952. British Birds, **46**: 210–212.—*Calandrella cinerea longipennis, Galerida cristata, Anthus gustavi, Anthus cervinus.*

ECOLOGY AND POPULATION

ALEXANDER, W. B. 1954. The Index of Heron Population, 1953. British Birds, **47**: 108–111.—On the basis of nest counts, the British population of *Ardea cinerea* is calculated to have decreased by 2 or 3 per cent from the 1952 level.—F. M.

BOYD, H. 1955. The role of tradition in determining the winter distribution of Pinkfeet in Britain. The Wildfowl Trust Seventh Annual Report, 1953–1954: 107–122.—Banding of *Anser brachyrhynchus* shows that there are tendencies for geese to remain in one wintering area and to return to it in successive years, but there are striking variations between different wintering areas in Britain.—F. M.

BOYD, H., and P. SCOTT. 1955. The British population of the Pinkfooted Goose, its numbers and annual losses. The Wildfowl Trust Seventh Annual Report, 1953–1954: 99–106.—Summary of conclusions drawn from an intensive study of *Anser brachyrhynchus* begun in 1950. Large-scale banding has shown that the Pinkfeet which breed in Iceland and Greenland winter in England and Scotland, and this population is distinct from that which breeds in Spitsbergen and winters in Denmark, Germany, and Holland. Application of the "Lincoln Index" to capture-recapture data gives estimates of the British population which vary from 37,000 to 52,000 (standard errors of the order of 17 per cent). Calculations from the adult and juvenile death-rates and the theoretical age-composition of the population give estimates ranging from 41,000 to 51,000. The death-rate is 26 per cent for adults and 42 per cent for juveniles (calculated from band-recoveries). The kill for one year in Britain of 12,700 geese is thought to be a fair estimate. A graph illustrates the fluctuations of the population between October 1950 and May 1954.—F. M.

HARTLEY, P. H. T. 1954. Wild fruits in the diet of British Thrushes. A study in the ecology of closely allied species. British Birds, **47**: 97–107, 8 figs., 4 tables.—The wild fruit foods of *Turdus pilaris*, *T. viscivorus*, *T. ericetorum*, *T. musicus*, and *T. merula* were investigated by collecting records of birds seen feeding on fruits of different plants. Each species has characteristic food preferences, though striking differences are apparent between records from two areas in southern England and one in South Wales. Competition for wild fruit food is most serious between *T. pilaris* and *T. musicus*, which are both winter visitors to Britain. The former species has an "ecological reserve" in the habit of feeding on crab-apples in hard weather, while *T. musicus* has no such habit and is the first to succumb.—F. M.

LACK, D. 1954. The stability of the Heron population. British Birds, **47**: 111–119, 3 figs., 1 table.—Re-examination of data collected over 25 years by the British Trust for Ornithology (Index of Heron Population) confirms that there has been a marked decrease in numbers of *Ardea cinerea* after each hard winter followed by a rapid recovery to nearly the former level. By comparing nearly complete censuses of nests in three areas in England, regional fluctuations are detected which do not appear in summaries for the whole country. "The size and spacing of the colonies varies with the locality and habitat and may also change with time. The dispersion of the breeding pairs in accordance with the feeding conditions presents an unsolved problem in bird behaviour." There is an editorial comment on the paper by E. M. N[icholson] (p. 119–121) which stresses that "assumptions that the Index tells the whole story may lead us away from the truth."—F. M.

SCOTT, P., H. BOYD, and W. J. L. SLADEN. 1955. The Wildfowl Trust's Second expedition to Central Iceland, 1953. The Wildfowl Trust Seventh Annual Report, 1953–1954: 63–98.—The aim of the expedition was to capture and band Pink-footed Geese (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) on the breeding grounds. Details are given of techniques for driving molting adults and goslings into pens. 4144 adults and 4861 goslings were captured; 260 of the adults carried bands put on in previous years. By using the "Lincoln Index," the breeding population in mid-July 1953 is estimated at 8200 adults and 10,200 goslings. "It is considered unlikely that two-year olds breed successfully," but they were present in the colony. Evidence suggests that geese return to the same part of the colony to breed in successive years. Gosling mortality is estimated by several methods; it is thought

that about three-fifths of the goslings hatched are lost before mid-October when samples are available from the British wintering population. The length of the flightless period is thought to be about 25 days. A number of abnormal geese are described.—F. M.

