

young that had just left the nest. On the same day a young bird of this species was taken for me by Prof. W. E. Rumsey.

On a long mountain ridge that lies between Big Sugar Creek and Little Sugar Creek, at the head-waters of Elk River, I found the Magnolia Warbler to be one of the most abundant species on the 14th of August, 1899.

**Dendroica cerulea.**—Wonderfully abundant in Wood County on the hills just back from the Ohio River. Breeds in the open oak woods on top of the hills.

**Dendroica pensylvanica.**—A nest of the Chestnut-sided Warbler was found in the glades of Webster County on July 2, 1907. It was neatly placed in the top of a clammy azalea, about 8 feet from the ground. The azalea was in full bloom. There were two young birds in the nest. Many other birds were seen, and all were evidently nesting.—EARLE A. BROOKS, *Weston, West Virginia.*

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## RECENT LITERATURE.

**Rothschild's 'Extinct Birds.'**<sup>1</sup>—Mr. Rothschild, as is well known, has been for years actively interested in the subject of vanishing birds, and we expected to find in the present expensive work a complete and final account of the species now known to be extinct, but in this we are disappointed. As stated on the title page, this is "an attempt to unite in one volume a short account of those birds which have become extinct in historical times — that is, within the last six or seven hundred years," which means that the author has included in his work the numerous fossil birds of the New Zealand and Mascarene regions. As a matter of fact, the accounts of fossil birds (*i. e.*, those known only from their osseous remains), overbalance those of the recently extinct ones, since some 90 of the former are treated, compared with 76 of the latter, while over 50 pages of the book are perfectly blank.

Of the fossil birds we shall have little to say here. It may be mentioned; however, that colored figures are given of *Megalapteryx huttoni* and *Dinornis ingens*, representing them as they are supposed to have existed in life. If correctly delineated, the *Megalapteryx* must have been a very extra-

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<sup>1</sup> Extinct Birds. | An attempt to unite in one volume a short account of | those Birds which have become extinct in historical | times — that is, within the last six or seven | hundred years. To which are | added a few which still | exist, but are on | the verge of | extinction. | By | The Hon. Walter Rothschild, | Ph. D., F. Z. S. | With 45 coloured Plates, embracing 63 subjects, and | other illustrations. | London, | Hutchinson & Co., Paternoster Row, E. C. | 1907 — Small folio, pp. i-xxix + 1-244, 45 colored plates, and 4 plates of outlines.

ordinary creature, since it is supposed to have possessed a 'booted' tarsus, a feature we believe to be unique (not to say unnatural) among flightless birds, whose tarsi are covered with a strong armor of scales. The feathered tarsus is not an innovation of the artist's, for as Mr. Rothschild says, "Professor Owen has shown that *Megalapteryx huttoni* was feathered down to the toes, and in the plate I have represented it clothed with feathers" (p. 186). The nomenclature of fossil forms is uptodate, and the author evidently has been to much pains in revising the various genera and species of Dinornithidæ. We note that *Cela* Reichenbach, is recognized as a genus containing five species, but would call attention to the earlier use of this name by Oken (1816).

Mr. Rothschild's book will serve to call attention to the many birds already extinct, and to the still larger number now threatened with extinction, although the list there given by no means includes all of the species in these categories. We find no mention of the Eskimo Curlew, the 'Cahow' of Bermuda, the several Guadalupe Island birds now extinct or nearly so; nor do we find many of the Polynesian species that might well be included among those threatened with extinction.

Among the colored plates are 20 or more, based entirely upon descriptions (no specimens having been preserved) or illustrations of the old writers, and some of these do not appear to be entirely trustworthy. Thus, in the plate of *Ara erythrura*, we find the tail prominently tipped with blue, while in the text it is described as "entirely red." It is not improbable, too, that some of the Macaws ascribed to the West Indies, such as *Anodorhynchus purpurascens*, were originally described from cage birds brought from the continent. The plate of *Ara tricolor*, based on the Liverpool Museum example, if a faithful reproduction of that specimen, may prove to be some other species (it is to be remembered that we know nothing of the colors of the species which formerly lived in Hayti), since it lacks the strong yellow color on the back of the neck, as well as the yellow markings on the sides of the body, and yellow edgings to the red feathers on the mantle. In the account of this species the author enumerates five specimens known to him, "two in the British Museum, one in Paris, one in Leyden, one in Liverpool." To this list we can easily add six more: two in Washington, one in Boston, and three in Cuba, while Gundlach probably sent others to Germany. Had the author addressed inquiries to the various museums at home and abroad, his census of specimens in this and many other species would have been more nearly complete.

