other than are the former to the Auks; in fact, so far as the skeleton goes, the Loons are ten times more nearly related to the Grebes than they are to any other group. Dr. Shufeldt would arrange the Grebes, Loons, and Auks in two ‘suborders,’ as follows: (1) Pygopodes, with two superfamilies — (a) Podicipedes, containing the Grebes, and (b) Cepphi, for the Loons; (2) Alcae, with the following four families — Fraterculidae, Phalericidae, Alcidae, and Allidae. Uria is the Alcadiné form most nearly allied to the Gulls.

The Sheathbills (Chionis) are considered as forming one of the links between the Gulls and Plovers, having, however, their nearest living allies in Hæmatopus and Glareola, though also retaining characters remotely allaying them with the Columbo-gallinaceous group. — J. A. A.

**Shufeldt on the Osteology and Classification of the North American Pigeons, Woodpeckers, and Kites.** — In recent papers Dr. Shufeldt has discussed the classification of Pigeons, Kites, and Woodpeckers, from the standpoint of their osteological structure. The North American Pigeons* he considers as constituting two subfamilies, Columbinæ, containing all of the genera except Starnænas, and Starnænadinæ, consisting of the single genus Starnænas.

The North American Kites† he refers to a family Milvidae, with four subfamilies — Ictiniinæ, Elanoidinæ, Elaninæ, and Rostrhaminæ, the latter adopted provisionally, the osteology of this form not having been examined. Our Kites are found to differ “most markedly among themselves” in their osteological characters. Elanoides is found to share important skeletal characters with so distantly related a form as Pandion.

The Woodpeckers‡ are considered primarily in reference to their alleged saurognathism, of which he finds little evidence, to which is added a ‘Summary of the Chief Osteological Characters of the North American Pici.’ The Woodpeckers are held, in accordance with the views of most recent writers, to be a group coordinate in value with the Pigeons or the Parrots, and that they are more nearly allied to the Passeres “than to any other existing suborder of birds.” — J. A. A.

**Ridgway on New or Little-known Central American and South American Birds.** — Mr. Ridgway has recently described a new Whippoorwill from Costa Rica under the name Antrostomus rufomaculatus, resembling A. vociferus in size and proportions, but more similar in coloration to

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†Some Comparative Osteological Notes on the North American Kites. The Ibis April, 1891, pp. 228–232.
