

adopted in the twenty-seven volumes of the Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum," prepared by Mr. F. H. Waterhouse, under the direction of Mr. Sclater. It was originally intended for private use, but its utility became so evident that the Club decided to print it as Volume IX of its Bulletin.¹ For this decision the Club deserves the gratitude of all working ornithologists. A list of the 27 volumes, with the titles in full, and date of publication, follows the Index, separately paged. The preface to the Index contains the following, which we are sure will interest not a few of the readers of 'The Auk':

"The following Latin lines were composed by a member of the B. O. C. to commemorate the names of the eleven authors of the 'Catalogue of Birds':—

DE CATALOGI AVIUM MAGNI SCRIPTORIBUS UNDECIM.

Sharpius inceptit, scripsitque volumina multa;
Seebornus sequitur, promptus ad auxilium.
 Teutonicus, zelo plenus, venit inde *Gadovus*,
*Salvinus*que bonam præbet amicus opem.
 Jam *Sclaterus* adest, tria longa volumina complens,
 Americanarum notus amans avium.
 Expers *Hargittus* nunc Picos ordinat omnes,
*Hartertus*que sagax Cypselidas numerat.
 Multum etiam pensæ *Shelleyi* profuit ardor,
 Multum *Saundersi* mens operosa dedit.
 Clarus ab Italiâ jam *Salvadorius* adstat,
 et tandem *Grantus* fine coronat opus."—J. A. A.

Sharpe's 'Hand-List of the Genera and Species of Birds.'²—The present 'Hand-list' of birds is a worthy successor to that of the late George Robert Gray, published also by the Trustees of the British Museum, in the years 1869–1871, which for many years was so serviceable to working ornithologists, and which has not yet lost its usefulness. This new

¹ Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club. Edited by R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL. D.—Vol. IX, Avium Generum Index Alphabeticus. London: R. H. Porter, 7 Princes Street, Cavendish Square. April, 1899.—8vo, pp. 1–31.

² A Hand-List | of the | Genera and Species | of | Birds | [Nomenclator Avium tum fossilium | tum viventium.] | By | R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL. D. | Assistant Keeper, Department of Zoology | British Museum | Volume I. | London: | Printed by order of the Trustees | Sold by | Longmans & Co., 39 Paternoster Row, E. C.; | B. Quaritch, 15 Piccadilly, W.; Dulau & Co., 37 Soho Square, W.; | Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., Charing Cross Road, W. C.; | and at the | British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, S. W. | 1899 | All rights reserved.—8vo, pp. i–xxi + 1–303.

'Hand-list,' prepared by Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe, the author of the greater part of the British Museum 'Catalogue of Birds,' has a distinct advantage over its predecessor, in the fact that in lieu of references to the original places of description of the genera and species, it is sufficient to refer only to the 'Catalogue of Birds,' on which it is avowedly based, except in the case of those described since the publication of the earlier volumes of the 'Catalogue'; in such cases reference is given to the original place of description. The 'Hand-list' is thus brought down to date, and as regards the groups embraced in the earlier volumes of the 'Catalogue,' published many years ago, forms a most valuable index to subsequent contributions to descriptive ornithology. It includes also, as an important feature, the extinct birds. On this point, says the author: "I have ventured to incorporate in what appears to me to be their natural position the extinct forms of birds; but it is difficult to discover all the descriptions of fossil birds, scattered as they are through so many publications. . . . The work in this direction has been principally founded on the 'Catalogue of Fossil Birds,' written by Mr. R. Lydekker, F. R. S., and published by the Trustees in 1891."

"The system of classification followed in the present work," says Dr. Sharpe, "is that proposed by myself in 1891, in my address to the Second Ornithological Congress at Buda-Pest. I have seen no reason to modify the conclusions there recorded in any material degree."

