

mer seem to consist mainly of additions to the bibliographical citations, through references to the British Museum 'Catalogue of Birds' and to the new edition of 'Naumann.' The editor's important footnotes supplement the text by the addition of various new facts that have been made public since the publication of the original edition in 1891. As a short notice of the original edition was promptly given in this journal (VIII, 1891, pp. 299, 300), and very full notices of the English translation published in 1895 (Auk, XII, 1895, pp. 322-346, and XIII, 1896, pp. 137-153), little need be said in the present connection beyond announcing the completion of this second beautifully printed edition of 'Helgoland.'—J. A. A.

**Pollard's 'Birds of my Parish.'**<sup>1</sup>—In the great procession of popular bird books that marks the present period it would seem that there is scant room for originality in the case of the later claimants for attention. That the field is not yet exhausted is well shown by the author of the 'Birds of my Parish,' which combines in a peculiar way fresh field notes with a large amount of information about the traits and behavior of captive individual birds of quite a number of the commoner British species. This is mixed with a deal of small talk of the imaginative order supposed to be said by the birds themselves. It is all very entertaining, if possibly trivial and unimportant as 'ornithology'; but the author is so thoroughly in sympathy with the feathered household pets thus brought before us, and also so much at home with the birds in their free surroundings, that this singular mixture of bird lore and 'bird talk' is decidedly pleasant reading. The scene is the "parish of Haquford in East Anglia," an area of some 1600 acres. "This small parish in Norfolk can boast," says the author, "to my present knowledge of . . . 76 varieties. None of these are very rare or uncommon birds, but the better one knows birds, the better one loves them." Much is pleasantly said of these wild birds in the regular orthodox style of ornithology, while much more is told entertainingly of pet Bullfinches, Goldfinches, Chaffinches, Jackdaws, etc., sandwiched with imaginary soliloquies and conversations by the birds themselves, doubtless also intended to impart information and inspire sympathy.—J. A. A.

**Collett on the Skull and Auricular Openings in North European Owls.**—Dr. Collett's important paper on the asymmetry of the skull and auditory structures in the Owls of Northern Europe, originally published in Norwegian in 1881, has now been made more readily accessible to English readers by Dr. Shufeldt's recent translation,<sup>2</sup> with which the text figures

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<sup>1</sup>The Birds | of my Parish | — | By Evelyn H. Pollard | With Illustrations  
| — | John Lane : The Bodley Head | London and New York. MDCCC,  
—Crown 8vo, pp. i-xiii, 15-295, 6 photogravure plates. Price, \$1.50.

<sup>2</sup>Professor Collett on the Morphology of the Cranium and the Auricular  
Openings in the North-European Species of the Family Strigidæ. By R. W.  
Shufeldt, M. D. Journ. of Morphology, Vol. XVII, No. 1, 1900, pp. 119-176.  
pll. xv-xx.

and lithographic plates have been reproduced. This paper, though the facts it presents, after the lapse of twenty years, have ceased to be novel, has lost little of its interest and importance, and is well worthy of a new lease of life in an English dress. Dr. Shufeldt has therefore done a distinct service to ornithology in thus placing the paper so conveniently before English readers. He has also added a few footnotes, and given, at the close, a résumé of recent views of taxonomers on the systematic position and relationships of the Owls.—J. A. A.

**Merriam and Preble on the Summer Birds of Western Maryland.**—This brochure from the Reports of the Maryland Geological Survey<sup>1</sup> consists of two papers; the first, by Dr. C. Hart Merriam (*l. c.*, pp. 291-293), treats of 'The Life Zones and Areas of Allegany County,' and deals with the general floral and faunal features of the region; the second, by Mr. E. A. Preble (pp. 294-307), gives an annotated list of 'The Summer Birds of Western Maryland,' numbering 100 species, and all are believed to breed in the region. According to Dr. Merriam, "The fauna of Allegany County is a mixture of Carolinian and Alleghanian species and comprises, so far as known, no boreal islands. The Potomac Valley, and valleys of the principal streams, are Carolinian; the upland, Alleghanian." In Garret County, above 2600 feet, "cold sphagnum and alder swamps abound," which "contain a strong admixture of high Transition and even Boreal species. . . . The cutting off of the spruce and hemlock from these small boreal islands lets in the hot sun and results, in numerous instances, in changing the fauna and flora from Canadian to Alleghanian."

We are surprised to notice a number of typographical errors in the technical names, for which doubtless the authors are not responsible. The paper is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the faunal character and summer range of the birds of western Maryland.—J. A. A.

**Loomis on California Water Birds.**<sup>2</sup>—This is No. V of Mr. Loomis's series of papers on 'California Water Birds,' and gives the results of his observations made in the vicinity of Monterey from May 1 to June 12, 1897. A 'Summary of Movements' for this period of observation is given, followed by some further discussion of the 'Cause of Return

<sup>1</sup> The Fauna and Flora. The Life Zones and areas of Allegany County. The Summer Birds of Western Maryland. By C. Hart Merriam and Edward A. Preble, Biological Survey, U. S. Dept. Agriculture. Maryland Geological Survey, Allegany County Report, pp. 291-307. Nov., 1900.

<sup>2</sup> California Water Birds. No. V. Vicinity of Monterey in May and early June. By Leverett M. Loomis, Curator of the Department of Ornithology. Proc. California Acad. of Sciences, 3d Ser., Zoöl., Vol. II, No. 5, pp. 349-363. Issued Nov. 24, 1900.