

Dubois's 'Synopsis Avium.'— Since our previous notice of this work Parts V–X have appeared, completing the first volume.¹ In the introduction the author states the purpose of the work to be to provide a simple manual which shall indicate for each species and subspecies the principal synonymy and the principal authors to be consulted. To have gone beyond this would have exceeded the end in view. He has, however, deemed it essential to add the habitat, and has given references in footnotes under the families to monographic works, when such exist, and to the British Museum 'Catalogue of Birds,' where good descriptions may be found.

He says he was unable to force himself to adopt any of the recent systems of classification, and has therefore followed, with slight modifications, that proposed by himself in 1891, in which the class Aves is divided into the two subclasses *Gymnopathes* and *Ptilopathes*, proposed by Sundevall. The system of Huxley is criticised as widely separating closely allied groups, and as bringing other groups into close juxtaposition which in reality have little in common. He agrees with Bonaparte, Milne-Edwards, and others in placing the Parrots at the head of the class, he considering them the most perfect of all birds in their organization. He says that from the intellectual point of view their superiority is incontestable: they have all the qualities and all the faults of the monkeys.

He recognizes subspecies, for which he employs a separate numeration from that of the species. The present volume includes his orders Psittaci, Scansores, Anisodactylæ, Macrochires, and Passeres, in the sequence named, of which he recognizes 53 families, 1357 genera, 9417 species, and 2477 additional subspecies. Of the "11898" species and subspecies included in his first volume, 4135 are represented in the Royal Museum of Natural History at Bruxelles. He says that he believes that a number of the recently described species and subspecies will be suppressed when they become better known, but he gives them place in order to attract the attention of ornithologists to these doubtful novelties.

As said in previous notices (*Auk*, XVII, p. 81, and XVIII, p. 121), the work will be a very useful one, and we trust will be successfully carried to completion. The twelve colored plates illustrate twenty-four previously unfigured or poorly figured species.— J. A. A.

¹ *Synopsis Avium* | — | *Nouveau* | *Manuel d'Ornithologie* | *Par* | *Alphonse Dubois* | *Docteur en sciences naturelles*, | *Conservateur au Musée Royal d'Histoire naturelle de Belgique*, | *Chevalier de l' Order de Léopold*, | *Membre du Comité international et permanent d'Ornithologie*, | *de la Commission permanente d'étude des collections du Musée de l' État Indépendant du Congo* | *Membre honoraire, correspondant ou effectif de plusieurs Sociétés savantes.* | — | *Première Partie* | (1899-1902) | — | *Bruxelles* | *H. Lamertin, éditeur* | 20, *Rue du Marché-au-bois* | — | 1902.—*Roy.* 8vo, pp. i-xvi + 1-729, pll. col. i-xii.