

Lucas on the Osteology of the Spotted Tinamou. — These 'Notes' \* point out briefly various osteological differences between the present species and some of its allies, as described and figured by Parker. Figures are given of the skull and pelvis. — J. A. A.

Shufeldt on Bird Skulls and Sterna collected by Dr. Streets. † — This report relates to the skulls and sterna of 13 species, mostly water-fowl. They include such various types as *Urinator*, *Daption*, *Pelecanoides*, *Cephus*, *Sula*, *Larus*, *Chlæphaga*, *Ardea*, *Nycticorax*, *Geococcyx*, and *Corvus*. The sternum of *Daption capensis*, with the shoulder girdle *in situ*, is figured; also the skulls of *Chlæphaga poliocephala*, *Nycticorax nycticorax nævius*, and *Corvus corax sinuatus*. — J. A. A.

Chamberlain's 'Systematic Table of Canadian Birds.' — We are in receipt of a second work by Mr. Montague Chamberlain on the birds of Canada. This, as the title ‡ indicates, is a tabular list of the birds of Canada, as given in the same authors' 'Catalogue of Canadian birds.' The 'Systematic Table' is thus a 'check-list' and a 'table of higher groups' combined. The names of orders and suborders form subheadings, while the names of families, subfamilies, genera, subgenera, species, and subspecies, English names, and current numbers are arranged in parallel columns, each species or subspecies thus occupying a line running across the page. This arrangement requires a very broad page, but will doubtless subserve a useful purpose.

In the 'Introduction' to this work the author gives a condensed sketch of the history of American ornithology, particularly since 1859. He also notes the tendency to extreme conservatism respecting species and subspecies, etc., among Canadian naturalists as compared with those of the United States, a conservatism obviously resulting from a difference of attitude respecting the "evolution theory of the origin of species." This theory, Mr. Chamberlain says, while accepted by the greater part "of the scientific men of the United States . . . as an established fact, rather than a mere hypothesis," is considered "by Canadian students, as a rule, as 'not proven.'" This state of affairs seems to have suggested "that an association of Canadian ornithologists be organized, and that this society undertake the formulation of a system of classification and nomenclature which shall more truly reflect the ideas on the subject which are current in the Dominion." Mr. Chamberlain, while conceding that the formation of such an association might greatly promote the advancement of ornithol-

\* Notes on the Osteology of the Spotted Tinamou (*Nothura maculosa*). By Frederic A. Lucas. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1887, pp. 157, 158 (July 2, 1887).

† On a Collection of Birds' Sterna and Skulls, collected by Dr. Thomas H. Streets, U. S. Navy. By Dr. R. W. Shufeldt. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., pp. 376-387 (Sept. 27 to Nov. 3, 1887).

‡ A Systematic Table | of | Canadian Birds. | By | Montague Chamberlain. | Published for the Author. | St. John, N. B. | 1888. Fol. pp. 14.