

148. *Chamaepelia passerina* Sw. GROUND DOVE.—A rare summer sojourner. Have never seen more than two together.

149. *Meleagris gallopavo (americana Coues?)*. WILD TURKEY.—I can not state with certainty whether the Wild Turkey under consideration is the *Meleagris gallopavo americana* or *M. gallopavo*, but I think it is the first named variety. I have found the bird abundant in all the heavily wooded districts, especially common in the thick woods with much underbrush near Spring Creek. Eggs are often put under a tame hen, but the young are not easily domesticated; as soon as they are grown they become very wild, and many go off again to their favorite woods. Early in May I have seen the mother bird with about a dozen young ones, but they were so extremely wild that they suddenly disappeared among the almost impenetrable thickets of blackberries (*Rubus villosus*) and Smilax (*Smilax laurifolia* and *S. lanceolata*). When the pecans are ripe, they assemble in flocks of from ten to twenty and even thirty, and feed particularly on these nuts. Later in the season they feed on several kinds of acorns, and in winter when food becomes scarce, they eat the berries of the myrtle-holly (*Oreophila myrtifolia*) and other berries.

150. *Cupidonia cupido* Bd. PRAIRIE HEN.—Common resident on all the flat grassy prairies. Is becoming scarcer every year.

151. *Ortyx virginiana Bonap.* AMERICAN QUAIL; "BOB-WHITE."—Very abundant resident. Two broods are raised yearly. They are exceedingly tame and confiding, breeding sometimes in close proximity to the habitations of men. In winter from fifty to one hundred are usually seen in cotton and sugar-cane fields.

(To be continued.)

Recent Literature.

BAILEY'S INDEX TO FOREST AND STREAM.*—The newspaper thus indexed as to the bird-matter contained in its first twelve volumes has always given much space to ornithological articles, which have become of late years more valuable from a scientific standpoint than newspaper pieces generally are, being authenticated by the signatures of the writers instead of some silly pen-name, and being on the whole scarcely below or not below the grade of the bird-notes that one finds in periodicals of professed technical character. No one who has had any experience in hunting for what he wants through the scantily indexed pages of a weekly issue can

* "Forest and Stream" Bird Notes. An index and summary of all the ornithological matter contained in "Forest and Stream," Vols. I-XII. Compiled by H. B. Bailey. New York: F. & S. Pub. Co., 39 Park Row. 1881. 8vo., paper, pp. iv, 195.

fail to appreciate the good office Mr. Bailey has rendered us all; and every one upon whom the bibliographical blight has descended knows what an immense amount of industry that curse entails. The author has our hearty sympathy in the latter, and our best thanks for the former. His work is more than a mere alphabetical list of names, followed by reference figures; for it includes, as the title says, a summary of each article indexed—often giving just the points wanted, thus rendering it unnecessary to look up the reference. The Index also includes authors' names, and among these the authorship of many pseudonyms and initial-signatures are for the first time properly exposed. The summation of the bird-matters seems to be quite complete, and is certainly extensive, in the cases of some common game birds occupying several pages. We presume the work is not free from faults and errors of all sorts, because nothing of the kind can be; but we have found it more reliable than its mechanical execution would lead one to expect. Considering how great a favor Mr. Bailey has conferred upon the publishers, and how much good his Index will do the paper, by "setting it up" in the estimation of working ornithologists higher even than it was before, his work might have been better dressed.—E. C.

CHAMBERLAIN'S CATALOGUE OF THE BIRDS OF NEW BRUNSWICK.*—As many of our readers are doubtless aware, Mr. Montague Chamberlain has been engaged, for some time past, in investigating the bird fauna of New Brunswick, and an interesting result of his labors is now before us in the form of a catalogue of the birds of that Province. This paper, which forms by far the most important one in the publication of which it is a part, comprises some forty-three pages which are divided into two sections; "Section A" being restricted to species which occur in St. John and King's Counties"; while "Section B" embraces "species which have not been observed in Saint John or King's Counties but which occur in other parts of the Province."

