

the United States National Museum Mr. Ridgway* gives very full and explicit directions for collecting birds for scientific purposes, under the following subheadings: (1) 'General Remarks,' (2) 'Outfit for Collecting,' (3) 'Procuring Specimens,' (4) 'Preparing and Preserving Specimens,' (5) 'Packing Specimens for Shipment,' and (6) 'Records.'

Captain Bendire, in a paper of ten pages† gives similar directions for collecting, preparing, and preserving birds' eggs, and nests. Both papers are illustrated with cuts of implements to be employed, etc., and having been prepared by experts of long experience may be relied upon as being in the highest degree trustworthy.—J. A. A.

Stejneger on a Collection of Birds from Japan.‡—In a paper of about ten pages Dr. Stejneger gives notes on a first instalment of birds from the Science College Museum of Tokyo, Japan, sent him for examination. Of some thirty-five species here annotated several prove to be additions to the Japanese avifauna. Among these is *Bulweria bulweri*, *Falco pealei*, *Emberiza leucocephala*, and *E. pusilla*. Important critical notes occur in relation to the species of *Phaëton* and *Cuculus*.—J. A. A.

Stejneger on the Cubital Coverts in the Birds of Paradise and Bower Birds.§—This paper is apropos of Mr. Goodchild's paper on 'The Cubital Coverts of the Euornithæ in Relation to Taxonomy' (Proc. Roy. Phys. Soc. Edinb., X, pp. 317-333, pl. xv). Dr. Stejneger finds that the arrangement of the cubital coverts in these birds conforms to that in the other Passeres, instead of to that of the Cypseliformes, as claimed by Mr. Goodchild. Dr. Stejneger's examinations thus tend rather to strengthen Mr. Goodchild's estimate of the considerable value of the arrangement of the cubital coverts in birds as a taxonomic character.—J. A. A.

Stone on the Birds of Harvey's Lake, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.|| Mr. Stone gives an annotated list of 54 species observed June 15-20, 1891, prefaced by an account of the position and general character of the region in question, and remarks on its faunal relations. It is "situated

*Directions for Collecting Birds. By Robert Ridgway. Part A of the Bulletin of the United States National Museum, No. 39. 1891. 8vo. pp. 27.

†Directions for Collecting, Preparing, and Preserving Birds' Eggs and Nests. By Charles E. Bendire, Part D of Bulletin of the United States National Museum, No. 39. 1891. 8vo. pp. 10.

‡Notes on Japanese Birds contained in the Science College Museum, Imperial University, Tokyo, Japan. By Leonhard Stejneger. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. XIV, 1891, pp. 489-498.

§Notes on the Cubital Coverts in the Birds of Paradise and Bower Birds. *Ibid.*, pp. 499, 500.

|| The Summer Birds of Harvey's Lake, Luzerne Co., Pennsylvania, with Remarks on the Faunal Position of the Region. By Witmer Stone. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 1891, pp. 431-438.

in what is known as the Alleghanian faunal belt, with a strong tinge of the Canadian fauna in the deep forests, and a slight Carolinian element in the lower clearings." The elevation of the lake is 1250 feet above sea-level, while the mountains around it rise 100 to 150 feet higher. With Mr. Dwight's paper on 'The Summer Birds of the Crest of the Pennsylvania Alleghanies,' published in the present number of 'The Auk,' and the various other recent contributions to the same subject, the bird fauna of the Alleghanian region, from Pennsylvania southward, bids fair to become soon well known. — J. A. A.

Allen on the North American Colaptes.* — As there are doubtless many readers of 'The Auk' who will not be so fortunate as to see this paper, it seems desirable on account of its great interest and importance to present a brief summary of its contents.

After mentioning the sources of the material (785 specimens) on which his study of this group is based, and referring to the several theories that have been suggested as to the relationships between *C. auratus* and *C. cafer*, the author proceeds to state the distinctive characters and geographical distribution of each member of the genus that is found north of Panama. The distribution is well illustrated by a map.

C. mexicanoides of Guatemala is essentially *C. cafer* with the coloration intensified, the black dorsal bars broadened, rump spotted with black, entire top of head and nape rufous, quills and malar stripe a deeper, darker red. Its habitat very probably reaches to that of *C. cafer* which species is found from the southern border of Mexico northward throughout Mexico, excepting western Sonora and Lower California, and from the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific north to British Columbia. "*C. rufipileus*, from Guadalupe Island, off Lower California, is an insular form of *cafer*, differing . . . mainly in smaller size, much longer bill, and rather deeper colors, in this latter respect rather more resembling *C. cafer saturator* of the Northwest Coast," which differs from *cafer* "in slightly larger size and much deeper colors."

C. chrysoides ranges through most of Lower California and parts of Sonora, southern Arizona, and southeastern California. "To the northward and eastward its habitat thus reaches, and at some points (at least in winter) overlaps, that of *C. cafer*, with which, however, it appears never to blend." It is "a small, pale form presenting the general appearance of *mexicanoides*," but having the quills golden as in *auratus*, though possessing no other of the distinctive characters of the Eastern form.

"*C. auratus* while ranging over the northern and eastern three fourths of the continent of North America, has also two outlying insular forms,

*The North American Species of the Genus *Colaptes*, considered with Special Reference to the Relationships of *C. auratus* and *C. cafer*. By J. A. Allen. Bulletin American Museum of Natural History, New York, Vol. IV, No. 1, Article II, pp. 21-44, map. Author's edition published March 8, 1892.