

Cherrie on Costa Rican Birds. — In two recent papers Mr. Cherrie has made known some of the more important results of his recent work on Costa Rican birds. The first* contains descriptions of two new genera, eight new species, and one new subspecies, as follows: (1) *Lophotriccus squammicristatus minor*, (2) *L. zeledoni*. (3) *Pachyrhamphus ornatus*, (4) *Deconychura* (gen. nov.) *typica*, (5) *Premnopteryx* (gen. nov., type *Margornis brunnescens* Lawr.), (6) *Vireo superciliaris* (Ridgw. MS.), (7) *Basileuterus salvini*, (8) *Grallaria lizanoi*, (9) *Myrmiceza intermedia*. There are notes also on *Basileuterus delattrii*, restricting the name to the Costa Rican form, and renaming the Guatemalan form *B. salvini*, as above. The Atlantic and Pacific forms of *Arremon aurantirostris* are found to present slight differences, and in view of their probably proving separable the name *Arremon aurantirostris saturatus* is suggested for the dark-colored bird of the Atlantic slope.

In the second paper,† which is really a continuation of the first, being based on the same collection, contains an annotated list of 55 species, and is a paper of much interest and importance. The annotations are often based on large series of specimens, and relate to individual, seasonal, or other variations, with often extended tables of measurements, and critical remarks on the affinities and nomenclature of the species treated. *Dendroornis lawrencei* Ridgw. is considered a synonym of *D. nana* Lawr., as first shown by Mr. Elliot (Auk, VII, p. 174) and now conceded by Mr. Ridgway. The *D. lawrencei costaricensis* Ridgw. hence now becomes *D. nana costaricensis*. *Picolaptes gracilis* is also referred to *P. compressus*, of which measurements are given of 33 specimens. — J. A. A.

Shufeldt on the Osteology of Arctic and Sub-Arctic Water Birds.‡ — Since noticing this series of papers (Auk, VI, p. 333) Parts V to IX, have appeared, treating of the Puffins (Pt. V), Loons and Grebes (Pt. VI), Gulls and Jaegers (Pts. VII and VIII), and *Chionis* (Pt. IX). These Parts are illustrated by 43 cuts in the text and 7 beautifully executed plates, illustrating in detail the osteology of the various species treated. In respect to the Alcidæ, Dr. Shufeldt's conclusions bear out the arrangement of the minor subdivisions adopted in the A. O. U. Check-list, though written we are informed, before the publication of that work, except that in his opinion the positions of the genera *Uria* and *Plautus* should be transposed, *Uria* being more nearly related to the Gulls than either *Alca* or *Plautus*.

The Loons and Grebes are believed to be more closely related to each

*Description of New Genera, Species, and Subspecies of Birds from Costa Rica. By George K. Cherrie, Taxidermist and Ornithologist of the Costa Rica National Museum. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XIV, 1891, pp. 337-346.

†Notes on Costa Rican Birds. Ibid., pp. 517-537.

‡Contributions to the Comparative Osteology of Arctic and Sub-Arctic Water-birds. Parts V-IX. By R. W. Shufeldt, M. D., C. M. Z. S., etc. Journ. Anat. and Phys., XXIV, 1890, pp. 89-116, pll. vi-viii, pp. 169-187, pll. xi, xii, pp. 543-566, pl. xxv, 1891, pp. 60-77, 509-525, pll. xi, xii.

other than are the former to the Auks; in fact, so far as the skeleton goes, the Loons are ten times more nearly related to the Grebes than they are to any other group. Dr. Shufeldt would arrange the Grebes, Loons, and Auks in two 'suborders,' as follows: (1) Pygopodes, with two superfamilies — (a) Podicipedes, containing the Grebes, and (b) Cepphi, for the Loons; (2) Alcæ, with the following four families — Fraterculidæ, Phalaridæ, Alcidæ, and Allidæ. *Uria* is the Alcadine form most nearly allied to the Gulls.

The Sheathbills (*Chionis*) are considered as forming one of the links between the Gulls and Plovers, having, however, their nearest living allies in *Hæmatopus* and *Glareola*, though also retaining characters remotely allying them with the Columbo-gallinaceous group. — J. A. A.

Shufeldt on the Osteology and Classification of the North American Pigeons, Woodpeckers, and Kites. — In recent papers Dr. Shufeldt has discussed the classification of Pigeons, Kites, and Woodpeckers, from the standpoint of their osteological structure. The North American Pigeons* he considers as constituting two subfamilies, Columbinae, containing all of the genera except *Starnænas*, and *Starnænadinae*, consisting of the single genus *Starnænas*.

The North American Kites † he refers to a family Milvidæ, with four subfamilies — Ictiniinae, Elanoidinae, Elaninae, and Rostrhaminae, the latter adopted provisionally, the osteology of this form not having been examined. Our Kites are found to differ "most markedly among themselves" in their osteological characters. *Elanoides* is found to share important skeletal characters with so distantly related a form as *Pandion*.

The Woodpeckers ‡ are considered primarily in reference to their alleged saurognathism, of which he finds little evidence, to which is added a 'Summary of the Chief Osteological Characters of the North American Pici.' The Woodpeckers are held, in accordance with the views of most recent writers, to be a group coördinate in value with the Pigeons or the Parrots, and that they are more nearly allied to the Passeres "than to any other existing suborder of birds." — J. A. A.

Ridgway on New or Little-known Central American and South American Birds. — Mr. Ridgway has recently described a new Whippoorwill from Costa Rica§ under the name *Antrostomus rufomaculatus*, resembling *A. vociferus* in size and proportions, but more similar in coloration to

*On the Comparative Osteology of the United States Columbidae. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1891, pp. 194-196. (2) Notes on the Classification of the Pigeons. Am. Nat., Feb. 1891, pp. 157, 158.

†Some Comparative Osteological Notes on the North American Kites. The Ibis April, 1891, pp. 228-232.

‡On the Question of Saurognathism of the Pici, and other Osteological Notes upon that Group. Proc. Zool. Soc., 1891, pp. 122-129.

§Description of a New Species of Whippoorwill from Costa Rica. By R. Ridgway. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XIV, 1891, pp. 465, 466.