The former division treats of a region to which the author has evidently paid special attention, and the text, being mainly based on his personal observations or investigations, includes many interesting and several important notes and records. From these we gather that the rather marked Alleghanian tinge which is known to pervade the bird-fauna of the entire coast region of Maine, as far as Eastport and Calais, extends still further eastward. Thus the Catbird, White-eyed Vireo, Towhee Bunting, Cowbird, Meadow Lark, Baltimore Oriole, Carolina Dove, Least Bittern, Florida Gallinule, and a few others scarcely less characteristic of the more southern fauna, have been found within the area treated by the present paper, but all are marked as rare, and the greater number as merely accidental visitors. Many of the more important records have already been published elsewhere.

* A Catalogue of the Birds of New Brunswick, with brief notes relating to their migrations, breeding, relative abundance, etc. By Montague Chamberlain. Bulletin of the Natural History Society of New Brunswick. No. 1, pp. 23-68. Published by the Society. Saint John, N. B., 1882.

The annotations in this section are often full and always interesting. The author writes clearly and simply and his style is characterized by a modest frankness that is very attractive. We fear, however, that some of his views respecting the distribution of races are hardly orthodox. Thus he thinks that "two races of Loon spend the summer in New Brunswick, and breed here. They have plumage of similar colors and markings, but one is smaller than the other, being some six inches less in length. The larger bird is common on the lakes and rivers in all sections of the Province, seldom seeking the salt water until the rivers freeze over, while the smaller is rarely found away from the sea shore"; and again that a light form of the Ruffed Grouse "resembling the descriptions given of *umbelloides*" occurs with typical *umbellus* and that it is "not improbable that both the Brown and Gray varieties are represented here, with numerous hybrids"; a condition of affairs which, if true, is certainly deplorable.

"Section B" is almost wholly compiled, the authorities mainly drawn on being Boardman, Herrick, and Dr. A. Leith Adams. Several of the records left by the latter writer are, in the light of our present knowledge, of very doubtful value.

Mr. Chamberlain's work, so far as it has gone, has evidently been done carefully and well, a fact which makes it the more to be regretted that the publication of his report could not have been longer delayed, for in many respects it lacks the completeness that is desirable in a paper of its kind. Any adequate exploration of a region so extensive as that embraced within the limits of New Brunswick cannot be accomplished in one or two seasons only. It is rather the task of a lifetime. But we must bear in mind that the present "Catalogue" is offered simply as a "starting point," to be "supplemented by additions and revisions as opportunity for further investigation occurs"; and considered from this standpoint it is in every way a highly creditable production. That its author is qualified to carry out an undertaking which he has so satisfactorily begun can be a matter admitting of no doubt, and we shall look for many interesting developments in the field which he has chosen.—W. B.

KRUENBERG ON THE COLORING MATTER OF FEATHERS. SECOND PART.*—Turacoverdin, a green pigment which occurs in the green feathers of the *Musophagidæ* is first considered. This pigment is soluble in alkalies, such as soda and the like, but is insoluble in acids, chloroform, ether and the alcohols. Concentrated sulphuric acid added to the pigment in solution turns it violet red. Turacoverdin in solution emits a weak red fluorescent light, and when examined by the spectroscope shows an absorption band near D. It contains a considerable quantity of iron, but little copper or manganese, and probably, like Turacin, lacks sulphur and nitrogen. A point of considerable interest is its identity with a green

* Dr. C. Fr. Kruenberg. Die Farbstoffe der Federn. 2 Mittheilung, in Dessen Verg.-phys. Stud., 2 R., I. Abth., 1882, SS 151-171.

pigment procured by Church by boiling a solution of Turacin for a long time.

