

Of the Icteridæ 128 species are accepted, 125 of which are represented in the British Museum by an aggregate of 1409 specimens. The whole number of species treated in the volume is therefore 545, represented by 5494 species. Means so ample, in the hands of a specialist so thoroughly competent for the task, cannot fail to give most satisfactory results.

The position of the Icteridæ next to the Tanagridæ, necessitated by the scheme of classification adopted by Mr. Sharpe for the Oscines, does not meet with Mr. Sclater's full approval, who considers the Tanagridæ as very closely allied to the Fringillidæ, and as being in fact "fruit and insect-eating Finches." The Icteridæ, he believes, would be better placed after the Fringillidæ, in the immediate neighborhood of the Sturnidæ.

Although subspecies are freely admitted, the system of nomenclature conforms to that of the previous volumes of the 'Catalogue.' The treatment of specific and subspecific forms is, in general, decidedly conservative; if, however, the author had followed, in certain instances, his own expressed convictions in place of deferring to the opinion of some previous author, the results would, we believe, have been more satisfactory.

Two species (*Arremon nigrirostris* and *Agelaius forbesi*) and three genera (*Pseudodacnis*, *Delothraupis*, and *Gymnostinops*) are indicated as new. Twenty-three species are figured.

The families here treated could not have fallen into better hands. The authorities of the British Museum are to be congratulated on having secured the assistance of Mr. Sclater for this work; and we are sure ornithologists will be rejoiced to learn that another volume of this invaluable series will be prepared by the same distinguished authority on American birds. —J. A. A.

**Conclusion of the Great Work on the Nests and Eggs of the Birds of Ohio.\*** For several years we have noted the progress of this undertak-

\* *Collation:*

19 covertitles: Part [1-23 (msc.)] | Price \$5. [later omitted] | Illustrations | of the | Nests and Eggs | of the | Birds of Ohio | with Text | by | Genevieve E. Jones and Eliza J. Shulze [names later omitted.] | Circleville, Ohio | 1879 [Dates omitted after Part 5] Copyrighted by Genevieve E. Jones and Eliza J. Shulze | [Dates, Stamped or Msc.]

Illustrations | of the | Nests and Eggs | of | Birds of Ohio | with Text. | Illustrations by | Mrs. N. E. Jones | Text by | Howard Jones, A.M., M.D. | Circleville, Ohio, U. S. A. | [1879 to] 1886. | Folio. | Txt. in loose sheets; pll. plain lithog. or hand-col'd; pub. in 23 Parts. Text, pp. i-xxxviii, xxxviii a-d, 41-329. Plates i-lxviii.

Part 1, July, 1879 [there was a trial or specimen part pub. Dec. 1878] pp. 41-46, pll. i-iii. Part 2, Oct. 1879, pp. 47-54, pll. iv-vi. Part 3, Jan., 1880, pp. 55-58, pll. vii-ix. Part 4, April, 1880, pp. 59-66, pll. x-xii. Part 5, July, 1880, pp. 67-70, pll. xiii-xv. Part 6, Oct., 1880, pp. 71-82, pll. xvi-xviii. Part 7, Jan., 1881, pp. 83-90, pll. xix-xxi. Part 8, April, 1881, pp. 91-98, pll. xxii-xxiv. Part 9, July, 1881, pp. 99-106, pll. xxv-xxvii. Parts 10, 11 (Double No.), pp. 107-118, pll. xviii-xxxiii ("Oct., 1881" to) Jan., 1882. Part 12, Apr., 1882, pp. 119-122, pll. xxxiv-xxxvi. Part 13, July, 1882, pp. 123-138, pll. xxxvii-xxxix. Parts 14, 15 (Double No.), pp. 139-154, pll. xl-xlv ("Oct., 1882" to) Jan., 1883. Part 16, Apr., 1883, pp. 155-166, pll. xlvi-xlviii. Parts 17, 18 (Double No.), pp. 167-190, pll. xlix-liv ("July to") Oct., 1883. Part 19, Jan., 1884, pp. 191-206, pll. lv-lvii. Part 20,

ing in the pages of the 'Nuttall Bulletin' and of 'The Auk.' It now gives us real pleasure to record the completion of so meritorious and important a publication, pushed with every painstaking through a period of eight years to a successful termination. Circumstances have been against the authors in more ways than one, which one alone would have led most persons to abandon the project. But they have steadily persevered, and the result is one which will take its place among the most original and most notable treatises on ornithology which have appeared in this country. It might be going too far to say that the work does for calliology and oölogy what Audubon's did for its own subject; but if the drawings and writings of the latter had been confined to the birds of a single State, the comparison would hold. Several treatises on eggs and nests, more or less ambitious, have been essayed, but they have all broken down, though mostly projected under more favorable circumstances than this one. With little encouragement from high sources, with less assistance still, and with no adequate pecuniary support, it required courage, patience, and enthusiastic devotion to a purpose to accomplish such a result—circumstances which, in these days of that easy book-making which results in such hard book-reading, carry us in mind back to Alexander Wilson's appearance before the public with the first two volumes of 'American Ornithology' under his arm.

