

Part II is worthy of the high praise we have already bestowed upon Part I, and assures us that the 'Dictionary' will prove to be one of the most useful hand-books of general ornithology ever published. It would be easy to pick flaws here and there, but its general excellence would render this an ungracious task. We may, however, call attention to one singular oversight in respect to the genus *Otocoris* (or *Otocorys*, as our author prefers to write it), where in a foot-note to page 511 it is stated, "By American writers it is usually called *Eremophila*, but that name is pre-occupied in natural history." While this was formerly the case, the name *Otocoris* for the Horned Larks has been in almost universal use among American writers for a full decade, the change having been made as early as 1882, and became generally adopted as early as 1884. Such occasional slips are doubtless due to the fact that portions of the work have been bodily transferred from the 'Encyclopædia Britannica' without subjection to quite the rigid scrutiny the lapse of time has rendered necessary.

While it is not customary to look for an *index* to a *dictionary*, in the present case an index would prove an indispensable adjunct, since very few of the almost numberless technical names of genera and species, and even of the higher groups, appear as titles of articles, but must be sought in the body of the text. It is hence not to be supposed that such an important matter will be overlooked by either the author or the publishers.—J. A. A.

Salvadori's Catalogue of the Pigeons.—The introduction to the 'Catalogue of the Columbæ'¹ gives a useful though brief sketch of the literature of the subject, from which it appears that the number of species enumerated by G. R. Gray in 1871 was 378, while Schlegel in 1873 recognized only 249. The number recognized in the present 'Catalogue' is 458, while notice is taken of 27 others regarded by the author as of a more doubtful character. The British Museum Collection, we are informed, contains, after the elimination of duplicates, 7359 specimens, belonging to 415 species. Of these species "112 are represented by typical specimens, besides 47 which are types of species that have been identified with others previously described." Only "42 species are still desiderata in the Collection"! Eleven are here described for the first time. In the acknowledgments of assistance it is stated that "the whole of the American species" were worked out with the help of Mr. Salvin.

The order Columbæ is divided into two suborders, 1, Columbæ, 2, Didi; the latter consisting of the two extinct genera *Pezophaps* and *Didus*, known thus far only from the islands of Mauritius, Réunion, and Rod-

¹ Catalogue | of the | Columbæ, or Pigeons, | in the | Collection | of the | British
Museum. | By | T. Salvadori. | London: | Printed by order of the Trustees. | Sold
by | Longmans & Co., 39 Paternoster Row | [= 4 lines, names of booksellers]
| 1893.—8vo, pp. i-xvii, 1-676, pil. i-xv. = Catalogue of the Birds in the British
Museum, Vol. XXI.

riguez. The Columbæ proper, or the existing Pigeons, are separated into five families, namely: (1) Treronidæ, (2) Columbidae, (3) Peristeridæ, (4) Gouridæ, (5) Didunculidæ. Only the Columbidae and Peristeridæ are represented in the New World. The Treronidæ, or Tree Pigeons, are separated into three subfamilies and 19 genera, and number about 190 species, 75 of which are referred to the genus *Ptilopus* and 43 to the genus *Carpophaga*. The Columbinæ, mainly restricted to the Old World, number 100 species, of which more than half are referred to the single genus *Columba*. The Peristeridæ embraces seven subfamilies, 36 genera, and some 250 species, only about 70 of which are American and the rest, as well as the Gouridæ (6 species) and the Didunculidæ (1 species), belonging to the Old World.

Prof. Salvadori appears to have done his work with great care and thoroughness, and has thus placed all ornithologists under a deep debt of gratitude. In matters of nomenclature he of course takes some liberties, or at least what would be so considered on this side of the water (cf. Auk, IX, p. 278, 279). It is hardly consistent, however, for him to accept *Turtur turtur* (ex *Columba turtur* Linn.) on p. 396 while he rejects *Zenaida zenaida* (ex *Columba zenaida* Bon.) on p. 382. We of course would not expect him to permit *Columbigallina*, "a long, badly constructed name," to supercede *Chamæpelis*, though having eleven years priority.

