from Mr. F. W. Urich, and by him gathered in the mountains of Venezuela, near San Antonio, proved to contain a number of new forms, which Mr. Chapman has described, as follows: (1) *Setophaga verticalis pallidiventris*, (2) *Chlorospingus* (*Hemispingus*) *canipileus*, (3) *Mecocerculus nigripes*, (4) *Mecocerculus urichi*, (5) *Synallaxis striatipectus*. Several of these are very distinct from any species previously known. The *Synallaxis* belongs to the *S. terrestris* group, and is perhaps mostly nearly related to *S. carri* Chapm. from Trinidad. — J. A. A.

Oberholser on Untenable Names in Ornithology.[1] — Mr. Oberholser's paper treats of 36 generic names, and a few additional specific names, which he shows to be untenable through prior use in other connections. For 12 of these he is able to substitute other names already in existence for the groups in question, but for 24 of the genera entirely new names are here proposed. Fortunately only one of the challenged names relates to North American birds, namely, *Micruria* Grant, recently proposed for two species of Murrelets, previously currently referred to *Brachyrhamphus*. For *Micruria* Grant (type, *Brachyrhamphus hypoleucus* (Xantus) Mr. Oberholser proposes *Eudomychura*, the species thus standing as *E. hypoleucus* (Xantus) and *E. craveri* (Salvad.).

Lists of the species considered referable, respectively, to these 36 genera are given under the new generic designations. According to all recent codes of nomenclature, these preoccupied names are strictly untenable, and Mr. Oberholser has done good service in showing up their real status and providing for them proper substitutes. — J. A. A.

Farrington on a Fossil Egg from South Dakota.[2] — The specimen here described was discovered in the Bad Lands, near Dakota City, South Dakota, and is believed by the author to be "a petrified egg of an Anatine bird of Early Miocene age." Three photographic views of the egg, natural size, are given on pl. xx, showing its form and structure. The egg measures 2.03 × 1.49 in., and is very well preserved, distinctly showing the shell structure. The author has heard "of the finding of at least two other petrified eggs at different times in the same region," but has been unable to verify the reports or to see the specimens. — J. A. A.

Gurney and Gill on the Age to which Birds Live.[3] — In 'The Ibis'

[1] Some Untenable Names in Ornithology. By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1899, pp. 201–216. June, 1899.

[2] A Fossil Egg from South Dakota. By Oliver Cummings Farrington, Ph.D., Curator, Department of Geology. Field Columbian Museum, Geology, Vol. I, No. 5, pp. 193–200, pll. xx, xxi. April, 1899.

[3] On the Comparative Ages to which Birds Live. By J. H. Gurney, F. Z. S. 'The Ibis,' Jan., 1899, pp. 19–42. Republished, with some revision, in 'The Osprey,' June, 1899, pp. 145–155.

for January, 1899, Mr. J. H. Gurney has brought together a large amount of authentic and interesting information on this subject, respecting which it is so difficult to obtain satisfactory records. The first nine pages of Mr. Gurney's valuable paper relate to the general subject, after which the Passeres, the Psittaci, Striges, Accipitres, Pelecanidæ, Ardeidæ, Anseres, and Diomedeidæ are passed in review with reference to the known facts regarding their longevity. Then follows a tabular statement of 144 cases, representing 75 species, giving the age and the authority for the record, with finally some comparison between the longevity of birds and mammals, and suggestions as to the points on which further information is needed. From the table it would appear that Thrushes live from 15 to 20 or more years (there is a record for the Nightingale of 25); Finches, from 14 to 23 years; Ravens (two cases), 50 and 69; Magpies and Crows, 17 to 28; Parrots and Macaws, 17 to 80; Owls, 18 to 68; Eagles, 20 to 56, etc. A domestic Goose has a record of 80 years, and a Collared Dove (*Turtur risorius*) of 40. These cases, of course, nearly all relate necessarily to birds held in captivity or in domestication, and hence living under more or less artificial conditions. These conditions we know are often unfavorable to the well-being of the captive, while, on the other hand, they may be exceptionally favorable to long life, in particular cases. On the whole, it is to be presumed, however, that a bird's chances for long life are rather better in a state of nature than in captivity, excluding the domesticated kinds.

