

Interest,' 'Some General Remarks,' and 'Various Tables,' the latter referring to a great variety of facts bearing on the subject of migration. The 'Reports on the Migration of Birds as observed at Lighthouses and Lightships on the Irish Coast, 1888-1897 inclusive' occupy over six hundred pages (pp. 1-619), and are followed by an 'Appendix' (pp. 621-660), giving 'Measurements of Wings of Birds obtained at Irish Light-Station,' the birds having been killed by striking the lanterns and sent in for identification.

It is needless to say that we have here an enormous amount of information on the migration of birds along the Irish coasts, which is clearly presented in much detail. While of great interest in a local sense, it is perhaps not to be expected that it will by itself have a very important bearing upon the larger questions involved in the general problem of migration. The measurement of wings has shown that the longer-winged examples of a species are the first to arrive in spring, and in some cases also in autumn; but "neither the wings nor the statistics afford any sufficient clue to enable one to determine positively in any given species whether the young birds precede the old ones or not. . . . There is one point in favor of the supposition that the old birds are in the van of the advancing army in autumn — viz., that in the majority of cases the longer-winged birds come first" (p. 264). Some evidence is presented to show that different species of birds follow different migration lines in their journey across Ireland, some having a wide migration route and others a more restricted one; while the line of direction also varies in different species.

Ornithologists are certainly indebted to Mr. Barrington for his long and arduous labor in collecting such a mass of observations, and to him and his friend Mr. Moffat for their reduction to such a state of order as to be available for study by other workers in the same field. The cost of this work, including its publication in a neat and convenient form, must be, as the author intimates, largely a labor of love, the edition being limited to 350 copies.—J. A. A.

Gätke's 'Helgoland,' Second German Edition.<sup>1</sup>—The second German edition of this well-known work, issued in 16 parts during 1899 and 1900, has been completed, and forms a volume of much the same size and appearance as the first edition. It is brought out, as before, under the editorship of Dr. R. Blasius of Braunschweig, who states in his preface that the original text has not been changed, and that all interpolations are enclosed in brackets or take the form of footnotes signed by the editor. The for-

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<sup>1</sup> Die | Vogelwarte Helgoland. | Von | Heinrich Gätke, | weiland | . . .  
[=5 lines of titles] Herausgegeben | von | Professor Dr. Rudolf Blasius. |  
Zweite vermehrte Auflage. | [Cut] Grün ist das Land, Roth ist die Kant', |  
Weiss ist der Sand, Das sind die Farben von Helgoland. | Braunschweig 1900.  
| Druck und Verlag von Joh. Heinr. Meyer. Roy. 8vo, pp. i-xvi + 1-654.  
Frontispiece, portrait of Gätke, and various text illustrations.

mer seem to consist mainly of additions to the bibliographical citations, through references to the British Museum 'Catalogue of Birds' and to the new edition of 'Naumann.' The editor's important footnotes supplement the text by the addition of various new facts that have been made public since the publication of the original edition in 1891. As a short notice of the original edition was promptly given in this journal (VIII, 1891, pp. 299, 300), and very full notices of the English translation published in 1895 (Auk, XII, 1895, pp. 322-346, and XIII, 1896, pp. 137-153), little need be said in the present connection beyond announcing the completion of this second beautifully printed edition of 'Helgoland.'—J. A. A.

**Pollard's 'Birds of my Parish.'**<sup>1</sup>—In the great procession of popular bird books that marks the present period it would seem that there is scant room for originality in the case of the later claimants for attention. That the field is not yet exhausted is well shown by the author of the 'Birds of my Parish,' which combines in a peculiar way fresh field notes with a large amount of information about the traits and behavior of captive individual birds of quite a number of the commoner British species. This is mixed with a deal of small talk of the imaginative order supposed to be said by the birds themselves. It is all very entertaining, if possibly trivial and unimportant as 'ornithology'; but the author is so thoroughly in sympathy with the feathered household pets thus brought before us, and also so much at home with the birds in their free surroundings, that this singular mixture of bird lore and 'bird talk' is decidedly pleasant reading. The scene is the "parish of Haquford in East Anglia," an area of some 1600 acres. "This small parish in Norfolk can boast," says the author, "to my present knowledge of . . . 76 varieties. None of these are very rare or uncommon birds, but the better one knows birds, the better one loves them." Much is pleasantly said of these wild birds in the regular orthodox style of ornithology, while much more is told entertainingly of pet Bullfinches, Goldfinches, Chaffinches, Jackdaws, etc., sandwiched with imaginary soliloquies and conversations by the birds themselves, doubtless also intended to impart information and inspire sympathy.—J. A. A.

**Collett on the Skull and Auricular Openings in North European Owls.**—Dr. Collett's important paper on the asymmetry of the skull and auditory structures in the Owls of Northern Europe, originally published in Norwegian in 1881, has now been made more readily accessible to English readers by Dr. Shufeldt's recent translation,<sup>2</sup> with which the text figures

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<sup>1</sup>The Birds | of my Parish | — | By Evelyn H. Pollard | With Illustrations | — | John Lane : The Bodley Head | London and New York. MDCCC, —Crown 8vo, pp. i-xiii, 15-295, 6 photogravure plates. Price, \$1.50.

<sup>2</sup>Professor Collett on the Morphology of the Cranium and the Auricular Openings in the North-European Species of the Family Strigidæ. By R. W. Shufeldt, M. D. Journ. of Morphology, Vol. XVII, No. 1, 1900, pp. 119-176. pll. xv-xx.