

include a Quail-Dove, a Grouse (*Dactylortyx*), an Owl, 10 species of Passerine birds, of which several are given the rank of full species.—J. A. A.

Oberholser on a New Wren from Texas.—Mr. Oberholser has described¹ the Long-billed Marsh Wren of eastern Texas and Louisiana as *Telmatodytes palustris thryophilus*, it differing from *T. palustris* in smaller size, paler and grayer coloration.—J. A. A.

Hartert's 'Die Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna.'²—Mr. Hartert's Birds of the Palæartic Fauna is to comprise two volumes of about 650 pages each, to be issued in ten parts, at four marks each, and to be completed during 1905. Part I consists of an introduction of twelve pages and the first 112 pages of the text, and comprises the families Corvidæ, Sturnidæ, Oreolidæ, and the first part of the Fringillidæ, numbering altogether 184 species and subspecies. In the introduction the author clearly defines his attitude as regards 'lumping' and 'splitting,' and on various questions of nomenclature; he takes Linnæus at 1758, adheres strictly to the rule of priority, and employs trinomials in the most approved way for subspecies. These he recognizes with great liberality, but displays much conservatism in respect to genera. For example, under *Acanthis* he would combine *Carduelis*, *Chrysomitris*, *Linota*, *Spinus*, *Astragalinus*, and *Hylocanthus*, and similarly under *Corvus* various allied groups that are often given generic rank. He emphatically disapproves of the supposition that birds can change the color and markings of their plumage without a renewal of the feathers, and in other respects stands in the front rank of the new school.

Passing now to the systematic portion of the work, the higher groups are briefly characterized, and under the genera there are keys to the species, but, generally, not to the subspecies; there is no generic synonymy, and the citations under the species and subspecies are restricted to the first mention of the names adopted, and their synonyms. The characters of the species are quite fully given, with a brief statement of their geographical ranges, manner of nesting, character of the eggs, etc., and under the subspecies their distinctive characteristics and distribution.

The geographical scope of the work is sufficiently indicated by the title, but the southern boundary of the Palæartic Region is not very sharply definable. In general terms the region includes all of Europe, northern

¹ Descriptions of a New *Telmatodytes*. By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XVI, pp. 149, 150, Nov. 12, 1903.

² Die Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna. Systematische Übersicht der in Europa, Nord-Asian und der Mittelmæerregion vorkommenden Vögel. Von Ernst Hartert. Heft. I. Mit 22 Abbildungen. Berlin. Verlag von R. Friedländer und Sohn. Ausgegeben in November 1903. Large 8vo, pp. i-xii, 1-112.