

tail, etc. Although British ornithologists have long been aware of these differences, Dr. Stejneger thinks it curious that they have not had "the courage to describe this [British] bird under a distinctive name, not even those who recognize *Parus britannicus* as a distinct species."—J. A. A.

Stejneger on a 'Lost Species' of Murrelet.—According to Dr. Stejneger,* Pallas's *Cephus perdix* must be removed from the list of synonyms and rank as a good species, which "takes the place of *B. marmoratus* in Asiatic waters," the latter being apparently confined to the American side. A Kamtschatkan specimen (*♂* ad., Aug. 27, 1884) of *B. perdix* is described in detail and figured, and the synonymy and distinguishing characters of this species, *B. brevirostris*, and *B. marmoratus* are presented at length.—J. A. A.

Ferrari-Perez on the Birds of Mexico.—In 1877 the Geographical and Exploring Commission of the Republic of Mexico was established by an act of Congress, and became finally organized in 1878. In 1879 Mr. Fernando Ferrari-Perez was appointed to the scientific corps of the general staff as Naturalist of the Commission. During the years that have since elapsed considerable collections have been brought together in different departments of natural history, 'Catalogues' of which are to appear in the 'Proceedings' of the U. S. National Museum. The first instalment of these has now appeared†; it includes Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, and Batrachians, the report on the birds occupying 52 pages, and embracing 265 species. The annotations generally include merely citations of the works where the species were first described, or in which the nomenclature adopted was established, the vernacular names, and list of the specimens, with date and locality of capture. The specimens have been determined by aid of the collections at the U. S. National Museum, and assistance by Mr. Ridgway and Dr. Stejneger in their identification is also acknowledged. Besides this, there are remarks by Mr. Ridgway on many of the more interesting species, duly bracketed and signed "R. R.," these annotations, of course, adding greatly to the value of the 'Catalogue.' The new species, which were briefly diagnosed by Mr. Ridgway in a recent number of the 'Auk' (III, p. 331), are here described at length.

The paper forms not only an important contribution to our knowledge of Mexican ornithology, but also throws much light upon the southward range of many North American species. Sprague's Lark (*Anthus spraguei*) is reported from Puebla, a point 1000 miles further south than any previous record.—J. A. A.

* On *Brachyramphus perdix* (Pall.) and its nearest Allies. By Leonhard Stejneger. Zeitschr. f. ges. Orn., 1866, pp. 210-219, pl. vii.

† Catalogue of Animals collected by the Geographical and Exploring Commission of the Republic of Mexico. By Fernando Ferrari-Perez, Chief of the Natural History Section. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1886, pp. 125-199. Published Sept. 1886. (Birds, pp. 130-182.)