

"America from the Arctic regions north of Hudson Bay and westward to the Mackenzie River, along the Atlantic watershed, though generally coastwise, to Patagonia and the Falkland Islands. Rare on the Pacific slope. Breeds about Hudson Bay, northward and eastward." *A. morinella* (Linn.) is distinguished as smaller than *A. interpres* (Linn.) with chestnut instead of black predominating above, with more clove brown, and with orange instead of vermilion feet. Detailed descriptions of the various plumages of each form are given, with a table of comparative measurements. The name *morinella* is based on Catesby's pl. lxxii, "The Turnstone or Sea-Dottrel."

Another innovation in nomenclature is the use of the name *Hirundo erythrogastra unalascchensis* (Gmelin) for the Alaskan Barn Swallow (p. 422). Although seen on St. George Island, no specimens appear to have taken there.

Plate xxxviii gives several views on Walrus Island, showing the breeding places of sea birds; pl. xxxix represents nine eggs of the Pacific Murre, selected to show variation in size, shape, and markings; pls. xl and xli illustrate the "development of feathers." The paper forms a valuable contribution to North American ornithology.—J. A. A.

**Howe and Sturtevant's 'Birds of Rhode Island.'**<sup>1</sup>—This is the first attempt at an exhaustive enumeration of the birds of the State of Rhode Island, and has been commendably well done. It consists of a 'Review of former publications on Rhode Island Birds, and of State Collections' (pp. 7-9); 'Migration, with List of Breeding Birds' (pp. 10-16), and an account of 'Cormorant Rock' (pp. 17-22), followed by a judiciously annotated list of the 291 species known to occur in the State. There is a supplemental list of 3 'Extirpated Species' and a 'Hypothetical List' of 10 species. The House Sparrow is included in the 291 species, and also the Painted Bunting, given as "an accidental visitant, or escaped cage bird," on the basis of a specimen taken in 1882. This latter species would have found a more fitting resting place in the Hypothetical List. The Blue Grosbeak is recorded under the head of 'Errata, Additions, etc.,' on p. 102, on the basis of a young bird taken by Mr. F. T. Jencks at Drownville, R. I., Oct. 12, 1899. It is, however, omitted from the Indexes. It is of interest to note that both the Purple and the Bronzed Grackle are given, the former as occurring in the southern and the latter in the northern portions of the State. *Ammodramus caudacutus subvirgatus*

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<sup>1</sup>The | Birds of Rhode Island. | By Reginald Heber Howe, Jr., | Member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, | and | Edward Sturtevant, S. B., | Instructor of Natural Science at Saint George's School, Newport. | Members of the American Ornithologists' Union. | Illustrated. | 1899.—8vo, pp. 1-111, frontispiece and 5 halftone plates.

(p. 72) is said to be "Undoubtedly not an uncommon migrant with *A. nelsoni*," etc., which latter is, curiously, not otherwise mentioned. We have here, also, almost the only case where the changes in nomenclature made in the Ninth Supplement to the A. O. U. Check-List have not been followed in the present list.

As a whole, the list has evidently been prepared with great care and thoroughness of research. In the case of the rarer species, the original records are cited in footnotes, and there is, besides, an extended and practically complete bibliography of Rhode Island ornithology, numbering nearly two hundred entries. There are also two indexes, one for the technical names, and one for the vernacular and local names. The text is very tastefully printed, typographical errors are exceedingly few, and these are apparently all corrected in a list of errata at the close of the work. The six plates (only four of them are now first published) are pertinent of the subject, illustrating 'Purgatory,' at Middletown, where Barn Swallows breed in the rocks; Mount Hope, on Narragansett Bay; Cormorant Rock and Tern's nest; an Osprey nest; a Bank Swallow colony, and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak's nest. The work is attractive as a specimen of book-making, and in every way a credit to the authors. — J. A. A.

**Newton's 'Dictionary of Birds.'**<sup>1</sup>— The reissue of this standard work in a cheaper form, yet unabridged and unchanged as regards the matter, will place it within reach of many who could not afford the original work. The paper is thinner and the volume less bulky, and thus more convenient for use, so that the cheaper form is in this respect rather an improvement upon the original. As the character of the work has already been placed before the readers of 'The Auk,'<sup>2</sup> we need only call attention to the fact of its reissue at reduced cost. This is especially gratifying, there being no other work of similar character extant. Professor Newton's masterly treatment of the general subject, and Dr. Gadow's contributions on the anatomy of birds, supply a fund of information alike valuable to the specialist and the general reader, and render the 'Dictionary' a compendium of ornithology of unrivalled excellence. — J. A. A.

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<sup>1</sup> A Dictionary of Birds. By Alfred Newton, assisted by Hans Gadow, with contributions from Richard Lydekker, Charles S. Roy, and R. W. Shufeldt. Cheap issue, unabridged. 1 vol. 8vo, pp. 1-124, i-viii, 1-1088, map, and numerous figures in text. The Macmillan Company, 66 Fifth Ave., New York. \$5.00.

<sup>2</sup> Vol. X, 1893, pp. 357-360; XI, 1894, pp. 56-60; XII, pp. 169, 170; XIV, 1897, pp. 234-244.