

the remaining three families. Of the 397 species treated in the volume "only 16 species are wanting to the collection of the Museum, and more than one fourth of them are represented by the types." Of the 23 species and subspecies described as new, or which are newly named, 18 are Kingfishers. Our North American *Ceryle cabanisi* is described as a new subspecies, under the name *Ceryle americana*, subspecies β . *septentrionalis*, trinomials, pure and simple, not being admitted into the 'Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum.' True *cabanisi* is restricted to "Peru." The tropical American *Ceryle superciliosa* is separated into three subspecies, — the true *superciliosa* of South America, *stictopectera* Ridgw. from Mexico and Central America, and *aequatorialis* (subsp. nov.) from Ecuador. Throughout Mr. Sharpe's portions of the work not only have many new forms been described, but many old ones have been reduced to subspecies. Mr. Grant does not appear to recognize subspecies; even where forms are shown to intergrade, as in the *Trogon caligatus* group, they are either kept separate, or lumped as 'races,' distinguished by the letters A, B, etc., as under *Trogon atricollis*, where we have "Race A (*Trogon atricollis*)" and Race B (*Trogon tenellus*)."

These useful volumes, with those previously published, bring this great work through the Raptorial, Passerine, 'Scansorial' and Psittacine series, leaving for future volumes the Pigeons and Grouse, the Tinamous, and the Wading and Swimming Birds, which will probably require many additional volumes to the twenty already published.—J. A. A.

Cory's 'Catalogue of West Indian Birds.' — Mr. Cory's 'Catalogue' is intended to be used in connection with his 'Birds of the West Indies,' the 'Appendix' including a number of species not in that work, as well as many changes in nomenclature. The 'Catalogue' consists essentially of five parts: (1) a tabular list of the genera and species peculiar to the West Indies (pp. 9-20); (2) a bibliography of West Indian ornithology, arranged (*a*) geographically by islands or groups of islands (pp. 21-60), and (*b*) chronologically (pp. 61-79); (3) the 'Catalogue' proper (pp. 81-125); (4) lists of the species and subspecies peculiar to the different islands (pp. 126-134); (5) 'Appendix' (pp. 135-157), consisting of annotations to the 'Catalogue' proper.

The main 'Catalogue' is briefly annotated with reference to the distribution of the species, but instead of giving the names of the islands in full only the group of islands is mentioned, the separate islands where the species occur being denoted by numerals, a key to which is given in the preface and at p. 80. While this saves space and possibly saved trouble to the author, it entails upon the reader the labor of constant reference to

¹ Catalogue of West Indian Birds. Containing a list of all species known to occur in the Bahama Islands, the Greater Antilles, the Caymans, and the Lesser Antilles, excepting the Islands of Tobago and Trinidad, by Charles B. Cory, . . . [=8 lines of titles, etc.] — Published by the Author. Boston, U. S. A. 1892.—4to, pp. 163, and map.

some other part of the book for an explanation of often a long series of numerals—a case of mistaken and vexatious economy. The Appendix contains much interesting matter in the way of geographical and technical notes. His *Zenaida richardsoni* (Auk, IV, 1887, p. 4) he now refers to *Z. zenaida* (p. 138). He adopts the name *Zenaida castanea* Wagl. for what has previously passed currently as *Z. martinicana*, on the ground of the latter name being untenable.

Mr. Cory recognizes four species of Sparrow Hawks from the West Indies, namely *Falco sparverius*, from the Bahamas, etc.; *F. dominicensis*, from San Domingo and Haiti, probably straggling occasionally to eastern Cuba; *F. sparverioides*, from Cuba, where it is represented by a light and dark phase; and *F. caribbeæarum*, from Porto Rica and the Lesser Antilles. He thus differs from Mr. Ridgway's conclusion (Auk, 1891, p. 113) that *sparverioides* is a synonym of *dominicensis*.

The Burrowing Owls from the Bahamas he considers (p. 140) should all be referred to *Speotyto cunicularia floridana*, including his own *S. c. bahamensis*. *Lampornis ellioti* Cory is now referred to *L. virginialis* Gould. On the authority of Dr. L. Stejneger (ined. MS. letter, pp. 147, 148) the generic name *Loxigilla*, long in current use for *Fringilla noctis* Gm. and allies, is supplanted by *Pyrrhulagra* Bon., the type of *Loxigilla* being an Australian species to which and its congeners the name properly belongs. Mr. Cory characterizes as new subspecies *Pyrrhulagra noctis grenadensis* from Grenada and St. Vincent, and *P. n. ridgwayi* from Dominica and the Lesser Antilles situated to the northward of this island. Mr. Cory has also extended critical notes on *Vireo calidris* and its allies, on *V. crassirostris*, and on *Cæreba bartolemica*, etc.—J. A. A.

Dixon's 'The Migration of Birds.'¹—Mr. Dixon is well known as a popular writer on British birds, among which he easily takes high rank. In his present work he has attempted a weighty task, which is no less than a serious attempt "to bring our present knowledge of migration within the limits of order, or to reduce it to law." His book, he tells us, "embodies the result of twelve years of diligent general study and research, and of at least two years' close application and thought, and will, I earnestly hope, serve at least the humble purpose of paving the way towards a more important record." "The whole subject of migration is so vast, so wide reaching, and so complicated, that it would be absurd to regard it as exhausted, and the present volume must be looked upon only as a pioneer."

Mr. Dixon has succeeded in bringing together, in a very readable and suggestive way, an extensive array of general facts bearing upon the

¹ The Migration of Birds | an Attempt | to Reduce Avian Season-Flight to Law | By Charles Dixon | author of 'Rural Bird-Life,' 'Evolution without Natural Selection,' . . . [= 5 lines of additional titles of books, and motto of 3 lines.] London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd. | 1892. — 8vo., pp. xvi+300.