Zoöruhin, a red-brown pigment occurring in *Cinnurus regius* is next described. In solubility it much resembles the preceding, but has no absorption band, though all of the spectrum beyond D is absorbed. When treated with a very small quantity of copper-sulphate, Zoöruhin instantly becomes cherry-red, a characteristic reaction. This pigment occurs in the brown female paradise bird though not in other brown birds, as *Strix flammea* and *Alcedo ispida*. As regards the colors of *Eclectus polychlorus*, where green, blue, red, yellow and brown may all be found, the author has brought out some very interesting points. The blue and green are mechanical, or rather the blue is mechanical and the green is the result of a yellow pigment overlying a brown one. The true pigments of the feathers are brown, yellow, and red. If the feathers be blackened on their under surfaces with lampblack or sepia, they become blue. If the yellow feathers are treated in a similar way, they become green. The yellow pigment is Zoöfulvin, the red probably Zoönerythrin.

Lastly the author describes the yellow pigment, Coriosulfurin, found in the tarsus of the birds of prey. This substance is unlike any known to occur in feathers. It has three absorption bands between F and G.—J. A. J.

STEJNEGER'S NOMENCLATURE INNOVATIONS.*—Proposing to use "the oldest available name in every case," the author shows that many of our current names must give way if the "inflexible law of priority" is to be observed. For ourselves, we believe that the surest way out of the nomenclature difficulties that beset us is to be found in some such simple rule as this, and that to upset every name that can be upset according to any recognized principle is really the shortest road to that fixity of nomenclature for which we now all sigh like furnaces. Still such a paper as this makes us wish, as so many others have done, that some counteractive "statute of limitation" could come into operation, by which a bird resting in undisturbed enjoyment of its name for, say, a century or half a century, should not be liable to eviction under the common law of priority. Human welfare and happiness on the whole is the final cause of all law, and in the case of titles to real estate it is we believe statutory that undisturbed possession for a certain period shall exempt property-holders from litigation on account of any adverse claim, however otherwise sound, which is not presented within a certain number of years. This seems to be necessary for the security of any title, and to proceed upon the theory that if owners don't take the trouble to make good their title in due time they ought to forfeit it. The logic of a bird's right to its name and a possessor's right to any other property is the same in theory, and might properly be carried into effect. Fifty years of unchallenged usage might do, and a

* On some generic and specific appellations of North American Birds. By Leonhard Stejneger. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., June, 1882, pp. 28-43.

hundred certainly would suffice, to eliminate the factor of "contemporaneous courtesy," and the shades of a few departed greatnesses might not be offended by being invited to yield a point now and then for the benefit of the many whom natural selection has not yet eliminated from the struggle for existence.

Stejneger's points seem to be well taken in the main; and though we have not yet had opportunity of verifying them, we presume the restitutions and substitutions he proposes are available if not indeed necessary under the priority statute. But has he in all cases taken up names which rest upon diagnosis? Does indication of a type-species make a generic name valid? Some other objections might also be raised. We pass no judgment, *pendente lite*, but simply note the following propositions advanced:—*Phenicurus* Forst., 1817, for *Ruticilla* Naum., 1822.—*Cinclus merula* Schaff., 1789, for *C. aquaticus* Bechst.—*Regulus cristatus* V., 1807, for *R. satrapa* Licht., 1823.—*Chelidon* Forst., 1817, for *Hirundo* L. et auct. (*rastica*, etc.).—*Hirundo* L., 1758, for *Chelidon* Boie, 1822.—*Clivicola* sive *Riparia* Forst., 1817, for *Cotile* Boie, 1822.—*Calcarius* Bechst., 1803, for the birds now commonly called *Centrophanes*, and *Plectrophenax*, g. n., for "*Plectrophenax*" *nivalis*.—*Otocoris* Bp., 1839, for *Eremophila*, preocc. in botany, and by *Eremophilus* in ichthyology.—*Archibuteo norvegicus* Gunnerus, 1767, for *A. lagopus* Gm. (but there is *A. lagopus* Brünn, 1764).—*Morinella* M. & W., 1810, for *Strepsilas* Ill., 1811.—*Vanellus capella* Schaff., 1789, for *V. cristatus* M. & W., 1803.—*Egialitis alexandrinus*, L., 1758, for *E. cantianus* Lath., 1790.—*Gallinago caelestis* Freuzel, 1801, for *G. media* Leach, 1816.—*Totanus nebularius* Gunnerus, 1767, for the Greenshank.—*Pavoncella* Leach, 1816, for *Machetes* Cuv., 1817.—*Tadorna dameatica* Hasselq., 1762, for *T. cornuta* Gm., 1788.—*Harelda hyemalis* L., 1758, for *H. glacialis* L., 1766.—*Eniconetta* Gray, 1840, for *Polysticta* Eyt., 1836, preocc. by *Polysticta* Smith, 1835, and for "*Stellaria*"! Bp., 1838, preocc. in botany.—*Gavia* Boie, 1822, for *Pagophila* Kaup, 1829, and the species *G. alba* (Gunn., 1767, for *P. eburnea* Phipps, 1774.—(*Larus hyperboreus* Gunnerus, 1767, for *L. glaucus* Brünn, 1764).—*Hydrochelidon nigra* (L., 1758, p. 137) for *H. lariformis* (Ibid., p. 153).—The short and long-tailed Jägers to be respectively *Stercorarius parasiticus* (L., 1758, p. 136), and *S. longicaudatus* (V., 1819).—*Urinator* Cuv., 1799, for *Colymbus* auct., nec Briss., 1760: *U. immer* (Brünn, 1764, p. 38) instead of *U. torquatus* (id., ibid., p. 41) and *U. lumme* Brünn, 1764, for *C. septentrionalis* L., 1766.—E. C.