TURČEK, F. J. 1956. On the bird population of the spruce forest community in Slovakia. Ibis, **98**: 24–33.—63 species of birds are here listed as to their food niches, altitudinal distribution, zoogeographic origins, densities, and biomass within the *Picea abies* community in Slovakia. Mixed feeders form over 5 per cent of the population and its biomass, followed by herbivores and insectivores.—R. F. J.

COULSON, J. C., and E. WHITE. 1956. A study of colonies of the Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* (L.). Ibis, **98**: 63–79.—An examination of the hypothesis that in colonial birds large colonies breed earlier than small colonies (the "Fraser Darling Effect"). The authors show that it is age rather than any social facilitation that is involved: large colonies are older colonies, they have more older birds, and older birds breed earlier in the year than younger birds.—R. F. J.

ELDER, W. H. 1955. The relation of age and sex to the weights of Pink-footed and Grey Lag Geese. The Wildfowl Trust Seventh Annual Report, 1953–1954: 127–132.—Weight studies of *Anser brachyrhynchus* and *Anser anser* carried out during rocket-netting expeditions of The Wildfowl Trust in the autumn of 1953. In 636 Pinkfeet, the mean weight of adult males was 6.09 pounds, adult females 5.49, juvenile males 5.33, juvenile females 4.79 pounds. Corresponding mean weights of 259 Grey Lags were: 7.52, 6.80, 6.88, and 6.29 pounds. Data are presented in full and compared with the records in the literature.—F. M.

JOHNSTON, D. W. 1956. The annual reproductive cycle of the California Gull. I. Criteria of age and the testis cycle. II. Histology and the female reproductive system. Condor, **58** (2 and 3): 134–162; 206–221.—An intensive study of the reproductive cycle of *Larus californicus* in central California, based on specimens collected at Mono Lake and around San Francisco Bay. The validity of the study rests on accurate determination of age of the birds collected. Data on plumages and molts, colors of the soft parts, and the bursa of Fabricius are presented in detail; these are generally mutually supportive, permit accurate aging of subadult and adult groups, and show clearly that an adult California Gull is four or more years old.

Data on reproductive stages of the gonads and the presence or absence of the brood patches establishes first-year and second-year birds as definite non-breeders. Third-year females do not breed, but about half the third-year males, and almost all birds of both sexes four or more years old, breed. All characteristics discussed are placed in the setting of variation through space and time and all are correlated with observations on behavior of the gulls in the field.—R. F. J.

RIDLEY, M. W., B. L. MOSS, and R. C. PERCY. 1955. The Food of Flamingoes in Kenya Colony. Journ. E. Afr. Nat. Hist. Soc. **22**: 147–158.—The Lesser Flamingo feeds on algae in the alkaline lakes of the Rift Valley; the food of the Greater Flamingo is variable.—H. F.

MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

ELDER, W. H. 1955. Fluoroscopic measures of shooting pressure on Pink-footed and Grey Lag Geese. The Wildfowl Trust Seventh Annual Report, 1953–1954: 123–126.—In 825 adult *Anser brachyrhynchus* 41 per cent were carrying lead pellets while in 161 *Anser anser* the proportion was 37 per cent. Less than 5 per cent of juveniles of both species carried pellets. The geese were trapped

in October-November in Britain. The proportion of adults carrying shot is about the same as for *Branta canadensis interior* in the Mississippi Valley.—F. M.

