

Cory's 'The Birds of Eastern North America. Part II. Land Birds.'¹

— Part II of Mr. Cory's 'Birds of Eastern North America' comprises the 'Key to the Families and Species of the Land Birds,' to which is added a list of all the birds of eastern North America. The 'Land Birds' are treated after the same plan as the 'Water Birds,' already noticed at some length in this journal (Vol. XVI, 1899, pp. 366, 367). There is the same lavishness of illustration and the same brevity of text, the illustrations in both cases forming the main basis of the work, these being so numerous and so well-chosen that the text may be considered as the thread that connects them and explains their application. In this respect the work is unique. Bills, wings, tails and feet are the parts chiefly figured, with a full-length illustration of at least one representative species for each genus. The Keys are founded primarily on size as indicated by the length of the closed wing, the land birds being divided on this basis into five 'groups,' which are subdivided into 'sections' according to the form of the bill or feet, etc.; these are subdivided, as occasion requires, on other characters.

In the order of make-up there is first an 'Index Key to Families' (pp. 131, 132); then the 'Key to Families' (pp. 133-148), in which the arrangement is wholly arbitrary, beginning with the Hummingbirds and ending with the larger game birds and the larger birds of prey. This is followed by the 'Key to the Species' (pp. 149-324), in which the families, with their genera and species, follow each other in natural sequence. The text under each is reduced to a brief statement of essential characters. Following the name of each species and subspecies is a reference by number to the 'List' that follows (pp. 325-387). This is a revised reprint of the author's previously published 'List of the Birds of Eastern North America,' which in arrangement and nomenclature follows strictly the A. O. U. Check-List. It comprises 500 species and 70 additional subspecies, all numbered consecutively, and each followed by a brief statement of its geographical range. The author in his 'Key to Families' of North American birds has certainly reduced the difficulty of identifying our birds to a minimum, and anyone so unfortunate as not to be able to identify his specimens, in any state of plumage, by Mr. Cory's 'Keys' may well give up the attempt in despair. — J. A. A.

'Avium Generum Index Alphanumericus.' — The British Ornithologists' Club has recently published "An Alphabetical Index to the Genera

¹The Birds | of | Eastern North America | known to occur East of the Ninetieth Meridian | — | Part II | — | Land Birds | — Key to the Families and Species | — | By | Charles B. Cory | Curator of the Department of Ornithology in the Field Columbian Museum Chicago. . . | — | Special Edition printed for the | Field Columbian Museum, Chicago, Ill. | 1899. — Large 8vo, pp. i-ix, 131-387, with several hundred illustrations in the text.

adopted in the twenty-seven volumes of the Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum," prepared by Mr. F. H. Waterhouse, under the direction of Mr. Sclater. It was originally intended for private use, but its utility became so evident that the Club decided to print it as Volume IX of its Bulletin.¹ For this decision the Club deserves the gratitude of all working ornithologists. A list of the 27 volumes, with the titles in full, and date of publication, follows the Index, separately paged. The preface to the Index contains the following, which we are sure will interest not a few of the readers of 'The Auk':

"The following Latin lines were composed by a member of the B. O. C. to commemorate the names of the eleven authors of the 'Catalogue of Birds':—

DE CATALOGI AVIUM MAGNI SCRIPTORIBUS UNDECIM.

Sharpius inceptit, scripsitque volumina multa;
Seebornus sequitur, promptus ad auxilium.
 Teutonicus, zelo plenus, venit inde *Gadovus*,
*Salvinus*que bonam præbet amicus opem.
 Jam *Sclaterus* adest, tria longa volumina complens,
 Americanarum notus amans avium.
 Expers *Hargittus* nunc Picos ordinat omnes,
*Hartertus*que sagax Cypselidas numerat.
 Multum etiam pensæ *Shelleyi* profuit ardor,
 Multum *Saundersi* mens operosa dedit.
 Clarus ab Italiâ jam *Salvadorius* adstat,
 et tandem *Grantus* fine coronat opus."—J. A. A.

Sharpe's 'Hand-List of the Genera and Species of Birds.'²—The present 'Hand-list' of birds is a worthy successor to that of the late George Robert Gray, published also by the Trustees of the British Museum, in the years 1869–1871, which for many years was so serviceable to working ornithologists, and which has not yet lost its usefulness. This new

¹ Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club. Edited by R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL. D.—Vol. IX, Avium Generum Index Alphabeticus. London: R. H. Porter, 7 Princes Street, Cavendish Square. April, 1899.—8vo, pp. 1–31.

² A Hand-List | of the | Genera and Species | of | Birds | [Nomenclator Avium tum fossilium | tum viventium.] | By | R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL. D. | Assistant Keeper, Department of Zoology | British Museum | Volume I. | London: | Printed by order of the Trustees | Sold by | Longmans & Co., 39 Paternoster Row, E. C.; | B. Quaritch, 15 Piccadilly, W.; Dulau & Co., 37 Soho Square, W.; | Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., Charing Cross Road, W. C.; | and at the | British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, S. W. | 1899 | All rights reserved.—8vo, pp. i–xxi + 1–303.