INGERSOLL'S BIRDS'-NESTING.*—This little book is intended for a guide to the beginner, and as such it will no doubt be of service. The book may be summarized as a readable account of the various modes of collecting birds' eggs and nests. There are, however, a few points which we regard with suspicion, as the contrivances for descending cliffs; such things in

* Ingersoll, Ernest. *Birds'-Nesting: A Handbook of Instruction in Gathering and Preserving the Nests and Eggs of Birds for the Purposes of Study.* Salem, 1882.

careless hands would become instruments of self-destruction. A long account of the various paraphernalia for blowing and marking eggs is given. To the novice such things may be amusing, but are sure sources of disaster. A keen eye, accuracy of hand and a mind to govern, not patent scissors and forceps, are the requisites for blowing eggs.

The list of unknown nests, which does not claim to be free from faults of omission, contains faults of admission, though these are not numerous. Finally, we would heartily indorse all advice for absolute identification of eggs and the avoidance of gummed labels. — J. A. J.

General Notes.

NOTE ON *MIMUS POLYGLOTTUS*. — In the summer of 1879 I found on the Platte River, about a mile west of Fort Fetterman, Wyoming, in Lat. $42^{\circ} 23' 35''$ N. and Long. $105^{\circ} 21' 4''$ W., a pair of Mocking-birds (*Mimus polyglottus*) breeding; the nest was placed in a low cottonwood, very near the river bank. In the following year these birds, undoubtedly the same pair, returned and reared a brood in identically the same place. This time I secured the male bird; and the specimen is now in my private collection.

In the "Birds of the Colorado Valley" Dr. Coues tells us, when referring to the limits of *Mimus*, that "the northermost records generally quoted fix the limit in Massachusetts; but Dr. Brewer speaks of a single individual seen near Calais, Me., by Mr. George A. Boardman. Another record from an extreme point, given by Dr. P. R. Hoy, is above quoted; the extension of the bird to Wisconsin, as there indicated, has been commonly overlooked. Other States in which the bird is known to have occurred are New York, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, and Kansas. The parallel of 40° N. has been named as its usual or normal limit."

In view of these facts, and what I have learned from other ornithologists, it seems to me that this case is entitled to record, as another interesting instance, extending the limits of this bird. — R. W. SHUFELDT, *Washington, D. C.*

THE NEST OF THE HOUSE WREN. — Some writer speaks of the well known habit of the House Wren of filling up any cavity within which it builds its nest with sticks and rubbish, as a "survival" of an old habit for which there would seem to be no present use. I think I have seen this statement in some of the writings of Dr. Elliott Coues, though I cannot refer to the book or page. Possibly it may have been stated by some one else. But it is a generally recognized fact that if a box holds half a peck the little birds will fill it up full! It seems to me, however, that while this