Migration and Orientation

Barnes, J. A. G. 1953. The migrations of the Lesser Black-backed Gull. British Birds, **46:** 238–252.—The results of a co-operative enquiry into the migrations of *Larus fuscus* in the British Isles. The account is based on field records of arrival dates, influxes, and to a lesser extent of birds observed migrating. The movements appear to be on a broad front, though some migrants follow the lines of coasts or rivers. There is some evidence indicating that there may be heavy passage at heights greater than 3,000 feet.—F. M.

Boyd, H. 1954. The "wreck" of Leach's Petrels in the autumn of 1952. British Birds, **47:** 137–163, 1 fig., 2 tables.—Fully documented account and discussion of the large scale "wreck" of *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* which occurred in the British Isles between October 21 and November 8, 1952. At least 6,700 birds were stranded, the largest influx since 1891. Widespread gales over the North Atlantic were responsible. It is thought that the whole population of the species was involved, not merely British birds.—F. M.

Browne, P. W. P. 1953. Nocturnal migration of Thrushes in Ireland. British Birds, **46:** 370–374.—Evidence mostly from counts of flight-calls indicates that there is a coasting concentration of four species of *Turdus* during the autumn migration at Dublin Bay. The relative frequency of flight-calls was checked with the kills at two lighthouses to confirm that *Turdus musicus* is a more numerous migrant here than *T. merula*, *T. ericetorum*, and *T. pilaris*. Barrington at the end of the 19th Century recorded *T. ericetorum* as the most numerous species.—F. M.

Conder, P. J.; R. K. Cornwallis and A. E. Smith; A. G. S. Bryson; E. D. H. Johnson; P. Davis. 1954. Reports on the movements of certain migrants at British Bird Observatories in 1952. British Birds, **47:** 16–23.—Separate reports on *Oenanthe oenanthe, Phoenicurus phoenicurus, Sylvia curruca, Motacilla flava flavissima,* and *Calcarius lapponicus* which summarize observations on spring migration in the first four species and autumn occurrences of the last species. The reports are analyzed and discussed with particular reference to weather conditions and the concept of migrational "drift."—F. M.

Davis, P. 1953. American Robin on Lundy. British Birds, **46:** 364–368.—*Turdus migratorius* recorded on Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel on October 27, 1952. It remained about two weeks. Kenneth Williamson contributes remarks to the author on the meteorological conditions which prevailed at this time and the evidence strongly suggests that this bird could have made the trans-atlantic flight unaided by drifting downwind.—F. M.

Griffin, D. R., and T. H. Goldsmith. 1955. Initial flight directions of homing birds. Biol. Bull., **108:** 264–276.—Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) released at various points in New England consistently headed to the southeast (144°) with a mean deviation of only 16°, regardless of the direction of their homes. Performance was unaffected by 95 per cent cloud cover but was almost entirely lost when the sun was completely hidden. Leach's Petrels (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) showed no consistent directional responses in similar overland releases.—J. T. E.

Jones, N. G. B., and R. Gilmore. 1955. Observations on gathering and departure of Pink-footed Geese at Ásgard in Central Iceland. The Wildfowl Trust Seventh Annual Report, 1953–1954: 153–169.—Observations on the behavior of *Anser*

brachyrhynchus were made from August 20 to September 14, 1954. Families gather into flocks which are thought to be "social rather than migratory." "Departure seems to be solely a result of snow in the interior. At first the geese fly away downwind. The direction of migration is influenced by terrain and then by south-east drift in the almost invariable conditions following any depression over Iceland which causes snow high up in the interior in September. It is thought that the geese reach the north coast of Scotland mainly as a result of these conditions."—F. M.

LACK, D. 1954. Visible migration in S. E. England, 1952. British Birds, **47:** 1–15.—A co-operative watch in late autumn showed that Rooks, Starlings, Chaffinches, and other species arrived from the Continent travelling north of west in Kent and west further north. The peak time of arrival was later, the longer the sea crossing; most migrants were thought to leave the opposite shore soon after dawn. There was evidence that some species crossed the sea above visible range. Departures S. E. from England to the Continent were on a smaller scale except for finches. Coasting movements are described and discussed.—F. M.

