

Ridgway on 'New Birds of the Families Tanagridæ and Icteridæ.'¹—This is the seventh of Mr. Ridgway's series of papers describing new forms of American birds, the preceding six having been published in 'The Auk,' Vols. XV–XVII (1898–1900). In the present paper Mr. Ridgway characterizes of the family Tanagridæ one new genus, *Iridophanes* (type, *Dacnis pulcherrima* Sclater), and one new species and five new subspecies belonging to other genera of the family. Of the family Icteridæ he characterizes two new genera, *Pseudagelaius* (type, *Agelaius imthurni* Sclater), and *Xanthopsar* (type, *Oriolus flavus* Gmelin), and one new species and eight new subspecies. Four of the subspecies occur in the United States, namely, (1) *Icterus cucullatus sennetti*, from the Lower Rio Grande Valley; (2) *Agelaius phœniceus fortis*, ranging during migrations from Montana and the Indian Territory to and including the Rocky Mountains and southward to Arizona and northern Chihuahua; (3) *Agelaius phœniceus neutralis*, ranging from the Great Basin Region of the United States northward to eastern British Columbia and southward to northern lower California; (4) *Agelaius phœniceus caurinus*, from the Northwest Coast District, ranging from British Columbia to northern California.

Unfortunately Mr. Ridgway has adopted the name *Scaphidurus* Swainson for the Boat-tailed Grackles, named *Megaquiscalus* by Cassin, Mr. Ridgway overlooking the fact that *Scaphidurus* is a pure synonym of *Quiscalus*, Swainson supposing *Quiscalus* to be untenable on account of its supposed prior use in botany.—J. A. A.

Buri on the Anatomy and Relations of the Swifts.¹—Dr. R. Buri, of Bern, has recently published a lengthy paper² giving the results of an extended study of the wings of *Cypselus melba* and others of the Coracornithes; special attention has been given to the nerves of the wings, this portion of the anatomy having been worked out in the most painstaking manner. Dr. Buri's observations all go to confirm the correctness of the view that the nearest allies of the Swifts are the Hummingbirds, but they also point to a somewhat closer alliance with the Colies than has been generally suspected and to a more distant alliance with the Caprimulgidæ. Unfortunately Dr. Buri had no specimen of *Macropteryx*, for it is quite probable that nervation of this generalized and interesting genus shows

¹ New Birds of the Families Tanagridæ and Icteridæ. Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci., III, pp. 149–155. April 15, 1901.

² Zur Anatomie des Flügel von *Micropus melba* und einigen anderen Coracornithes; zugleich Beitrag zur Kenntniss der systematischen Stellung der Cypselidæ. Von Dr. Rud. O. Buri, Prosektor am veterinär-anatomischen Institut der Universität Bern. Mit 6 Tafeln. Abdruck aus der Jenaischen Zeitschrift für Naturwissenschaft. Bd. XXXIII, N. F. XXXI, 1900. Jena, Gustav Fischer, 1900.

affinities with the Goatsuckers. Dr. Buri's paper is of interest from the fact that it shows that the minute details of the anatomy of the Swifts and Hummingbirds bear out the conclusions based on their grosser anatomy and external characters. — F. A. L.

Herrick's 'The Home Life of Wild Birds.'¹—Mr. Herrick has succeeded in adding one more to the many attractive books illustrated by bird photography, and through the use of certain new methods, which he duly describes, has succeeded in bringing together a very large number of wonderfully striking and pleasing pictures of bird life. He describes at some length his methods, which are original and novel, securing pictures from life at such close range that the details are given with great distinctness. The work embraces fourteen chapters, the headings of which very clearly suggest the character and scope of the work. These chapter headings are as follows: (1) 'A New Method of Bird Study and Photography'; (2) 'Illustrations of the Method: The Cedar Bird, the Baltimore Oriole, the Redwing Blackbird and the Kingbird'; (3) 'Tent and Camera: The Tools of Bird-Photography'; (4) 'The Robin at Arm's Length, A Study of Individuality'; (5) 'The Cedar Bird'; (6) 'Red-eyed Vireos'; (7) 'The Nest-hole of the Bluebird'; (8) 'Minute Observations on Catbirds'; (9) 'The Rearing of the Night Hawk'; (10) 'The Kingfishers and their King Row'; (11) 'Care of Young and Nest'; (a) Brooding and Feeding Young (b) Cleaning the Nest'; (12) 'The Force of Habit'; (13) 'Fear in Birds and Taming Wild Birds without a Cage.' In these chapters he takes the reader into his confidence and reveals to him the secrets of his success. Certain families of birds, as for example, of the Kingbird, Cedar Bird, Red-winged Blackbird, etc., are vividly placed before the reader throughout the nesting period, and the method of their daily life is recorded with great detail, so that we have the life histories of a series of our common birds illustrated from the time of hatching to the period when they are able to shift for themselves.

Mr. Herrick's 'The Home Life of Wild Birds' is a most valuable addition to the literature relating to bird photography and the habits of birds during the interesting period of rearing the young. — J. A. A.

Heck's 'Living Pictures of the Animal Kingdom.'²—As the explanatory title indicates, the subject of the present volume is not exclusively

¹ The Home Life of Wild Birds | A New Method of | the Study and | Photography of Birds | By | Francis Hobart Herrick | — | With 141 Original Illustrations From Nature | By the Author | — | G. P. Putman's Sons | The Knickerbocker Press | New York and London | 1901—4to. pp. xix + 148. Photogravure frontispiece and 140 half-tone text figures.

² Living Pictures of the Animal Kingdom from Instantaneous Photographs taken of the most magnificent specimens in Zoological Gardens. Edited with