

there is a previous record of *A. s. japonicus* from Alaska, but a reëxamination of the specimen shows that it is really an example of *A. s. rubescens*.

With regard to the *Pyrrhula*, Mr. Swarth shows conclusively that the original specimen of *P. cassini* is the female of a form of *P. pyrrhula* and not a straggler of the central Siberian species, *P. cineracea*, as has generally been considered.

These Asiatic stragglers to Alaska have caused considerable trouble as to fixing their correct identity and Mr. Swarth has done a good service in so carefully studying his material before publishing his records.—W. S.

Recent Papers by Friedmann.—Dr. Friedmann has recently described¹ two additional birds from Tanganyika Territory collected for the Museum of Comparative Zoology by Mr. Arthur Loveridge. These he names *Apalis chapini* (p. 47) and *Turdinus rufipennis distans* (p. 48).

In another paper² he describes *Parisoma böhmi somalicum* (p. 51) from British Somaliland. He has also discussed³ the treatment of the African Hawks of the genus *Melierax* and proposes a new race *M. metabates ignoscens* (p. 94)—W. S.

Murphy on Birds Collected During the Whitney South Sea Expedition. IV.—In this brief paper⁴ Dr. Murphy discusses Petrels of the genera *Pterodroma*, *Puffinus* and *Fregetta*. *Pterodroma becki* (p. 2) from the Solomon Group and *Fregetta grallaria titan* (p. 4) from Rapa Island, Austral Group, are described as new.—W. S.

Sinclair on Omorhamphus a New Fossil Flightless Bird.⁵—Dr. W. J. Sinclair has recently described the remains of a remarkable fossil bird, possibly related to *Diatryma*, which was found in the Lower Eocene of Wyoming by Mr. T. C. von Storch, a member of the Princeton 1927 Expedition, and which he names *Omorhamphus storchii* (pp. 51-52).

The material consists of the tip of the beak, the left leg complete, except for a few phalanges, a number of broken vertebrae and other pieces. The bird is placed provisionally in the family Diatrymidae.

While there can hardly be any ambiguity regarding Mr. Sinclair's names since there is obviously only one species involved, he, nevertheless, has failed to follow the recommendation of the International Commission

¹ Two New Birds from Tanganyika Territory. By Herbert Friedmann. Proc. New England Zool. Club, X, pp. 47-50. April 14, 1928.

² Notes on *Parisoma böhmi* with a Description of a New Race. By Herbert Friedmann. *ibid.*, pp. 51-53. June 8, 1928.

³ Notes on *Melierax* with Description of a New Form. By Herbert Friedmann. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. 41, pp. 93-96. June 29, 1928.

⁴ Birds Collected During the Whitney South Sea Expedition. IV. By Robert Cushman Murphy. American Novitates Museum, No. 322, pp. 1-5. July 14, 1928.

⁵ *Omorhamphus*, a New Flightless Bird from the Lower Eocene of Wyoming. By William J. Sinclair. Proc. Amer. Philosophical Society, Vol. LXVII, No. 1, 1928, pp. 51-65.

on Zoological Nomenclature in definitely naming a type species for his genus.—W. S.

Wetmore on *Cyphornis magnus*.—Dr. Wetmore has recently¹ made a careful examination of the type specimen of the fossil bird described by Cope as *Cyphornis magnus* from the tertiary of Vancouver island, and now in the collection of the National Museum of Canada. It is the proximal portion of a left metatarsus, representing probably less than one-fourth of the entire bone.

Cope's idea that *Cyphornis* is most closely related to the Pelicans is upheld but from the fact that it also shows affinities to the Sulidae, and more distantly to the Phalacrocoracidae and Anhingidae, Dr. Wetmore proposes to erect a new family Cyphornithidae for it, and in the same family would include *Palaeochenoides* Shufeldt, which he has already shown belongs to the Pelecaniformes and has nothing to do with the Geese. Dr. Wetmore's paper is rendered more valuable by an excellent figure of Cope's type.—W. S.

Bowen on the Classification of the Pteroclididae.—In this study Mr. Bowen comes to the conclusion that neither the elongation of the central pair of rectrices nor the number of rectrices is of sufficient importance for use in generic separation in the Sand Grouse, and therefore he declines to recognize the genus *Eremialector*, based chiefly on the former character, and relegates it to the synonymy of *Pterocles*.

He does however divide *Pterocles* into two genera upon other characters, proposing *Dilophus* (p. 11) for *P. lichtensteinii* and its allies. In a footnote however he cancels this genus in favor of *Nyctiperdix* Roberts, 1922, which has priority. Inasmuch as one species in each genus fails to agree with the others in several characters it would seem that the proposed groups might better be regarded as subgenera.

Mr. Bowen at all events has brought together a valuable mass of information regarding the structural characters and habits of the Sand Grouse, which will prove of much value to all who have occasion to study them.—W. S.

Stone on a Collection of Birds from Para, Brazil.³—Between Feb. 23 and May 26, 1926, Messrs. Rodolphe M. de Schauensee and James Bond of Philadelphia collected birds and mammals in the lower Amazon region, Brazil, near Pará, and along several rivers in the vicinity. A

¹ The Systematic Position of the Fossil Bird *Cyphornis magnus*. By Alexander Wetmore. Bulletin 49, Geological Survey, Canada Department of Mines, March 15, 1928, pp. 1-4.

² Remarks on the Classification of the Pteroclididae. By W. Wedgwood Bowen. American Museum Novitates, No. 273. September 6, 1927, pp. 1-12.

³ On a Collection of Birds from the Pará Region, Eastern Brazil. By Witmer Stone (with Field Notes by James Bond and Rodolphe M. de Schauensee.) Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, LXXX, 1928, pp. 149-176.