

Stejneger's 'Review of Japanese Birds.'—Parts VIII * and IX † of Stejneger's 'Review of Japanese Birds' treats of the Nutcracker and the Wrens. In the first the synonymy, number, and relationships of the forms of the Nutcracker are considered at length. Two forms, a slender-billed eastern (*Nucifraga caryocatactes*), and a thick-billed western (*N. macrorhynchos*), are recognized, in accordance with the published conclusions of Dr. Blasius and V. von Tschusi-Schmidhoffen, as opposed to those of Mr. Sceböhm. In the second paper two forms of Japanese Wrens are distinguished, namely, *Troglodytes (Anorthura) fumigatus*, inhabiting Japan proper, and *T. f. kurilensis* (subsp. nov.) from the Kurile Islands.—J. A. A.

Stejneger and Lucas on Pallas's Cormorant. ‡—While the extinct Great Auk of the North Atlantic has formed the subject of numerous papers, including several voluminous monographs, and is represented in museums by about 80 skins, 70 eggs, and "countless bones," the great extinct Pallas's Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax perspicillatus* Pall.) of the North Pacific is comparatively little known, a good detailed description of it being first printed in the present paper, from the original manuscript of the late Professor Brandt of St. Petersburg. So far as known, according to Dr. Stejneger, the only remains of the bird extant are two excellent fully adult specimens in the Museum of the Imperial Academy of Sciences of St. Petersburg, another in the British Museum, a fourth in the Leyden Museum, and a few bones (including the principal parts of the skeleton) in the United States National Museum, the latter collected by Dr. Stejneger on Bering Island. The only locality where Pallas's Cormorant has been seen within historic times was at Bering Island, where Steller found it, in 1741, in great numbers; but it appears to have been wholly exterminated during the following century, mainly by man's agency. Though not flightless, like the Great Auk, it was of heavy build and of slow locomotion, in the air as well as on land, and thus fell an easy prey to the natives of the island, who used it for food during the long winters.

A large colored plate of the British Museum specimen, by Wolf, is given by Elliot in his 'Birds of North America,' and the same specimen is figured by Gould in the Zoölogy of the Voyage of the Sulphur. These, with a few wood-cuts, comprise the published illustrations of the species.

As already intimated, the only bones of this species extant in museums are those collected by Dr. Stejneger, in 1882, at Bering Island. These comprise the rostral portion of a cranium, a lower mandible and the right ramus of another, two nearly complete sterna, three nearly perfect pelves, various limb bones, and a few vertebræ. Detailed descriptions of them,

* Review of Japanese Birds. VII.—The Nutcracker (*Nucifraga caryocatactes macrorhynchos*). By Leonhard Stejneger. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1888, pp. 425-432.

† IX. The Wrens. *Ibid.*, pp. 547-548.

‡ Contributions to the Natural History of the Commander Islands. X.—Contributions to the History of Pallas' Cormorant. By Leonhard Stejneger and Frederic A. Lucas. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XII, pp. 83-94, pl. ii-iv. (Published Feb. 5, 1890.)