

is represented in North America by the single genus *Saxicola*, but includes the Old World genera *Pratincola*, *Ruticilla*, etc. The group Turdeæ includes the three genera *Hyllocichla*, *Turdus*, and *Hesperocichla*. The group Luscineæ has for American representatives the genus *Catharus*, and possibly *Cyanocitta*, which has been supposed to occur in Alaska. The Meruleæ includes *Merula*, *Semimerula*, *Cichlherminia*, and *Mimocichla*. The Platycichleæ includes *Cossyphopsis* (gen. nov., type *Turdus rævei* Lawr.), *Platycichla*, and *Turdampelis*. The Myadestæ contains the single genus *Myadestes*, from which, however, *M. leucotis* (Tschudi) is removed, being transferred, as the type of a new genus *Entomodestes*, to the Ptilogonatidæ. As regards the much 'emended' name *Myadestes*, Dr. Stejneger revives Swainson's original orthography, which he maintains is correct.

The genus *Cichlherminia*, as Dr. Stejneger observes, has been regarded as an intermediate link between the true Thrushes and the Mocking Thrushes. But he affirms that this has resulted from the fact that very diverse species have been associated under *Cichlherminia* (vel *Margarops*), a part of which are true Thrushes and part Mocking Thrushes. *Cichlherminia* (type *C. herminieri*), in a restricted sense, is retained among the Turdinæ, while the other species, forming the restricted genus *Margarops*, are placed among the Miminaæ, the former alone being found to have a booted tarsus.

Dr. Stejneger's synopsis of the family extends only to the genera and higher groups as represented in America. The generic synonymy is fully given, and the generic diagnoses are supplemented by general remarks and figures illustrative of the principal generic characters.—J. A. A.

Coues on the Structure of Birds' Ears.—Dr. Coues, in a series of three articles recently published in 'Science,'* gives a clear and detailed account of the mechanism of the ear in birds, taking the human ear as the chief basis of comparison. The articles are illustrated with figures—after Parker and Ibsen—which aid greatly to a clear conception of the structures described.—J. A. A.

Jeffries on the Epidermal System of Birds.†—Mr. Jeffries's paper, of nearly forty pages and three plates, reports the results of his studies of the epidermal appendages in birds, with reference to their structure, development, and homologies. These appendages embrace the feathers, scuta, claws, spurs, toe-pads, bill-combs, wattles, and the spines of the tongue and mouth, which have been studied as found in the adult, and their development traced from the fourth day of incubation. The structure of mature feathers is not considered, this part of the subject having already received so much attention. Mr. Jeffries's investigations have

* A Hearing of Birds' Ears. By Elliott Coues. Science, Vol. II, Nos. 34, 38, and 39, pp. 422-424, 552-554, 586-589, Sept. 28, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 1883, figg. 9.

† The Epidermal System of Birds. By J. Amory Jeffries. Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. XXII, pp. 203-240, pll. iv-vi. Dec. 1883.