

## NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. R. W. Shufeldt, Capt. Med. Corps, U. S. Army, is now on duty in the field, being stationed at Fort Wingate, N. M. He is at present busily engaged on a memoir on the anatomy of the Alcidae, for which many of the drawings are already completed. He would, however, be glad to receive additional material in illustration of the group, either skeletons or parts of skeletons, or, still better, specimens in spirits. He would like to borrow such material, giving due credit therefor in his forthcoming memoir. *Sterna*, skeletons, and skulls may be readily sent by mail, and alcoholics in like manner, if first thoroughly drained of alcohol and then well wrapped.

DR. Wilhelm Blasius has published in the 'Journal für Ornithologie' for January, 1884, a memoir of 125 pages on the Great Auk (*Alca impennis* Linn.). He gives the history of all known extant specimens, numbering 76 skins and mounted specimens, 9 skeletons, and 68 eggs. The number of skeletons, however, should be reduced to 8, as the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy is credited with two, whereas it has but one. Dr. Blasius gives a résumé of the literature of the subject, and the history in detail of each specimen known to exist.

'THE Naturalist in Florida' is the name of an illustrated bi-monthly sheet, edited by C. J. Maynard, which it is intended "shall occupy a peculiar field of its own, . . . that of bringing before the people facts either new or interesting of the Natural History of Florida and its vicinity." Three numbers have already appeared, and contain several papers, by the editor, of interest on birds.

IN a sale 'Catalogue of Bahama Birds' Skins, Nests, and Eggs,' Mr. C. J. Maynard has described a new species of Woodpecker, under the name *Picus insularis*. Its nearest ally is *Picus villosus* of North America, from which, however, it appears to be specifically distinct. The description is published as an extract from "Mr. Maynard's forthcoming work, entitled 'A Naturalist in the Bahamas.'" The publication of new species in ephemeral sale catalogues has been repeatedly characterized as reprehensible, and the present case seems fully open to such criticism, there being no lack of proper media for such announcements. Mr. Maynard secured, on his last winter's trip to the Bahamas, fine series of several very rare species, and many interesting notes on Bahama birds may doubtless be safely anticipated in the above-named work which he proposes soon to publish.

'THE Young Oölogist,' a monthly of sixteen pages, edited and published by Mr. Frank H. Lattin, of Gaines, Orleans Co., N. Y., has nearly completed its first volume. As its name indicates, it is devoted to oölogy, and is published in the interest of young ornithologists, but each number contains more or less matter of permanent value.

At a meeting of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, held Dec. 2, 1884, the annual election of officers was had, resulting in the re-election of the present incumbents, except Vice-President J. A. Jeffries, absent in Europe. The officers for 1885 are as follows: President, William Brewster; Vice-President, W. A. Jeffries; Recording Secretary, Henry A. Purdie; Corresponding Secretary, J. A. Allen; Treasurer, Charles F. Batchelder. The meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of each month, from October to June, inclusive. At the December meetings papers were read by Mr. Brewster, on 'Swainson's Warbler,' on 'The Heath Hen of Massachusetts,' and on an interesting collection of birds made by Mr. F. Stephens in Arizona; and by Mr. Allen on 'Sexual Selection and the Nesting of Birds'; and various briefer communications were made by other members.

At the December meeting of the Ridgway Ornithological Club, donations of skins were announced from Mr. H. L. Fulton, and the following papers were read: 'The Genus *Helminthophaga*,' by Dr. Morris Gibbs; 'The White-rumped Shrike' (impaling insects on barbed-wire fence), by Geo. H. Ragsdale; 'The Economic Structure of Birds' Crests,' by H. K. Coale.

ORNITHOLOGISTS will be interested to learn that the celebrated collection of Birds' eggs and nests, belonging to the well-known ornithologist, Dr. A. C. E. Baldamus, of Coburg, Germany, is now offered for sale. This collection is without doubt one of the richest of its kind in the world, numbering nearly 2,000 species, and some 10,000 specimens. It is especially rich in the nests and eggs of European birds, and has been gathered with the greatest care as regards identification and authentication. A printed catalogue of the collection has been prepared, giving a list of the species represented, and the number and character of the specimens of each included. It is greatly to be hoped that the collection may be secured for some museum in this country.

IN the October number of 'The Auk' its readers were invited, in behalf of the A. O. U. Committee on the Nomenclature and Classification of North American Birds, to notify the Editor of this Journal of their preferences in respect to the names 'Junco' and 'Snowbird,' and 'Vireo' and 'Greenlet,' for the English designations of the species, respectively, of the genera *Junco* and *Vireo*. Twenty-four persons have responded, as follows: For Junco, 18; for Snowbird, 6; for Vireo, 22; for Greenlet, 2. Several writers have given at length their reasons for preferring Junco to Snowbird, besides the formal letter given in this issue in the department of 'Correspondence.'