The work is simply admirable. Its cost may place it beyond the reach of many working ornithologists, but it should be found in our principal libraries, as we have no doubt that it will. In Ohio, at any rate, it should not be beneath the notice of the Legislature, with reference to those educational institutions which are under legislative jurisdiction.

Upwards of one hundred species of eggs are figured in colors by hand, usually with several specimens of each, showing the variations in size, shape and markings. Their average excellence—for they vary somewhat—has not been equalled in this country, and they are surpassed only by the best productions of foreign artists. No such series of the figures of nests has ever appeared anywhere. Nests are often introduced as accessories of figures of birds, as they were, notably, by Audubon, and many very pretty and effective woodcuts of these objects are extant. But these are a larger collection than have appeared together before; they are life-sized and life-colored—if such expressions be permitted, and many of them are introduced with their accessories. In some cases the eggs rest in the nest, and the whole effect is singularly true to nature. There is room for criticism, as where is there not? But we imagine few critics would speak,

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Apr., 1885, pp. 207-234, pll. lviii-lx. Parts 21, 22 (Double No.), pp. 235-286, pll. lxi-lxvi ("July to") Oct., 1886. Part 23, Dec., 1886, pp. 1-xxxviii, xxxviii-a-d, 287-329, pll. lxvii-lxviii.

Title, etc., pub. with Part 23. Title, p. i; Dedication, p. iii; Preface, pp. v-viii; Introductory, pp. ix-xxxiii, including Lists of Ohio Birds: Key to the Eggs of the Summer Residents of Ohio, pp. xxxiv-xxxviii, xxxviii a-d; Main Text pp. 41-314; Etymological Key, pp. 315-320; Names of Subscribers, pp. 321-322; Index to Illustrations, pp. 323, 324; General Index, pp. 325-329.

if the condition of their being heard were, that they should be able to do as well themselves.

The text is very original, resting almost entirely upon the personal observations of the authors. It has no literary merit, unless directness and clearness be such. It resists the usual temptation to prepare full biographies of the birds, confining itself strictly to the subject in hand. Each article opens with general statements regarding the bird in its Ohion aspects, continuing with the 'locality,' 'position' and 'materials' of the nest, descriptions of the 'eggs,' 'differential points' of the same, and concluding remarks at large. The text is almost entirely from the pen of Dr. Howard E. Jones, and the plates have in nearly every instance been drawn from fresh material collected by this author, mainly in the vicinity of Circleville. The project was initiated by Miss Genevieve Estelle Jones and Miss Eliza J. Shulze, who determined in 1877 to make a series of colored plates. The sad death of the former young lady, August 17, 1879, and the withdrawal of Miss Shulze in April, 1880, threw the work upon the hands of the Jones family. Dr. N. E. Jones assumed the expense of the work, Mrs. N. E. Jones proceeded with the plates, Dr. Howard Jones (brother of Miss Genevieve) undertook the text as already said, and subsequently Miss Nellie D. Jacob of Circleville, Miss Josephine Kippart of Columbus, and Miss Kate Gephart, of Circleville, were engaged to assist Mrs. Jones in the coloring. Had the result been but a measured success instead of a remarkable accomplishment, great credit would have been due to all concerned.

The Introductory is a general sketch of the Birds of Ohio. It appears that of summer residents there are 129; of permanent residents, 41; probable residents and summer residents, 42. This category is followed by a systematic, annotated list, copied from Dr. J. M. Wheaton's work, noting 292 species known to occur in the State.

A quite original and peculiar 'Key to the Eggs' follows. The eggs are found to be groupable by color in the following manner: I. Eggs plain. A, white or whitish; 22 spp. B, blue or bluish, green or greenish; 17 spp. C, some other plain color as buff, etc.; 5 spp. II. Eggs marked. A, B, C, as before, as to ground color; A, 56 spp.; B, 20 spp.; C, 25 spp. And in every case in this remarkable set of tables, the eggs are not only thus classified, but described concisely, with measurements of length and breadth, the linear arrangement in each group being according to size. It is a very pretty and effectual piece of work.

Among appendicular matters is an 'Etymological Key,' in which Rev. S. H. McMullin undertakes to give the English equivalents of all the Latin and Greek names of the birds, and offers quite as much ornithophilologicality as the average bird-lover may require.—E. C.

#### Ridgway's Nomenclature of Colors and Ornithologists' Compendium.\*

\*A | Nomenclature of Colors | for Naturalists, | and | Compendium of Useful Knowledge | for Ornithologists. | By | Robert Ridgway, | Curator of Birds, United States National Museum. | With ten colored plates and seven plates | of outline illustrations Boston: | Little, Brown, and Company. 1886. 8vo., pp. 129, pl. i-xviii, faced by explanatory leaves.