

if the condition of their being heard were, that they should be able to do as well themselves.

The text is very original, resting almost entirely upon the personal observations of the authors. It has no literary merit, unless directness and clearness be such. It resists the usual temptation to prepare full biographies of the birds, confining itself strictly to the subject in hand. Each article opens with general statements regarding the bird in its Ohion aspects, continuing with the 'locality,' 'position' and 'materials' of the nest, descriptions of the 'eggs,' 'differential points' of the same, and concluding remarks at large. The text is almost entirely from the pen of Dr. Howard E. Jones, and the plates have in nearly every instance been drawn from fresh material collected by this author, mainly in the vicinity of Circleville. The project was initiated by Miss Genevieve Estelle Jones and Miss Eliza J. Shulze, who determined in 1877 to make a series of colored plates. The sad death of the former young lady, August 17, 1879, and the withdrawal of Miss Shulze in April, 1880, threw the work upon the hands of the Jones family. Dr. N. E. Jones assumed the expense of the work, Mrs. N. E. Jones proceeded with the plates, Dr. Howard Jones (brother of Miss Genevieve) undertook the text as already said, and subsequently Miss Nellie D. Jacob of Circleville, Miss Josephine Kippart of Columbus, and Miss Kate Gephart, of Circleville, were engaged to assist Mrs. Jones in the coloring. Had the result been but a measured success instead of a remarkable accomplishment, great credit would have been due to all concerned.

The Introductory is a general sketch of the Birds of Ohio. It appears that of summer residents there are 129; of permanent residents, 41; probable residents and summer residents, 42. This category is followed by a systematic, annotated list, copied from Dr. J. M. Wheaton's work, noting 292 species known to occur in the State.

A quite original and peculiar 'Key to the Eggs' follows. The eggs are found to be groupable by color in the following manner: I. Eggs plain. A, white or whitish; 22 spp. B, blue or bluish, green or greenish; 17 spp. C, some other plain color as buff, etc.; 5 spp. II. Eggs marked. A, B, C, as before, as to ground color; A, 56 spp.; B, 20 spp.; C, 25 spp. And in every case in this remarkable set of tables, the eggs are not only thus classified, but described concisely, with measurements of length and breadth, the linear arrangement in each group being according to size. It is a very pretty and effectual piece of work.

Among appendicular matters is an 'Etymological Key,' in which Rev. S. H. McMullin undertakes to give the English equivalents of all the Latin and Greek names of the birds, and offers quite as much ornithophilologicality as the average bird-lover may require.—E. C.

#### Ridgway's Nomenclature of Colors and Ornithologists' Compendium.\*

\*A | Nomenclature of Colors | for Naturalists, | and | Compendium of Useful Knowledge | for Ornithologists. | By | Robert Ridgway, | Curator of Birds, United States National Museum. | With ten colored plates and seven plates | of outline illustrations Boston: | Little, Brown, and Company. 1886. 8vo., pp. 129, pl. i-xviii, faced by explanatory leaves.

—Mr. Ridgway's little manual will doubtless prove of great utility, and should meet with a hearty welcome. It consists of two parts. Of Part I, 'Nomenclature of Colors,' some twenty pages are devoted to 'Principles of Color,' and consist largely of directions as to the selection of pigments and their combination to form certain desired tints. This is followed by a 'Comparative Vocabulary of Colors,' giving the equivalent names in English, Latin, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Norwegian, and Danish, occupying nearly twenty pages more. Two pages of 'Bibliography' complete Part I, which is illustrated by ten hand-colored plates.

Part II is entitled 'Ornithologists' Compendium,' and is made up largely of a 'Glossary of Technical Terms used in Descriptive Ornithology,' which occupies nearly one-half of the book; it is illustrated by six plates of outline figures, three of which are devoted to the 'topography' or 'external anatomy' of a bird, two to various forms of color-marks on feathers, and one to egg-contours. Another plate gives a comparative scale of measurement standards, as the English inch, the French inch (*pieu du roi*), and millimetres.

Part II closes with a table showing "the equivalents in English inches, and decimals thereof, of every tenth of a millimetre, from 1.0 to 100.9," and another "for converting English inches and decimals into millimetres." The author acknowledges his indebtedness to Dr. Leonhard Stejneger not only for suggesting these useful tables but for their preparation, and for aid in compiling the comparative color-vocabulary.

In Part I of the present work Mr. Ridgway has attempted a difficult task, requiring much research, a nice display of judgment, and other qualifications which only experience and skill as a colorist, combined with critical knowledge of the requirements of descriptive ornithology, could give. The details of the subject afford much latitude for a diversity of opinion; and whatever the results attained, they would be more or less subject to adverse criticism, especially in regard to the proper designation of particular shades of color. "Undoubtedly," as the author says, "one of the chief desiderata of naturalists, both professional and amateur, is a means of identifying the various shades of colors named in descriptions, and of being able to determine exactly what name to apply to a particular tint which it is desired to designate in an original description." There being no modern work of this character extant, Mr. Ridgway has very laudably attempted to supply the want. While he has supplied a standard for color nomenclature—and so far as we can see an excellent one—it fails by far, from the nature of the subject, to clear away all the difficulties, since the names of colors in current use are in many cases both vague and variable. The general adoption by future describers of the standard here set would do much to improve matters, and would give a uniform basis for color-nomenclature; but it would be, unfortunately, highly unsafe to attempt to make the standard retroactive, and interpret by it the color descriptions of the already existing literature. But this is no fault of the present author or his system; and his work as a whole cannot fail to be extremely useful. Part II must prove especially welcome to all beginners in ornithology, to whom, however, its usefulness will be by no means limited.—J. A. A.