

ginian Nightjar,' shows at once that it is the Night-hawk (*Chordeiles virginianus*) and not the Whip-poor-will, as Dr. Sharpe seems to have supposed. As figures of both species are given in the work from which the figure is taken, it is evident that the wrong figure was accidentally selected.

As already said, the work as a whole is well worthy of the patronage of the public, for if it fails to tell all there is to know about birds, it gives a vast amount of interesting and trustworthy information in a small compass. The illustrations add greatly to its value and usefulness, but they are for the most part old acquaintances that have previously seen service repeatedly in other connections.—J. A. A.

Saunders and Salvin's Catalogue of the Gaviæ and Tubinares.—Volume XXV of the British Museum Catalogue of Birds¹ contains the Gaviæ, or the Terns, Gulls, and Skuas, by Mr. Howard Saunders, and the Tubinares, or the Petrels and Albatrosses, by Mr. Osbert Salvin. The authorities of the British Museum have thus been fortunate enough to secure the two leading specialists on these difficult orders of birds for their elaboration.

The Gaviæ, or the Longipennes of the A. O. U. Check-List, of which 115 species are here recognized, are arranged in twenty genera and two families—Laridæ and Stercorariidæ, the Rynchopidæ being treated as a subfamily of Laridæ and placed between the Terns and Gulls. It is not clear why the name Gaviæ, proposed by Bonaparte in 1850 for a rather extensive and heterogeneous group, should be preferred to Longipennes, as restricted and defined by Nitzsch in 1840, or forty years before the term Gaviæ was narrowed down to its present signification. Neither is it evident why the Skimmers should be interposed between the Terns and Gulls, especially as it is admittedly a difficult matter to draw a satisfactory dividing line between the Terns and Gulls. Yet we have in the present work a subfamily Sterninæ separated from a subfamily Larinæ by a group so distinct from either of these really coalescing groups as to be often of late given the rank of a distinct family.

Passing to details of special interest to American ornithologists, we note the following: *Hydrochelidon surinamensis* is separated specifically from *H. nigra*, on the ground probably that Mr. Saunders does not recognize subspecies; forms that are regarded as entitled to recognition being

¹ Catalogue of the Gaviæ and Tubinares in the Collection of the British Museum. — Gaviæ (Terns, Gulls, and Skuas) by Howard Saunders. Tubinares (Petrels and Albatrosses) by Osbert Salvin. London: Printed by order of the Trustees. Sold by Longmans & Co., 39 Paternoster Row; B. Quaritch, 15 Piccadilly; Dulau & Co., 37 Soho Square, W.; Kegan Paul & Co., Paternoster House, Charing Cross Road; and at the British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, S. W. 1896. = Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum, Vol. XXV. 8vo, pp. i-xv, 1-475, pls. i-viii.

treated as full species. *Gelochelidon anglica* (Montague, 1813) is preferred to *nilotica* Hasselq., 1762 (this edition of Hasselquist, by the way, is not cited), apparently because the date of *nilotica* is prior to 1766, since no names appear to be countenanced that antedate the 12th (1766) edition of Linné's 'Systema Naturæ.' *Sterna fluviatilis* Naum., 1819, is preferred to *S. hirundo* Linn., 1758, and *S. macrura* Naum., 1819, to *S. paradisæa* Brünnich, 1764, probably for a similar reason. Cabot's Tern is regarded as not separable from the Old World form, for which Mr. Saunders prefers the name *cantiaca* to the earlier *sandvicensis*. The American Herring Gull is also considered as not entitled to separation from the European; but Mr. Saunders's remarks on the subject are not likely to change the opinions of those who hold to a different view, since no new points are adduced, and the fact of an average and fairly constant difference between the two forms is admitted. *Larus barrovianus* Ridgw. is referred to *L. glaucus*, but the other recently described North American species of *Larus* have passed the present ordeal unscathed. The case is somewhat different with *Rissa*, of which only two species, *R. tridactyla* and *R. brevirostris*, are recognized; the slight differences in size and the relative development of the diminutive hind-toe being found inconstant for the two other forms that have sometimes been recognized as *kotzebui* and *poli-caris*.

Among the little group of North American Skuas the changes in nomenclature are confusing and disheartening. For reasons already given, in place of *Megalestris skua* (Brünn., 1764) we have *M. catarrhactes* (Linn., 1766); in *Stercorarius* the Long-tailed Jaeger receives the name *parasiticus* Linn., while *crepidatus* Banks is applied to the *parasiticus* of the A. O. U. Check-List. This of course is in accordance with views long held by Mr. Saunders on the subject, but against the general consensus of opinion.