*Notornis alba* of White (or Shaw), is accredited to Norfolk Island, while *N. stanleyi* is given as the species from Lord Howe's Island, but it seems probable that *N. alba* is the one from the last-named locality. White's account (not given by Rothschild) is as follows: "They also found on it [Lord Howe's Island, at that time newly discovered] in great plenty, a kind of fowl, resembling much the Guinea fowl in shape and size, but widely different in colour; they being in general all white, with a red fleshy substance rising like a cock's comb, from the head, and not unlike a piece of

sealing-wax. These not being birds of flight, nor in the least wild, the sailors availing themselves of their gentleness and inability to take wing from their pursuits, easily struck them down with sticks." (White, Journ. Voy. N. S. W., 1790, p. 135). In our estimation, a reproduction of the old accounts of many of these extinct birds would have greatly enhanced the value and usefulness of the book.

*Strigiceps leucopogon* Lesson, is introduced on page 30, but its identification is still uncertain. The type was probably in the collection of Dr. Abeillé, of Bordeaux, but in any event, if one could only consult the collection of colored drawings at one time in Lesson's possession (cf. P. Z. S., 1855, 212), its determination would probably be quite simple.<sup>1</sup>

The following species are described and named as new: *Casuarius lydekkeri* (p. x), *Ara erythrura* (p. 54), *Necropsittacus* (?) *borbonicus* (p. 62), *Bubo* (?) *leguati* (p. 71), *Strix newtoni* (p. 79), *Ardea duboisi* (p. 114), *Nesanas duboisi* (p. 166), *Megalapteryx hamiltoni* (p. 197), *Emeus boothii* (p. 210), *E. haasti* (p. 210), *E. parkeri* (p. 211), and *Dromavus peroni* (p. 235), the last being a new name for the Kangaroo Island Emu, currently known under Vieillot's specific name *ater*, but, as Mr. Rothschild here shows, the latter was originally proposed by Vieillot to replace Latham's *Casuarius novæ hollandiæ*. Several nominal species proposed by Forbes are here first given a definite status, viz.: *Palwocasuarus* (p. 219), *P. haasti* (p. 220), *P. velox* (p. 220), and *P. elegans* (p. 220). "*Foudia newtoni*," mentioned on p. xi, seems to be a new name for *F. flavicans*, but if so, is a *nomen nudum*.—C. W. R.

**Dearborn on a Collection of Guatemalan Birds.**<sup>2</sup>—The birds recorded in this catalogue were collected between the winter of 1904 and the early part of 1906, a small proportion by Messrs. Edmund Heller and C. M. Barber, but the greater part of them, no less than 1000, by the author of the paper, during the latter part of the period. In all, 1187 specimens, mostly skins, constitute the collection, and these represent the large number of 305 species and subspecies.

The identifications have apparently been made with care and there are many interesting notes on geographical and other variations. Three new forms are described,—*Saucerottea cyanura guatemalæ*, *Diglossa montana* and *Regulus satrapa clarus*, and the range of *Terenotriccus erythrurus fulvigula* is extended considerably northward. A remarkable female Rose-

<sup>1</sup> Abeillé's collection was an important one, containing about 1500 specimens, including nearly one hundred of Lesson's types (described chiefly in the 'Écho du Monde Savant'). It was probably sold, after Abeillé's death, since a little pamphlet ('Catalogue des Oiseaux composant la Collection de feu le Dr. Abeillé, de Bordeaux,' 44 pp.) was published in 1850, giving a list of the specimens in it. On p. 15, we find Abeillé had one specimen of *Strigiceps leucopogon*. Here the locality is stated to be "Himalaya."

<sup>2</sup> Catalogue of a Collection of Birds from Guatemala. By Ned Dearborn, Assistant Curator of Ornithology. Field Museum of Natural History, Publication 125. Ornithological Series, Vol. I, No. 3, pp. 69-138, pl. i-iii (maps). November, 1907.