

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.

The memoir is divided into two parts, entitled respectively 'special' and 'general.' The first part, treating of the behavior of birds in relation to strange eggs in their nests, is divided into (A), in respect to eggs of the same species, (1) when laid by birds, (2) when placed there by man; (B) in respect to eggs of other species, (1) when placed there by man, (2) when laid by birds. Numerous cases are cited where two or more females of the same species lay in the same nest, and various experiments are recounted where eggs have been introduced into birds' nests for the purpose of noting the behavior of the owners of the nest under the novel intrusion. Considerable space is given to the consideration of the behavior of domesticated birds (pigeons, common fowls, ducks, etc., and cage birds), when other than their own eggs are given them for incubation; while many experiments are recounted of placing small hen's eggs in owl's nests, and various wild birds' eggs in the nests of other species. Mr. Leverkühn's essay contains much curious and interesting information, of which a convenient digest is given in tabular form in the second part. — J. A. A.

Jäckel's Birds of Bavaria.*—This posthumous work, edited by Dr. Rudolf Blasius, embodies the results of the careful and long-continued field studies of Pastor Jäckel upon the birds of Bavaria. The work, as implied in the title, treats of their habits, distribution, migrations, etc., the accounts of the different species varying in length from a few lines to many pages (nearly twenty are given to the Steinadler (*Aquila fulva*). The number of species treated is 312. The nomenclature is not the most recent, being that employed by Keyserling and Blasius in their 'Die Wirbelthiere Europas,' published in 1840.

The editor's introduction gives a sketch of the author's life, a list of his principal ornithological papers (1848-1875), and the circumstances attending the publication of the present book. Jäckel died on the 12th of July, 1885, after a long period of ill health; during the last ten years of his life he published very little, although he continued to make observations till 1884, which he transmitted to the German Committee on Bird Migration, of which Dr. Blasius was president. Dr. Blasius speaks of him as being little known to the younger ornithologists, though entitled to a place in the front rank of the students of Bavarian birds, mammals and fishes; and believes that his 'Vögel Bayerns' will give him always a place in the list of German naturalists. Dr. Blasius has himself contributed much to the value of the work, which he has brought down to date, through the coöperation of numerous correspondents to whom he sent circulars of inquiry respecting many of the rarer species. These additions appear as inedited notes, signed with his initials. — J. A. A.

*Systematische Uebersicht der Vögel Bayerns mit Rücksicht auf das örtliche und quantitative Vorkommen der Vögel, ihre Lebensweise, ihren Zug und ihre Abänderungen. Von Andreas Johannes Jäckel. Herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. Rudolf Blasius. München und Leipzig, 1891. 8vo. pp. xxiv, 392. Frontispiece (portrait of the author).