

Sharpe's Catalogue of the Fulicariæ and Alektorides.<sup>1</sup>—In volume XXIII of the British Museum 'Catalogue of Birds,' embracing the two orders Fulicariæ and Alektorides, Dr. Sharpe has given us a most welcome contribution to systematic ornithology. The subject is treated with his usual ability and care, and of course after the stereotyped method of former volumes of this invaluable series. The family Rallidæ is considered as consisting of 187 species, distributed among 61 genera (the latter including several now extinct). The other families are comparatively small, numbering collectively 65 species, of which 30 belong to the family of the Bustards (Otididæ) and 19 to the Cranes (Gruidæ).

A feature of the volume is the large number of recently new generic names introduced, proposed and first published mainly within the year 1893 by Mr. Sharpe in the Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club. In addition to these (10 in the family Rallidæ alone) various groups usually treated as subgenera are here raised to full generic rank. Among the latter, as regards North American birds, are *Coturnicops* Bon. (recently 'emended' into *Ortygops*), and *Creciscus* Cab. *Limnogeranus* appears as a new generic name for our Whooping Crane, while *Iouornis* Reichen. is treated as a synonym of *Porphyryla* Blyth, our Purple Gallinule thus standing as *Porphyryla martinica*. As regards species and subspecies, *Rallus beldingi* is considered as a subspecies of *R. elegans*; *R. scottii* is made a synonym of *R. saturatus*, the latter, together with *crepitans* and *obsoletus*, being treated as subspecies of *R. longirostris*. Of forms extra-limital to the A. O. U. Check-List, *R. coryi* is made a synonym of *caribæus*, the latter also standing as a subspecies of the *longirostris* group. We infer from this that Mr. Sharpe has never seen *R. coryi* (his three specimens of *caribæus* are recorded as from Jamaica). *R. longirostris cubanus* Chapman is entered in the 'Addenda,' and in the 'Systematic Index,' as a subspecies of *longirostris*, as described. A closely related South American form of *R. virginianus* is separated specifically (and figured) as *R. æquatorialis*. All of the American forms of *Gallinula* being referred to *G. galeata*, the habitat of this species is given as "the greater part of the New World," while, following Stejneger, *G. sandwichensis* is also recorded as a subspecies of *galeata*. The Andean *G. garmani* is considered as "a fairly distinguishable race," but, it is added, "if the Chilian and Bolivian bird is recognized as a race, the West Indian bird will have to be admitted as a subspecies also." As a matter of fact, however, the differences presented by the latter are trivial in com-

<sup>1</sup> Catalogue of the Fulicariæ (Rallidæ and Heliornithidæ) and Alektorides (Aramidæ, Eurypygidæ, Mesitidæ, Rhinochetidæ, Gruidæ, Psophiidæ, and Otididæ) in the Collection of the British Museum. By R. Bowdler Sharpe. London: Printed by order of the Trustees. Sold by Longmans & Co., 39 Paternoster Row; B. Quaritch, 15 Piccadilly; Dulau & Co., 37 Soho Square, W.; Kegan Paul & Co., Paternoster House, Charing Cross Road; and at the British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, S. W. | 1894. = Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum, Vol. XXIII. 8vo., pp. i-xiii, 1-353, pll. i-ix.

parison with those which separate *garmani*, in which, in Lake Titicaca specimens, the length of the wing runs up to 9.10 inches, with an average of 8.50,—a difference one-fourth to one-third of the total length of the wing in average *galeata*, combined with much darker coloration and a great reduction in the amount of white. In West Indian and Bogota specimens there is very little reduction in size from average *galeata*, but the frontal shield is larger, the back darker and less olive, and the front of the tarsus more or less strongly tinged with red—the latter a feature sometimes seen in Florida specimens. While we should not deem it advisable to name the West Indian form, the case is very different with the Andean form, although it may grade into *galeata*.

According to the characters given for the separation of the subspecies of the *Aramides cayanae* group, of six Trinidad specimens (all females), collected by Mr. Chapman, two would be referable to *A. cayanae* and four to *A. cayanae chiricote*, in these last the hinder part of the crown and nape being strong rufous brown, instead of gray. This feature is thus shown to be variable in specimens from the same locality, independently of either sex or season. The species and subspecies described apparently for the first time in the present work are: *Rallus aequatorialis* (figured, pl. ii); "*Limnopardalus rytirhynchus*, subsp.  $\beta$ . *Limnopardalus vigilantis*" (figured, pl. iv); *Aramides gutturalis* (figured, pl. v); *Porzana galapagoensis*; "*Corethura elegans*, subsp.  $\alpha$ . *Corethura reichenovi*"; *Grus tilfordi*.—J. A. A.

**Elliot's Monograph of the Pittidæ.**—Part III, dated February, 1894<sup>1</sup>, contains the following species: *Eucichla guiana*, *Pitta loriae*, *P. steerii*, *P. concinna*, *P. rubrinucha*, *P. nepalensis*, *P. koeki*, and *P. celebensis*. Figures are given of the young birds in first plumage, as well as of the adult male and female, in two of the species (Blue-tailed Pitta, *Eucichla guiana*, and the Nepal Pitta, *P. nepalensis*), and there is also some account of the habits of these species. While the sexes are alike in coloration when adult, the young in first plumage are almost as different as possible from the adults. The Blue-tailed Pitta's nest is built in bushes six or eight feet above the ground, and is ball-shaped; the Nepal Pitta nests on the ground, while the Celebes Pitta (*P. celebensis*) nests "in a hole dug in the slope of a river bank." The eggs are in each case white, spotted and streaked with dark markings.—J. A. A.

**A Bird-Lover in the West.**<sup>2</sup>—A desire to widen the circle of her feathered friends has led Mrs. Miller further afield and in 'A Bird-Lover in the West' she gives us the results of her studies in Ohio, Colorado, and Utah.

<sup>1</sup> For notice of Parts I and II, see Auk, XI, pp. 62 and 173.

<sup>2</sup> A Bird-Lover in the West. By Olive Thorne Miller. Boston and New York. Houghton, Mifflin & Company. The Riverside Press, Cambridge, 1894. 12mo., pp. i-vii, 1-278.