The nomenclature adopted is not in all cases that of the 'Catalogue,' although the departure is mainly in the line of giving a place in the 'Hand-list' to many forms ignored in the 'Catalogue,' even when not fully endorsed by the author of the 'Hand-list,' as under the genera *Lagopus* and *Bonasa* among the Grouse, and also elsewhere. The fossil forms are distinguished by the use of antique type. We note as new genera the following: *Mezotreron*, p. 56, for *M. doherlyi* Rothsch.; *Pseudaria*, p. 131, for *Uria columba*, *U. carbo*, and *U. snowi*; and *Nannopterum*, p. 235, for *Phalacrocorax harrisi* Rothsch. *Pallasicarbo* and *Psiloscoops* are given as "Coes, MSS., 1898," but both were published some months prior to the appearance of the present volume (see Osprey, III, May, 1899, p. 144).

It may be noted that there are no subgenera nor subspecies in the present work, all generic names having the status of full genera and all the 'forms' recognized under the generic names standing as full species.

Dr. Sharpe has evidently taken great pains to secure accuracy, having sent the proof-sheets of his 'Hand-list' to some twenty of the leading ornithologists in various parts of the world for their revision. He says: "I cannot too warmly express my thanks to the undermentioned ornithologists, who have revised the proof-sheets of this work, and given to it the importance of an international publication. Many of them have freely given me their original notes, have saved me from many slips, and have greatly enhanced the value of the work."

The present volume includes the Saururæ, the Rattitæ, and the Carnatæ from the Tinamiformes to the end of the Strigiformes, or the orders I-XXVI of Sharpe's classification. The printing of the second volume of this invaluable 'Hand-List' is well under way.—J. A. A.

Dubois's 'Synopsis Avium.'¹—Part I of Dr. Dubois's 'Synopsis Avium,' or 'Nouveau Manuel d'Ornithologie,' is in reality a 'hand-list,' constructed very nearly on the plan of that of the late G. R. Gray, rather than a 'manuel' in the sense in which this term is commonly employed. The species and subspecies are numbered consecutively, but under two distinct series of numeration. Part I, comprising the Psittaci, Scansores, and Pici, consisting of 80 pages, includes 1105 species and 273 subspecies, referred to 180 genera. References are usually given to illustrations, when such exist, but rarely to place of original description, and synonyms are cited with simply the name of the author. It is evidently prepared with thoroughness and care, and its usefulness will be limited only by the plan of construction.

From the prospectus we learn that the 'Synopsis' will appear in quarterly parts, of nominally 96 pages of text, or, as in Part I, of 80 pages and a colored plate, the plate taking the place of 16 pages of text. The "several colored plates" that are to appear in the course of the work will represent new or hitherto unfigured species. The subscription price is 6 francs per part, up to the completion of the third part, when the price, for new subscribers only, will be raised to 9 francs per part. The work is to comprise about seven parts. It is beautifully printed and will be a valuable contribution to ornithological literature.—J. A. A.

Salvadori and Festa on Birds of Ecuador.²—This is Part I of a report on Dr. Festa's collection of birds, numbering nearly 3000 specimens and representing over 600 species, made by him during three years spent in exploring various parts of Ecuador. The present paper relates only to the Oscines, of which 165 species are enumerated. Of these 5 are described as new and 10 others are reported as new to Ecuador. The new species are (1) *Turdus conradi*, (2) *Thryophilus leucopogon*, (3) *Certhiola intermedia*, (4) *Spermophila æquatorialis*, and (5) *Cyanolyca angelæ*.

¹ Synopsis Avium. Nouveau Manuel d'Ornithologie. Par Alphonse Dubois, Docteur en Sciences, Conservateur au Musée Royal d'Histoire naturelle de Belgique, etc. Fascicule I. Psittaci, Scansores, Pici. Bruxelles: H. Jamertin, éditeur, 20 Rue du Marché-au-bois. 1899. New-York, chez M. G.-E. Stechert, 9 East 16th St. 4to, pp. 80, and 1 col. plate. Six francs, or \$1.20, per part.

² Viaggio del Dr. Enrico Festa nell'Ecuador. T. Salvadori ed E. Festa. Uccelli, Parte prima—Passeres oscines. Boll. Mus. Zool. ed Anat. comp. d. R. Univ. di Torino, XV, N. 357, pp. 1-31, Aug. 10, 1899.