

Hartert's Catalogue of the Birds in the Museum of the Senckenberg Natural History Society.* — The bird collection of the Senckenberg Museum contains much historic material, as shown in the author's account of the origin and growth of this important collection, which appears to number nearly 4000 species. The collection was begun in 1820, through the purchase of the collections of the well-known ornithologists Wolf and Meyer, consisting chiefly of birds of Central Europe. Subsequently was added the greater part of Rüppell's collection from northeastern Africa, and many from various noted South American expeditions, as well as from other historic sources. Mr. Hartert considers it necessary to recognize subspecies, and freely adopts trinomials for their designation. He accepts the tenth edition of Linné's 'Systema Naturæ' as the starting point of nomenclature, and considers that strict adherence to the principle of priority is the only way to secure stability of names. He is thus in hearty accord with the recent innovations in respect to principles of nomenclature reflected in the A. O. U. Code and so emphatically endorsed by the International Ornithological Congress held last year at Budapest.

The 'Catalogue' is a systematic list of the species (without synonymy) in the Museum, with a record of the specimens by which each species is represented, with sex and locality, and apparently the exact date of collection when this is known. Questions of nomenclature and other technical matters are discussed in foot-notes, frequently at considerable length. These give to the 'Catalogue' an interest and importance to the general ornithologist far beyond that of a mere catalogue of the species and specimens contained in the museum to which it relates. Were we disposed to be hypercritical we might ask why, in a number of cases, certain names were adopted and others rejected, since the rulings are clearly at variance with the principle of priority. We fancy, however, these few cases are due to oversight, or from lack of time to personally verify all the points at issue in a work of this magnitude, when we read that the revision of the collection and the preparation of the Catalogue was performed in the short space of nine and a half months! (see p. vii). — J. A. A.

Leverkühn's 'Fremde Eier im Nest.' † — Dr. Leverkühn's 'Eggs of another bird in the nest' is an exhaustive treatment of what at first sight seems an unimportant and not especially interesting subject, but with true German patience and minuteness he has brought together a surprising amount of information, much of which has an interesting bearing on the habits and behavior of birds under unusual circumstances in respect to the imposition of other birds' eggs in their nests.

*Katalog des Vogelsammlung im Museum der Senckenbergischen Naturforschenden Gesellschaft in Frankfurt am Main. Von Ernst Hartert. Januar 1891. Frankfurt a. M. 8vo. pp. xxii, 259.

†Fremde Eier im Nest. Ein Beitrag zur Biologie der Vögel, von Paul Leverkühn. Nebst einer Bibliographischen Notiz über Lottinger. 1891. Berlin, Wien, Leiden, London, Paris, and New York. 8vo. pp. xi, 212.