

of *Tringa hyperborea*, which, in my opinion, it is wise to adopt, as the name of *lobatus* has been applied to the Grey Phalaropes so often, that even at the present day its adoption seems certain to create confusion." To show how little there is in this plea, it may be stated that, according to Mr. Sharpe's citations, the name *lobatus* was applied just 8 times in the century 1771-1871, deducting for one reference (to Blyth, pp. 694 and 695) given twice, and for one reference (to Treat) which belongs to '*hyperborea*'!

The bibliographical citations are very extended, under some species occupying from three to five pages. In fact, we are told in the Introduction that "The references quoted in the synonymy are 18,892. With the exception of a few books, which proved to be inaccessible, the whole mass of this literature has been actually consulted." The labor here involved no one can appreciate who has not engaged extensively in bibliographical work. It is doubtless well done, and as free from errors and transpositions as such work usually is. We miss, however, references to some publications that must have been accessible; for example, the earlier volumes of the 'Bulletin' of the American Museum of Natural History are cited but the later ones are not; and so with other works that might be mentioned, which are either quite overlooked or cited irregularly. The earlier volumes of the 'Bulletin' of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Cambridge are cited as "Bull. Harv. Coll.," while later volumes are given correctly. As there is no such scientific publication as 'Bull. Harv. Coll.' there might be some trouble if one not conversant with the case should attempt to verify such references.

With all this apparently ungrateful fault-finding, we share the sense of profound indebtedness all ornithologists must feel toward Dr. Sharpe for the great boon conferred by his work on the Limicolæ, and appreciate most heartily the vast amount of drudgery it must have cost, as well as the skill and efficiency displayed in its preparation. — J. A. A.

Bendire's 'Life Histories of North American Birds.'¹—This forms, in order of appearance, Part II of the author's great work on 'The Life Histories of North American Birds', but through lack of foresight on the part of the proper authorities in such matters, we are left without any convenient method of notation to distinguish the present part of this

¹ Smithsonian Institution. | United States National Museum. | Special Bulletin. | — | Life Histories | of | North American Birds, | from the Parrots to the Grackles, | with special reference to | their Breeding Habits and Eggs, | by | Charles Bendire, Captain and Brevet Major, U. S. A. (retired). | Honorary Curator of the Department of Oölogy, U. S. National Museum, | Member of the American Ornithologists' Union. | With | Seven Lithographic Plates. | — | Washington: | Government Printing Office. | 1895 [= Oct. 1, 1896].—4to, pp. i-ix, 1-518, col. pl. i-vii, each with explanatory leaf.

monumental series from its predecessor.¹ Besides this, the work bears the date of printing and not of publication, it having been printed, or at least electrotyped, for more than a year before the Government Printing Office found it convenient to make the work accessible to the public.

The high praise bestowed upon the first part of the 'Life Histories' (Auk, IX, 1892, p. 375), issued in 1892, is equally well deserved in respect to the present volume. Indeed, the high standard set at the beginning, both as to the text and the plates, is now, if possible, surpassed. For faithful, painstaking, conscientious work, these volumes are a model that may well be followed in similar fields. The method of treatment is similar to that of the first part, already described (*l. c.*). Its special feature is the large amount of original information conveyed, either from the rich fund of the author's own experience or solicited from trustworthy correspondents for use in the present connection. As before, extraneous and thread-worn matter is excluded, a fresh harvest being given in its place. Also, as before, the plates are above criticism, and have as yet never been equalled in artistic effect or in faithfulness of execution. The amount of work entailed in the preparation of such a volume is not easily appreciated, without experience in similar lines.

The birds treated in the present volume comprise the Carolina Paroquet, the Cuckoos and Anis, one species of Trogon, three of Kingfishers, 36 kinds of Woodpeckers, 11 Goatsuckers, 4 Swifts, 18 Hummingbirds, 1 Becard, 39 Flycatchers, 13 Larks, 31 Crows, Jays and Magpies, 1 Starling and 29 Blackbirds and Orioles—197 in all. This of course includes subspecies as well as species. The seven colored plates contain an aggregate of 196 figures, all natural size, drawn by Mr. John L. Ridgway, while the chromo-lithographic reproductions are by the Ketterlinus Printing Company of Philadelphia. In species that lay white eggs, like the Hummingbirds, Swifts and Woodpeckers, only a few figures are given for each group, but in birds laying colored eggs, with more or less characteristic markings, nearly every species is figured, often two or more eggs of the same species being given to show diversity of marking in eggs of the same species.

In the text we have not only descriptions of the eggs and nests, and an account of the general habits of the birds, but special attention is given to the distribution and breeding ranges of the species. Unlike most oölogical writers, Captain Bendire gives careful attention to the technical points that distinguish species and subspecies, of which there is ample internal evidence in the volume before us. Doubtful points respecting alleged distribution are worked out, wherever possible, by direct recourse to the immense collection of bird skins in the National Museum, and questions of relationship between closely allied forms are discussed with

¹ In the 'Advertisement' it is referred to in parenthesis as 'Special Bulletin No. 3.'

the intelligence of an expert ornithologist, as witness the case, among others, of the Florida Meadowlark.

It is to be hoped that the author will be blessed with health and further opportunities for the completion of the grand work he has so successfully undertaken and already carried so far.—J. A. A.

Bird-Nesting with a Camera.¹—The prospectus accompanying this sumptuous work tells us that the edition will be limited to 300 copies of 18 to 20 parts, each part to contain ten plates, with descriptions of the habits of the species, and a more special history of the nests illustrated. Material has already been collected for the first thirteen parts, which will be issued at intervals of four to six weeks, and with the exception of "one or two" of the rarer species the author expects to present a complete series of the nests of British birds photographed *in situ*. If he succeeds in his undertaking, and in the remaining parts of his work maintains the standard of excellence reached by Part I, he will have made an unparalleled contribution to ornithology.

Only those who have tried it know how much patience and ingenuity is required to obtain satisfactory photographs of birds' nests, and only those who have had experience with publishers know how difficult it is to secure a proper reproduction of the photograph after it is made. In both tasks Mr. Lee has achieved unqualified success. The ten photogravures included in Part I of his work, whether viewed from the standpoint of the photographer or reproducer, are above criticism, while neither pen nor pencil could so graphically illustrate the nesting haunts of the species they represent.

The text presents a general account of the species as a British bird, and very wisely, a particular account of the nest figured, with interesting incidents concerning the making of the photograph.—F. M. C.

Thompson's Art Anatomy.²—This admirable work is an outcome of the author's training both as a naturalist and artist. It goes without saying that no anatomist could alone have produced the series of beautiful plates

¹ Among British Birds in their Nesting Haunts. Illustrated by the Camera. By Oswin A. J. Lee. Part I. Edinburgh. David Douglas. Folio, pp. 39, pll. x. (Price 10s. 6d. per part to subscribers only.)

² Studies in the | Art Anatomy of Animals | Being a Brief Analysis of the Visible Forms of the more | Familiar Mammals and Birds. Designed for the | Use of Sculptors, Painters, Illustrators, | Naturalists, and Taxidermists. | By | Ernest E. Seton Thompson | Naturalist to the government of Manitoba; Author of "The Birds of Manitoba," "The Mammals of Manitoba," | "The King of Currumpaw," *Exposant au Salon*. | Illustrated with One Hundred Drawings by the Author | London | Macmillan and Co., Ltd. | New York : The Macmillan Co. | 1896.—Folio, pp. viii + 87; pll. xlix.