OWEN, D. F. 1953. Migration at the Kentish Knock Lightship. British Birds, **46:** 353–364.—Visible migration from a lightship situated in the southern section of the North Sea in late October and early November. Starling, Chaffinch, and Skylark were the commonest migrants, mostly moving west to the English coast. Nocturnal migration was heavy and included most of the species seen moving by day. Thrushes were seen moving by day. Large numbers of sea-birds were also observed migrating.—F. M.

THOMSON, A. L. 1953. The migrations of British Warblers (Sylviidae) as shown by the results of ringing. British Birds, **46:** 441–450, 2 maps.—A summary and analysis of recoveries of eleven species, the most detailed accounts being those on *Sylvia communis* and *Phylloscopus trochilus*, for which species there are over 100 recoveries.—F. M.

THOMSON, A. L., and E. P. LEACH. 1953. Report on bird-ringing for 1952. British Birds, **46:** 287–303, 313–330.—The progress of banding in the British Isles is summarized and a selected list of recent recovery records is given.—F. M.

VARIOUS AUTHORS. 1953. Reports from Bird Observatories, 1952. British Birds, **46:** 421–439.—Brief summaries of the work carried out at the eleven observatories around the coasts of the British Isles. Selected migration records are reported in each case.—F. M.

WILLIAMSON, K. 1954. "Northern Chiffchaffs" and their area of origin. British Birds, **47:** 49–58, 3 figs.—October movements of *Phylloscopus collybita* through Britain were observed to include individuals resembling the Siberian race *tristis*, the Scandinavian *abietinus*, and more rarely the typical race *collybita*. Taxonomic examination of specimens collected in October confirmed this. Study of meteorological conditions supports the idea of migrational drift. On the basis of deduced migration-rate these birds are thought to have originated in a zone of intergradation between eastern and western birds which "lies no farther east than Finno-Karelia and north-west Russia."—F. M.

PHYSIOLOGY

ENGELS, W. L., and C. E. JENNER. 1956. The effect of temperature on testicular recrudescence in Juncos at different photoperiods. Biol. Bull., **110:** 129–137.—Warm temperatures (24°–29° C.) significantly accelerated the testis response of Juncos exposed to 10-, 11- and 12-hour photoperiods as compared with other

groups exposed at cold temperatures (4°–8° C.). Day-lengths of about 11 hours were necessary for spermatogenesis in all groups.—J. T. E.

JUHN, M. 1954. On the two-fold source of pattern in plumage in the fowl with examples from a hybrid. Jour. Exp. Zool., **126:** 473–495.—Characteristic feather patterns in Barred Plymouth Rock × Brown Leghorn hybrids are gradually lost when feather growth is retarded under thiouracil.—J. T. E.

OLSEN, M. W., and S. J. MARSDEN. 1954. Development in unfertilized turkey eggs. J. Exp. Zool., **126:** 337–348.—A delayed, abnormal development occurred in 14.1 per cent of 1463 eggs layed by a group of 23 virgin turkey hens. Birds confined in a pen adjacent to but separated from a group of male turkeys produced more than twice as many developing eggs suggesting a neurogenetic stimulus. —J. T. E.

WOLFSON, A. 1954. Production of repeated gonadal, fat, and molt cycles within one year in the Junco and White-crowned Sparrow by manipulation of day length. Jour. Exp. Zool., **125:** 353–376.—By alternating periods of long and short days Juncos were induced to pass through 5 periods of gonadal activity and fat deposition and two molts within 369 days. White-crowned Sparrows similarly treated underwent 4 periods of activity and 2 molts in 343 days. The entire annual cycle is thought to be regulated by day length. Short days induce molt but only after previous exposure to long days.—J. T. E.