This interesting subject has received further attention at the hands of Dr. Gill, who has not only reprinted Mr. Gurney's paper entire, "with some revision," in 'The Osprey' for June, 1899, but follows it with a long article of his own, entitled 'The Longevity of Birds and other Vertebrates.'[1] Dr. Gill considers the subject from the historical and theoretical side, in relation to certain hypotheses for determining the life of an animal, held by various authors, from Buffon and Flourens to Hollis and Bell, by the latter of whom the matter has been recently discussed in 'Nature' (January, March, and May of the present year). These hypotheses are based on the period of gestation, or of adolescence. Dr. Gill believes that there is an inherent fallacy in all the 'laws' thus far proposed, and that a rule which may hold good for some members or groups of a class will not admit of universal application for the whole class, and much less for all vertebrates. "It is evident," he says, "that there are no such ratios between the size of a bird and its duration of life, its period of embryological development, and its period of adolescence as prevail among mammals. Nevertheless, there are indications that there is a tendency at least towards an extension of the duration of life among some large birds, as those of prey, and towards the retardation of the development of the livery of perfect maturity. Even this,

[1] 'The Osprey,' Vol. III, June, 1899, pp. 157–160.

however, is not perfectly proved, and there are indications, on the other hand, that such tendencies may be a family or group habit."

As Dr. Gill remarks, the subject is one respecting which much more information is required before we can generalize with much degree of certainty. Mr. Gurney has led the way, with his admirable collection of facts, to which, it is to be hoped, many other data of similar character will be soon added. — J. A. A.

Kellogg and Others on Mallophaga. — The July number of 'The Auk' (pp. 232–236) contained a paper 'On Some Parasites of Birds,' by Prof. Vernon L. Kellogg of the Leland Stanford University. It may interest some of the readers of 'The Auk' to know that Prof. Kellogg and some of his fellow workers in this field have recently published several papers on the Mallophaga[1] of some of our western American birds, forming the third of a series of memoirs on this subject.[2] In this article of over 200 pages and sixteen plates, a large number of new species are described and figured, and others listed, with their hosts, which latter number over 100 species, representing nearly every family of the North American ornis.— J. A. A.

Huntington's 'In Brush, Sedge, and Stubble.' — Since our former notice of this work[3] in the January number of this Journal (*antea*, p. 89) Parts III to VII have been received, and fully warrant the praise bestowed upon Parts I and II. As the general character of the work has been already stated, it remains to add that Parts III and IV treat of the 'Grouse of the Woods and Mountain,' this subject being completed in Part V, which includes also the Turkeys, and some of the Pheasants (the species introduced into North America), the latter running over into Part VI. This part begins (at p. 85) the account of the 'American Partridges,' which also occupies the whole of Part VII. The text is a combination of ornithology and hunting experiences, and the illustrations are equally varied. The ornithological part consists of photographs of mounted specimens (often in series to show variations of plumage), of

[1] New Mallophaga, III. Comprising Mallophaga from Birds of Panama Baja California and Alaska, by Vernon L. Kellogg, Professor of Entomology Leland Stanford Junior University. Mallophaga from Birds of California, by Vernon L. Kellogg and Bertha L. Chapman. The Anatomy of the Mallophaga, by Robert E. Snodgrass, Assistant in Entomology, Leland Stanford Junior University. Occasional Papers of the California Academy of Sciences, Vol. VI, 1889, pp. 1–224, pl. i–xvi.=Contributions to Biology from the Hopkins Seaside Laboratory of the Leland Stanford Junior University, XIX.

[2] Nos. I and II, by Professor Kellogg, were published in 1896.

[3] In Brush, Sedge, and Stubble, folio, Pts. III–VII, 1899. The Sportsman Society, Cincinnati.