

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

**Wetmore on *Cyphornis magnus*.**—Dr. Wetmore has recently<sup>1</sup> 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.**<sup>3</sup>—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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

<sup>3</sup> 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.