

Taken all in all, 'The Warblers of North America' reaches a high standard of excellence, and sets a model future writers may well emulate. The many excellent colored figures of the birds and beautiful half-tones of nests and eggs admirably supplement the carefully prepared text.—
J. A. A.

Alphéraky's 'The Geese of Europe and Asia.'—In the present work¹ are described and figured all of the known species and subspecies of Palearctic Geese, twenty-two in number. The work was originally published in Russian, in 1904, under the title 'Gusi Rossii,' and it is now most welcome in its English dress. The author has evidently enjoyed great opportunities, both in the field and in the amount of material open to him for investigation, as a preparation for the present work, with which he expresses dissatisfaction, inasmuch as he has failed to realize his ideal in respect to its completeness and finality. Yet it is a most important contribution to our knowledge of an imperfectly known field in ornithology.

The generalities of the subject, given in the introduction, are followed by an elaborate key to the genera, species and subspecies, and this by the systematic descriptions, two appendices, and the index. The descriptions of the species, including the various plumages, are very detailed, the bibliographical references are very full, especially to Russian authors, and the geographical distribution and biographies appear to be worked out with great care and thoroughness. The work thus abounds with exceedingly valuable information, not elsewhere given in such connected and convenient form. The author believes Buturlin's subgenus *Melanonyx* to be worthy of generic recognition, and adopts it for the Bean Goose group; he is also liberal in his recognition of species and subspecies, and thus is very attentive to technical details, which adds value to his work, whether or not all his conclusions are accepted. His recognition of differences resulting from age and individual differentiation tend to give confidence in his estimate of the value of differences he ascribes to other causes.

Appendix I is a valuable paper by Mr. G. F. Göbel on the Eggs of Russian Geese, which Mr. Alphéraky says "affords the only satisfactory basis for further oölogical investigations in the subfamily Auserinæ," and deals with the structure of the shell as well as with the color and size of the egg. Tables of the weight (of the shell), the breadth and length of the eggs of the Anserinæ are given as an important aid in determining the species.

¹ The Geese of Europe | and Asia | being a Description of most of the | Old World Species | By | Sergius Alphéraky | Corresponding Member of the Zoological Section of the Imperial Academy of Science, St. Petersburg; | Hon. Member of the Russian Entomological Society; Member of the Imperial | Russian Geographical Society, etc., etc. | With twenty-four coloured plates by F. W. Frohawk | F. E. S., M. B. O. U. | and | frontispiece by Dr. P. P. Sushkin | London: Rowland Ward, Ltd. | "The Jungle," Piccadilly | M C M. V—4to, pp. i-ix, 1-198, col. frontispiece, 24 col. pl., and 16 text figures.

Appendix II is an 'Extract from the Diary of the Visit to Kolguev in 1902 of Mr. S. A. Buturlin,' and contains much interesting information respecting not only the geese of this far-off locality but of its abundant and varied bird life.

Mr. Frohawk's excellent colored plates of the Geese and their bills (three plates of bills) adds greatly to the value and beauty of Mr. Alphéraky's exceedingly important monograph, of interest alike to the ornithologist and the sportsman, and which will long remain a standard source of information on the subject to which it relates.— J. A. A.

Oberholser on Birds from East Africa.¹— About 26 species or subspecies are here listed, with critical comment on most of them. One subspecies is described as new. The comparisons are mainly of Mombara birds with others from Taveta and Mount Kilimanjaro.— J. A. A.

Schiebel on the Phylogeny of the Species of Lanius.— This is an attempt, as explained in the title,² to trace back to a common origin the various species of Shrikes, of which some forty or more species are currently recognized, besides numerous subspecies, by means of coloration resemblances — the pattern of coloration and color, and the coloration of the young in relation to that of the adults. The species can be arranged in sequence, or series, along about seven principal lines, which seem to converge toward a common or ancestral type. Coincidence of certain phases of coloration with particular geographic regions is an interesting feature here brought out. The phylogenetically oldest type, or his 'Typus primitivus,' is found in eastern and Central Asia, and is separable into two groups of species. His 'Typus excubitoriformis' occupies northern Europe, northern Asia, and northern North America. To the west and southwest his 'Typus primitivus' merges into his 'Typus indo-malayicus,' and this again, further south and west, into a 'Typus africanus,' separable into three minor groups.

The subject is discussed in great detail and abounds in points of interest. It is illustrated with eight plates, the first being in black and white to show details of pattern in feather markings; the others are in color, for comparison of pattern and tints in the different groups of species, some thirty species being illustrated by about forty figures, drawn from the side, from cabinet skins, for effective and convenient comparison.— J. A. A.

¹ Notes on Birds from German and British East Africa, By Harry C. Oberholser, Assistant Ornithologist, Depart. of Agriculture. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XXX, 1906, pp. 801-811.

² Die Phylogense der Lanius Arten. Untersuchungen über die gegenseitige Abstammung sämtlicher Arten der echten Würger auf Grund der Zeichnungsentwicklung der Federkleides. Von Dr. Phil. Guido Schiebel. Journ. für Ornithol., 1900, pp. 1-77 und 161-219, mit 7 farbigen und 1 Schwarzdruck-Tafel und 2 Skizzen im Text. Also separate, Price 8 marks.