

on the basis of its actual capture within the prescribed limits. A natural faunal boundary would have been preferable could such have been defined, but with our present imperfect knowledge of the ornithology of the region south of the United States, the adoption of such a line is for the present impracticable—in fact, simply impossible.

Compared with former lists, in respect to the nomenclature adopted, the reduction in the number of genera, and the recognition of subgenera, are features of note. Other changes result from the strict enforcement of the law of priority, in respect not only to genera and species, but also to subspecies. As an outcome of this, many radical changes necessarily resulted. The English names, in some cases, are also changed, through an effort to adopt the most suitable, all things considered; and in the interest of brevity and simplicity only one name is in any case given for a species or subspecies, alternative names being omitted. The concordance of previous check-lists, however, gives a ready clue to either the scientific or vernacular names of any form as designated in each of the four preceding lists.

In the A. O. U. 'Check-List' 768 species are recognized, *plus* 183 subspecies, against 764 species and 160 subspecies in Mr. Ridgway's list of 1880, or a total of 951 names in the former against 924 in the latter, and 888 in Dr. Coues's list of 1882. This gives an apparent increase over Mr. Ridgway's list of 4 species and 27 subspecies (= 31); but the actual increase is 29 species and 45 subspecies (= 74).* In reality, however, some 50 names were eliminated and nearly 80 added. The changes introduced in the names themselves, including the many generic changes, probably affect about one-third of the specific and subspecific names. Twenty-six species and subspecies, not satisfactorily established as North American birds, though previously included in one or more of the earlier check-lists, are removed to a supplementary 'Hypothetical List,' being thus held in abeyance for further information respecting them. A list of the fossil species of North American birds, and a full index, closes the work, of which the 'Code' occupies pp. 1-69, the 'Check-List' proper, pp. 71-347, the 'Hypothetical List,' pp. 349-357, the list of 'Fossil Birds of North America,' pp. 359-367, and the Index, pp. 369-392.—J. A. A.]

Madarász's 'Zeitschrift für Ornithologie.'—The latest numbers of the 'Zeitschrift für die gesammte Ornithologie,' edited at Budapest by Dr. Julius von Madarász, have recently come to hand. Part IV of 1885 contains the first of a series of memoirs by O. Finsch and A. B. Meyer on birds from New Guinea, especially from the Alpine region on the south-eastern slope of the Owen Stanley Range. It treats of the Birds of Paradise (19 species), of which not less than 6 new ones are described, among them types of two new genera, *Astrarchia* and *Paradisornis*, besides the

*The increase over Dr. Coues's list is much greater, in consequence mainly of the addition of the peninsula of Lower California and its dependent islands to the area covered by the new list.

hitherto unknown females of *Parotia lawesii* and *Lophorina minor*, and the likewise unknown male of *Amblyornis subalaris*. Two other species, or subspecies, from other parts of that region are also separated and named. Eight beautifully colored plates illustrate as many species, of gorgeous colors and strange forms.

The first part for 1886 has even a more elegant typographical appearance than the foregoing two volumes. Finch and Meyer's memoir is continued, treating of 69 species, 12 being new, among which are four new *Psittaci*, accompanied by fine illustrations.

We take pleasure in calling the attention of American ornithologists to this Journal, a number of which appears in March, June, September, and December, consequently a month ahead of 'The Auk' and 'The Ibis.' Its character is international, articles in any of the scientific languages being accepted for publication, and equal interest is taken in all the zoögeographical regions of the earth. The contents are varied, and many exceedingly valuable and interesting memoirs have already appeared in it, making it indispensable to the working ornithologist. The price (\$5.00) is exceedingly low considering the great number of colored plates; thus volume II contained not less than 22 plates. We are told that the 'Zeitschrift' has only two North American subscribers. It is about time that the ornithologists of our country give up their exclusiveness and study the birds of this continent as a part of the birds of the whole earth, lest our views become narrow and our opinions one-sided. The North American avifauna is only a small part of that of the world, and cannot be properly understood unless viewed from the standpoint of a general knowledge of the whole class. An additional number of American subscribers to Madarász's 'Zeitschrift' would indicate that we have determined to emerge from our seclusion and take a place among the students of the whole class, and not merely of the birds inhabiting a single zoölogical province. The address of Dr. J. v. Madarász is the National Museum, Budapest, Hungary.—L. S.

Goss's Revised Catalogue of the Birds of Kansas.*—Our readers will remember the Catalogue of the birds of Kansas published by Col. N. S. Goss, in 1883. Since that time, several new facts have been brought to light, and a number of species have been added to the list. The present "Catalogue" contains 335 species and races, against 320 in the old list. All local lists are of much value when carefully prepared, and aid us greatly in determining the geographical range and migration of species. Much time and care have evidently been given to the preparation of this work, and Col. Goss is to be congratulated on the successful completion of so interesting a contribution to our ornithological knowledge of Kansas. The arrangement and nomenclature is that of the A. O. U. Check List.—C. B. C.

*A revised Catalogue of the Birds of Kansas, with descriptive notes of the Nests and Eggs of the Birds known to breed in the State. Topeka, 1886. 8vo., pp. vi + 76.