TAXONOMY

LACK, D. 1956. The species of Apus. Ibis, **98:** 34–62.—A revision of the genus *Apus* (Apodidae). There is a veritable morass of qualitative detail presented, and a welter of proposals of change in specific rank from the listing in Peters' Birds of the World. Statistically, there is no morass: the mean, standard deviation, and standard error are scrupulously avoided, and sample size is only occasionally noted. Extremes of linear measurements are faithfully recorded, but almost always in text; there is but one table in the 25 pages of the paper proper, and both text figures are distribution maps. I grant that a systematist's insight is perhaps his most valuable tool and that statistics are only a means of gaining additional insight, but there seems to be no excuse for the author's anachronistic presentation. His views may be the very best possible at this time on the genus *Apus;* if this is true, they represent probably the last triumph of 19th-century taxonomy.—R. F. J.

MEINERTZHAGEN, R. (Chairman). [British Ornithologists' Union] Taxonomic Subcommittee: First Report. Ibis, **98:** 157–168.—Recommendations of this committee of interest to North Americans include: that the Gadow-Peters classification be followed; that a 90 per cent rule in recognition of subspecies be followed in those cases where a single average character is determinative; that *Gavia* be substituted for *Colymbus;* that *Cygnus buccinator* and *C. cygnus* be regarded conspecific; that *Cygnus columbianus* and *C. bewickii* be regarded conspecific; that *Actitis macularia* and *A. hypoleucos* be regarded conspecific; that the three phalaropes be regarded congeneric and united under *Phalaropus;* that *Stercorarius skua* be replaced in *Catharacta;* that *Uria grylle* be placed in *Cepphus;* that the Prunellidae be placed either immediately before the Fringillidae or after the genus *Montifringilla* to best indicate affinity.—R. F. J.

PRIGOGINE, A. 1955. Une nouvelle race de *Bessonornis archeri* du Congo belge. Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr., **52** (1–2): 33–35.—*Bessonornis archeri kimbutui,* Mt. Kabobo, Belgian Congo, new subspecies.—R. W. S.

PRIGOGINE, A. 1955. Une nouvelle forme de *Seicercus laetus* (Sharpe) du Congo belge. Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr., **52** (1–2): 101–104.—*Seicercus laetus schoutedeni*, Mt. Kabobo, Belgian Congo, new subspecies.—R. W. S.

PRIGOGINE, A. 1955. Une nouvelle forme de *Cossypha bocagei* Finsch et Hartlaub de l'est du Congo belge. Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr., **52** (3–4): 181–184.—*Cossypha bocagei kaboboensis*, Mt. Kabobo, Belgian Congo, new subspecies.—R. W. S.

VERHEYEN, R. 1955. Analyse du potentiel morphologique et considerations sur la systematique des coraciiformes (Wetmore 1934). Bull. Roy. Sci. Nat. Belg., **92**: 1–16, **93**: 1–19, **94**: 1–16.—A review of the morphological characters, particularly osteological, and a reclassification in which a separate order, the Upupiformes, is erected for the hoopoes and hornbills.—R. W. S.

VERHEYEN, R. 1956. Les Striges, les Trogones et les Caprimulgi dans la Systematique Moderne. Bull. Inst. Sci. Nat. Belg., **32** (3): 1–31.—A review of the morphological characters of the owls, trogons, and night-jars. The trogons are said to be more closely related to the night-jars than any other group.—R. W. S.

MISCELLANEOUS

MASON, C. R. 1955. Birds round the world on postage stamps. Bull. Mass. Aud. Soc., **39**: 72, 113, 181, 295–296, 337–338, 399–400, 454.

SIMMS, E., and G. F. WADE. 1953. Recent advances in the recording of bird-songs. British Birds, **46**: 200–210, 3 photos.

WILLIAMS, J. G. 1955. The Identification of Kenya Birds of Prey in Flight. Pt. 2. Falcons, Hobbies, Kestrels, and Pygmy Falcon. Journ. E. Afr. Nat. Soc., **22**: 165–167.