

backed, which latter I have taken while singing, contrary to the statement made that while here they have only a low, soft call-note.

That so large a number of errors should have crept in is to be deplored, especially as many seem to be easily avoidable, but that the work will be of the greatest service to the class for whom it is intended cannot be doubted, many ornithologically-inclined friends having inquired anxiously for its appearance, as it was just what they needed to aid them in the study of our birds.—W. E. SAUNDERS.

Stejneger on the Species of *Pardalotus*.*—This paper relates especially to the forms recognized by Mr. Sharpe (Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus., X, 1885, p. 54) as *Pardalotus ornatus*, *P. assimilis*, and *P. affinis*, *assimilis* being here considered as a subspecies of *affinis*. A 'Key to the Species' of this genus is appended, of which eight and one subspecies are recognized, seven of which are represented in the collection of the National Museum.—J. A. A.

Stejneger on Two European Thrushes.—Dr. Stejneger, in a paper † of eight pages, maintains the existence in Europe of two species of Ring-Ouzel, namely, the 'Northern Ring-Ouzel' (*Turdus torquatus* auct.), and the 'Alpine Ring-Ouzel' (*Turdus alpestris* Brehm); the first a northern-breeding bird, migrating south in winter; the other supposed to breed in the high mountains of Central and Southern Europe. The two forms occur together in winter, and have been hitherto confounded by nearly all writers, although well distinguished by Brehm. He says: "It has been the unfortunate fashion to sneer at the species and subspecies of Brehm, and the simple fact that a name was established by him has been sufficient reason to ignore it altogether and to put it into the synonymy without further investigation. This is not only injustice to Brehm's honest labor and his extreme power of discrimination, but it has resulted in absolute injury to science."—J. A. A.

Stejneger on Japanese Birds.—In the 'Proceedings' of the U. S. National Museum Dr. Stejneger continues his 'Review of Japanese Birds,' ‡ Part II treating of the ' Tits and Nuthatches,' and Part III of the ' Rails, Gallinules, and Coots.' In the first paper six species of *Parus* are recognized, two of *Agilhalos*, one of *Remiza* (gen. nov.), and one of *Sitta*, with two additional subspecies, one of which (*Sitta amurensis clara*) is described as new. Synopses are given of the genera and species, the synonymy is

* Notes on Species of the Australian Genus *Pardalotus*. By Leonhard Stejneger. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1886, pp. 294-296. (Dated Oct. 19, 1886; received by the reviewer Feb. 14, 1887.)

† On *Turdus alpestris* and *Turdus torquatus*, two distinct species of European Thrushes. By Leonhard Stejneger. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1886, pp. 365-373. (Dated Oct. 30, 1886; received by the reviewer Feb. 14, 1887.)

‡ Review of Japanese Birds. By Leonard Stejneger. II.—Tits and Nuthatches. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1886, pp. 374-394. III. Rails, Gallinules, and Coots. *Ibid.*, pp. 395-408. (Dated "Oct. 20, 1886"; received by the reviewer Feb. 14, 1887.)

discussed in detail, and the relationships of the different forms carefully considered.

In Part III the Rails and their allies are similarly treated, of which four species are referred to *Porzana*, one to *Rallus*, one to *Gallinago*, one (o presumed occurrence) to *Amaurornis*, one to *Gallinula*, and one to *Fulica*.

Dr. Stejneger has also published a paper on a collection of birds made in the Liu Kiu Islands, Japan, by Mr. M. Namiye,* containing descriptions of five new species and one new genus, as follows: *Treeron permagna*, *Hypsipetes pryeri*, *Icoturus namiyei* (gen. et. sp. nov.), *Chelidon namiyei*, and *Pericrocotus tegimæ*. *Megascops elegans* (Cass.) is added to the Japanese fauna, and its relationship to *M. japonicus* is discussed at length.—J. A. A.

Blakiston on the Water-Birds of Japan.†—In a paper of nine pages Mr. Blakiston discusses in a very interesting way, the distribution of the Water Birds of Japan, the character of their distribution being indicated by two tables, prefaced by three pages of explanatory remarks and a discussion of the facts presented in tabular form. The first table includes all the Water Birds of Japan, including the Kurils, Bonins, and other outlying islands. The 94 species are arranged in four columns, according to their distribution, as 'circumpolar', 'Palearctic', 'East Asiatic', or 'Pacific'. The second table exhibits, so far as available data will permit, "the distribution of Sea-birds peculiar to the North Pacific." These, numbering 60 species, are distributed in three columns, under the heads 'Only on the Asiatic side', 'Common to both sides', and 'Only on the American side'. From this table it appears that twice as many birds are peculiar to the American side as to the Asiatic side, but this disproportion, as Mr. Blakiston observes, may be more apparent than real, owing to the ornithology of the eastern side being much better known than that of the western side. The tables are followed by several pages of critical and technical remarks on many of the species enumerated.—J. A. A.

Wells and Lawrence on the Birds of Grenada, West Indies.—For the last three years Mr. Wells has been sending specimens of the birds of the Island of Grenada, West Indies, to Mr. Lawrence for identification, from which has resulted the present 'Catalogue'‡ of ninety-two species of the birds of the island. As Mr. Lawrence states, in a prefatory note, "Mr. Wells enumerates thirty-eight species more than are given by Mr. Ober in his catalogue of the birds of Grenada. He procured all the species obtained or seen by Mr. Ober, and four he had not identified have been determined.

* On a Collection of Birds made by Mr. M. Namiye, in the Liu Kiu Islands, Japan, with descriptions of new species. *Ibid.*, pp. 634-651. (Dated Feb. 14, 1887; received March 17, 1887.)

† Water-Birds of Japan. By J. W. Blakiston. *Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus.*, 1886, pp. 652-660.

‡ A Catalogue of the Birds of Grenada, West Indies, with observations thereon. By John Grant Wells, of Grenada. Edited by George N. Lawrence. *Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus.*, 1886, pp. 609-633. Signatures dated Feb. 11, 1887.