For the genus of late currently recognized under the name *Egyptila* he prefers the preoccupied name *Leptoptila*; but there seems to be a name which should supercede *Egyptila* (Sundevall, 1872); namely, Salvadori's own name *Homoptila* which has a year's priority.¹ This same genus gives rise also to several other much to be lamented changes of nomenclature, since our author finds that *Columba erythrothorax* Temm. and Knip, said to be from Surinam, is in all probability an African species identical with *Aplopelia larvata* (Bon. ex Temm. and Knip). At all events, it "cannot be identified with any of the known species of the genus *Leptoptila*," and hence the South American bird so long known as *Leptoptila erythrothorax* becomes *Homoptila reichenbachi* (Pelz.). Another case, affecting a North American species, is that of our *Egyptila albifrons* (Bon.), Prof. Salvadori finding that the type of *L. albifrons* Bon., in the Paris Museum, "is undoubtedly a specimen of *L. jamaicensis*." Hence another name becomes necessary for the species so long and almost exclusively known as *Leptoptila* (or *Egyptila*) *albifrons*, and Salvadori takes for it *brachyptera* Gray, a *nomen nudum*, used by Gray in 1856 for Mexican specimens of this species, still extant in the British Museum. Hence the name for our

¹ *Homoptila* Salvad. Atti. R. Ac. Sci. Tor. VI, 1871, p. 131. Type *Homoptila decipiens* Salvad., l. c. = *Leptoptila ochroptera* Pelzeln, 1870.

Egyptila Sundevall, Meth. nat. Av. disp. Tent. 1872, p. 156 = *Leptoptila* Swain. (preoccupied), type, *Columba rufaxilla* Rich. and Bern.

White-fronted Pigeon now becomes *Homoptila brachyptera* (Salvad.).¹ The name *brachyptera* must of course date from Salvadori, 1893, the name being then for the first time properly established.

There is, however, among the alleged synonyms of *brachyptera* a still earlier name, to wit, *Leptoptila fulviventris* Lawrence, 1882, which Salvadori, after an examination of the type, places here. He remarks, however, "Some Yucatan specimens (*L. fulviventris* Lawr.) are more fulvous on the flanks, and, perhaps, less bright on the hind neck; generally they have the forehead more vinous, but some specimens from other localities match them in this respect." An examination of the type and several other Yucatan specimens labelled by Mr. Lawrence as *L. fulviventris*, in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History, however, seems to render their reference here extremely doubtful, they differing greatly from a large series of Texas and Mexican specimens of '*albifrons*,' apparently much more nearly agreeing with *Homoptila verreauxi* (Bon.), especially in the large amount of rufous on the inner web of the quills. It hence seems much safer to take the name *brachyptera* for the northern bird, usually heretofore known as *albifrons*. Probably a number of the forms in this genus ranked by Salvadori as species will eventually be found to be entitled to recognition merely as subspecies or geographical forms.—J. A. A.

Elliot's Monograph of the Pittidæ.²—'A Monograph of the Pittidæ,' published in 1863, was the first of the long series of finely illustrated monographs for which ornithologists are so deeply indebted to Mr. D. G. Elliot. In the interval of thirty years that has elapsed since its first appearance our knowledge of the group has greatly increased, many species in the meantime having been described, and the habits and relationships of the others have become better known. It is therefore peculiarly fitting that the group should be again monographed by the same hand. This "second edition, revised and enlarged," is practically a new work, not only much new matter being added, but the whole is rewritten, and the nomenclature much altered. The work is to form five parts, each part to contain ten plates; the new plates being drawn by Mr. W. Hart, while the old ones are by the author. The species figured in Part I are *Eucichla gurneyi*, *E. schwaneri*, *Pitta moluccensis*, *P. maxima*, *P. venusta*, *P.*

¹ *Peristera brachyptera* G. R. Gray, List Bds. Brit. Mus., Columbæ, 1856, p. 54 (*nomen nudum*).

Leptoptila brachyptera Salvad., Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus. XXI, 1893, p. 545.

Homoptila brachyptera Allen, MS.

Leptoptila albifrons Sclater (nec Bon.) P. Z. S., 1857, p. 214, and of most subsequent writers.

² A Monograph of the Pittidæ, or Family of Ant-Thrushes. By D. G. Elliot, F. R. S. E., etc. Second Edition, revised and enlarged. Part I, London: Bernard Quaritch, 15 Piccadilly, W. April, 1893. Folio, 10 colored Plates and text.