Passing now to the Tubinares, Mr. Salvin divides them into four families,—Procellariidæ, Puffinidæ, Pelecanoididæ, and Diomedeidæ,—their constituents being fairly indicated by the names employed. The 109 species recognized are arranged under 25 genera. The three genera most numerously represented are *Oceanodroma*, with 12 species, *Puffinus* with 20 species, and *Æstrelata* with 30 species. The following three species are described as new: *Oceanodroma tristrami* (ex Stejneger, MS., p. 354), *Pelecanoides exsul* (p. 438), *Diomedea chionopectera* (p. 443), and *Thalassogeron layardi* (p. 450).

As regards North American species, we note several important changes of nomenclature. Thus *Puffinus gravis* (O'Reilly, 1818) supercedes *P. major* (Faber, 1822); *Puffinus borealis* Cory is treated as a pure synonym of *P. kuhli*; *P. opisthomelas* Coues replaces *P. gavia*, which is considered as restricted to "New Zealand and Australian Seas"; on the other hand, *P. auduboni* is regarded as not separable from *P. obscurus*. *Puffinus stricklandi* Ridgway is referred to *Procellaria grisea* Gmelin, and hence becomes *Puffinus griseus*, the Atlantic and Pacific birds being con-

sidered as not separable. *Priocella* is raised to a full genus. *Fulmarus glacialis rogersii* and *F. g. glupischa* are given the rank of full species, while *F. g. minor* is referred as a pure synonym to *F. glacialis*.

The volume as a whole, despite the few criticisms of nomenclature in which we have indulged, easily takes its place as among the best of this admirable series, and for which ornithologists cannot be too grateful.—J. A. A.

Salvadori's Catalogue of the Chenomorphæ, Crypturi, and Ratitæ.¹—According to the arrangement adopted by Count Salvadori, the order Chenomorphæ consists of three suborders, Palamedeæ, Phœnicopteri, and Anseres. The first, embracing the Screamers, consists of only two genera and three species, all South American. The second, containing the Flamings, includes three genera and six species, of which four species are American, one only extending northward to Florida. Hence the great bulk of the Chenomorphæ belong to the Anseres, consisting of the single family Anatidæ, here subdivided into 11 subfamilies and 64 genera. The total number of species recognized is 196. Among the Ducks, *Chaulelasmus*, *Mareca*, *Nettion* and *Querquedula* are recognized as full genera. Of the larger genera, *Anas* contains 17 species, *Nettion* 15, and *Querquedula* 5. The following new genera are recognized: *Asarcornis*, type *Anas scutulata* S. Müll. (p. 59); *Pteronetta*, type *Querquedula hartlaubi* Cassin (p. 63); *Nesochen*, type *Anser sandvicensis* Vigors (p. 126); *Elastmonetta*, type *Anas chlorotis* G. R. Gray (p. 287). Also three new species, —*Erismatura æquatorialis*, Ecuador (p. 450); *Merganetta frenata*, Chili (p. 458); *Merganser comatus*, Central Asia (p. 475).

As regards the treatment of North American species, it may be noted further that *Cygnus* is substituted for *Olor* for the Swans; *Chen hyperboreus nivalis* is given the rank of a full species; *Anser albifrons gambeli* is kept separate from *A. albifrons*, although "scarcely different"; under the genus *Branta*, *hutchinsi*, *occidentalis* and *minima* stand as full species. The same is true of *Anas maculosa* Sennett. *Nyroca* is adopted in place of *Aythya*; both date from 1822, but *Aythya* is here ruled out as a *nomen nudum*. *Fuligula* stands as a full genus; and *Aythya marila nearctica* is referred to *F. marila*, with the following remark: "According to Dr. Stejneger, the American form (*nearctica*) has the primaries, from the

¹Catalogue | of the | Chenomorphæ | (Palamedeæ, Phœnicopteri, Anseres), | Crypturi, | and | Ratitæ | in the | Collection | of the | British Museum. | By T. Salvadori. | London: | Printed by order of the Trustees. | Sold by | Longmans & Co., 39 Paternoster Row; | B. Quaritch, 15 Piccadilly; Dulau & Co., 37 Soho Square, W.; | Kegan Paul & Co., Paternoster House, Charing Cross Road; | and at the | British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, S. W. | 1895. = Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum, Vol. XXVII. 8vo, pp. i-xv, 1-636, pl. i-xix.