

Mr. Riley has also recently described a new flycatcher from Grenada and St. Vincent as *Myiarchus oberi nugator*.<sup>1</sup>—J. A. A.

Dubois's 'Synopsis Avium.'<sup>2</sup>—Since our last notice of this work it has been concluded by the publication of fasciculi XIII–XVI, completing the Herodiones and containing the Grallatores, Palamedææ, Anseres, Steganopodes, Gaviæ, Tubinares, Pygopodes, Impennes, Apteryges, Casuarii, Rheæ, and Struthiones; also the Supplement and the alphabetic tables, or indexes, to the genera, species and subspecies, and the systematic table of the orders and families.

According to the author's 'postface,' the 'Synopsis' includes 12,509 species and 3969 subspecies, or a total of 16,478 species and subspecies, apportioned among 2252 genera. The orders number 23, and there are 145 families.

The author's plan and purpose, and the system of classification adopted, has already been explained in our notices of the first fasciculus (Auk, XVII, 1900, p. 81), and of Part I (Auk, XIX, 1902, p. 409). As said before, the 'Synopsis' is constructed very nearly on the plan of the late G. R. Gray's 'Hand List of the Genera and Species of Birds,' completed in 1871, and, including the 'supplement,' brings the subject down to the early part of 1902. The supplement (pp. 1053–1118) contains the genera, species, and subspecies, and many corrections of nomenclature, which appeared during the publication of the work (1899–1902) too late to be included in it, the new species and subspecies alone numbering respectively 510 and 642. It is the author's plan to issue additional supplements from time to time, thus keeping the work up to date. While the classification is far from modern, the author is to be congratulated on the completion of so arduous and useful an undertaking, which renders so conveniently accessible references to the original descriptions and figures of the world's ornith.—J. A. A.

Madarász's 'An Extraordinary Discovery in Ornithology.'—This is a

<sup>1</sup> Description of a new *Myiarchus* from Grenada and St. Vincent, West Indies. Smithsonian Contributions (quarterly issue), Vol. XLVII, 1904, pp. 275, 276. Published Nov. 8, 1904.

<sup>2</sup> Synopsis Avium | — | Nouveau | Manuel d' Ornithologie | par | Alphonse Dubois | Docteur en sciences naturelles, | Conservateur au Musée Royal d' Histoire naturelle de Belgique, | Officier de l'Ordre de Léopold, | Membre du Comité internationale et permanent d' Ornithologie, | de la Commission permanente d' étude des Collections de Musée de l' Etat Indépendant du Congo, | Membre honoraire, correspondant ou effective de plusieurs Sociétés savantes. | — | Deuxième Partie | (1902–1904) | — | Bruxelles | H. Lamertin, éditeur | 20, Rue du Marché-au-Bois. | —1904—Roy. 8vo, pp.i-x +731–1339, pll. col. xiii–xvi.

grallatorial passeriform bird,<sup>1</sup> obtained by Coloman Katona on the shores of Lake Jippe in East Africa, and here described as *Charadriola singularis*, gen. et. sp. nov. The terminal third of the tibia is unfeathered, scaled, and reticulated as in the plovers. In other respects this new type is much like the South African genus *Macronyx*, having the same long hind claw and other features, but a slenderer bill. The bird is illustrated by three text-figures, giving full-length figures of the male and female, the hind limb (natural size), and an enlarged figure of the tibia and proximal portion of the tarsus, to show the plover-like scutellation. In a notice of this paper in a recent number of 'The Ibis' (Oct. 1904, p. 653), however, the bird here described is said to be not a new discovery, but a redescription of *Tmetothylacus tenellus* Cabanis, and "that it is *not* an aquatic species!" Cabanis first described and figured the species as *Macronyx tenellus* (J. f. O. 1878, pp. 205, 220, pl. iii, fig. 2), and later (*ibid.*, 1879, p. 438) made it the type of a new genus *Tmetothylacus*, on the basis mainly of the nakedness of the lower half of the tibia and its scaly covering. Sharpe, in 1885 (Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., X, p. 618), referred the species to *Anthus* and cites the already considerable literature relating to it.—J. A. A.

**Shalow on Arctic Birds.**<sup>2</sup>—The area embraced in the present elaborate memoir is limited to the seas and islands north of the Arctic Circle. Some fifteen pages of introductory matter (pp. 81–96) treat of the faunal relations of the region, and the views of leading writers thereon, and define the limits of the region under consideration. The bibliography of the subject takes the next fifteen pages (pp. 96–110), the titles being arranged chronologically, beginning with Martens, 1675, and including a portion of the literature of 1904. A systematic enumeration of the species, subspecies and higher groups follows. The 270 species and subspecies are next treated (pp. 114–271) in due sequence under the subheading 'Die Geographisch Verbreitung der das nordliche Polarmeer bewohnenden Vögel,' under which is given for each the synonymy, bibliographic references, and a detailed account of its manner of occurrence in the region.

Following this, the main body of the work, is an analysis of the distribution of the species and subspecies in the different islands, with reference to their faunal relations,—whether circumpolar, palaearctic, or nearctic, and whether known to breed or not at the various islands in question.

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<sup>1</sup> An Extraordinary Discovery in Ornithology. By Dr. Julius v. Madarász. Ann. Mus. Nat. Hungarici, II, 1904, pp. 396–398.

<sup>2</sup> Die Vögel der Arktis. Von Herman Schalow in Berlin. Fauna Arctica, eine Zusammenstellung der arktische Tierformen, mit besonderer Berücksichtigung des Spitzbergen-Gebietes auf Grund der Ergebnisse der Deutschen Expedition in das Nordliche Eismeer im Jahr 1898. Band IV, Lieferung I, Verlag von Gustav Fischer in Jena. 1904. — 4to, pp. 81–288.