

ness Volumes I and II, considering the magnitude and great labor of the undertaking. Having already noticed at some length the scope and character of the 'Hand List' it is necessary here merely to call attention to the contents of the present volume,¹ which includes Dr. Sharpe's Orders XXXIV, XXXV, and a part of order XXXVI, or the Eurylæmidæ, the Menuridæ, and the Mesomyodian and Acromyodian Passeres. These groups embrace 19 families, represented, in round numbers, by 400 genera and 3000 species, about equally divided between the Old World and New World. The numerically leading families are the Muscicapidæ, with 696 species; the Tyrannidæ, with 562; the Dendrocolaptidæ, with 393; the Formicariidæ, with 348; the Pycnonotidæ, with 245; the Campophagidæ, with 159; the Cotingidæ, with 145; and the Hirundinidæ, with 116. Among the larger genera are *Rhipidura* with 99 species, *Thamnophilus* with 72, *Pitta* with 51, *Synallaxis* with 49, *Grallaria* with 42, *Siptornis* and *Piezorhynchus* each with 41, and *Hirundo* with 40; while as many more genera include from 30 to 40 species each. It should, however, be understood that 'species' in this connection means nameable forms, no nomenclatural distinction being made in the 'Hand List' between species and subspecies.

Dr. Sharpe has brought the subject down to about the end of the year 1900, and in some cases well into 1901, although the date of the preface is July 10, 1901. Note is duly made of the many generic changes pointed out as necessary by Oberholser and Richmond during the last two or three years, and most of them receive Dr. Sharpe's approval. *Formicivora*, however, we are glad to see, holds its place as against *Drymophila*, which latter now replaces *Myrmeciza*.

The American genus *Poliophtila*, it may be noted, now finds a resting place in the Old World family Muscicapidæ!

The excellent character of the work, mentioned in our notices of previous volumes, is well sustained, and the same care has been taken to secure revision of the proofsheets by leading authorities, which include seven ornithologists of England, six of the most prominent European ornithologists, and six in America.—J. A. A.

Stark's 'Birds of South Africa.' Vol. II.²—The second volume of 'The Birds of South Africa,' has been prepared by Mr. W. L. Sclater, Director of the South African Museum, from manuscripts left by the late Dr.

¹ For a notice of Vol. I see this Journal, XVII, Jan. 1900, pp. 79-81, and of Vol. II, *ibid.*, XVIII, Jan. 1901, pp. 120, 121.

² The | Birds of South Africa | By | Arthur C. Stark, M. B. | Completed by W. L. Sclater, M. A., F. Z. S. | Director of the South African Museum, Cape Town | Vol. II | with a Portrait, Map and Illustrations | London | R. H. Porter | 7 Princes Street, Cavendish Square, W. | 1901.—8vo, pp. i-xiv + 1-323, frontispiece, 83 text cuts.

Arthur C. Stark, who was killed at Ladysmith just after passing the sheets of the first volume through the press, as stated in our review of Volume I (Auk, XVII, April, 1900, pp. 189, 190). Mr. Sclater states: "The manuscript of this volume was found partly stored at Durban and partly along with the author's papers in Ladysmith, and by the desire of his executors has been entrusted to me for completion and publication. A good deal of revision and addition has been necessary to complete this volume, which I trust may be found as satisfactory as the first, for which Dr. Stark was alone responsible." Mr. Sclater further says: "It is my wish and hope to be able, with the help of Dr. Stark's note-books and papers, to prepare, very shortly, the two final volumes on South African birds necessary to complete this work." This is a very pleasant assurance, as this work, when completed, will form a most useful hand-book of South African ornithology. The two volumes on the Mammals, also by Mr. Sclater, have already been issued, and form a most welcome and valuable contribution to the series of volumes forming 'The Fauna of South Africa,' of which Mr. Sclater is the editor and Mr. R. H. Porter the enterprising publisher.

In scope and method of treatment the present volume compares favorably with the first, already described at some length in this journal (*l. c.*); the numerous illustrations, prepared especially for this work by Mr. H. Grönvold, are satisfactory and well chosen.

The present volume covers the Passerine families Laniidæ, Crateropodidæ, Turdidæ, Muscicapidæ, Dicruridæ, Campophagidæ, Hirundinidæ, and Pittidæ, and treats of 199 species — Nos. 183–381. In addition to the text cuts illustrating structural details are several half-tone illustrations of birds with their nests.

The nomenclature is conservative, and not quite up to date, if we take Dr. Sharpe's 'Hand List of Genera and Species' as the standard, it conforming more nearly with that of the British Museum 'Catalogue of Birds.' — J. A. A.

Nelson on New Birds from Mexico.¹ — The new species and subspecies here described were mostly collected by Mr. Nelson and Mr. Goldman during their recent trip to Yucatan, and are as follows: (1) *Crypturus sallei goldmani*, (2) *Crax chapmani*, (3) *Nyctidromus albicollis yucatanensis*, (4) *Attila mexicanus*, (5) *Myiopagis yucatanensis*, (6) *Pachyrhamphus major itzensis*, (7) *Icterus cucullatus duplexus*, (8) *Icterus cucullatus cozumelæ*, (9) *Stelgidopteryx ridgwayi*, (10) *Troglodytes peninsularis*, (11) *Merula plebeia differens*. A new genus, *Nyctagreus*, is proposed, with *Caprimulgus yucatanensis* Hartert as the type. — J. A. A.

¹ Descriptions of a new Genus and eleven new Species and Subspecies of Birds from Mexico. By E. W. Nelson. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. XIV, pp. 169–175. Sept. 25, 1901.