

first seventeen sketches are brief summaries of the habits of the common or 'everyday birds' found throughout the eastern States. Of course, there is very little that is new in these pleasant notes, they deriving their chief interest and value from their authorship, being drawn up in the felicitous language of an author who always writes in a pleasing vein, whatever the subject.

The character of the other sketches in 'Everyday Birds' is indicated by their titles, namely: 'Birds for Everybody,' 'Winter Pensioners,' 'Watching the Procession,' and 'Southward Bound.' Although the plates reproduced are from poor chromo-lithographs, they are so far worse than the originals that in many cases they bear little resemblance to the birds they are intended to portray (see, for example, the Song Sparrow); besides, they border on the hackneyed, having been previously reproduced in various connections in recent years, but the text is so fresh and readable and is written in such sympathy with the subject that bird lovers will enjoy perusal of Mr. Torrey's sketches, and cannot consider their ornithological libraries complete without including 'Everyday Birds.'—J. A. A.

Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club.¹—This little brochure records the activity of this well known ornithological club for the year 1900, giving in addition to the minutes of the meetings held three short formal papers, as follows: (1) 'Some Observations on the Habits of Crossbills (*Loxia c. minor*) observed at Hanover, N. J., May 4-6, 1900,' by William B. Evans; (2) 'Recent Capture of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) in Florida'; by Charles J. Pennock; (3) 'Bird Language an index of Family Relationship,' by S. N. Rhoads. Mr. Pennock records the capture of three specimens of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker on the Gulf coast of western Florida, near Saint Marks, in April, 1899.

Mr. Rhoads calls attention to well known facts regarding the similarity of the notes and songs of closely related birds, and urges the importance of their resemblance as an indication of descent and relationship. The minutes of the meetings contain many interesting records of more or less rare birds, observed chiefly in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.—J. A. A.

Stejneger on the Wheatears (*Saxicola*) Occurring in North America.²—The conclusions reached in this paper have already been stated in substance by Dr. Stejneger in the last issue of 'The Auk' (Vol. XVIII, pp.

¹Abstract of the Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club of Philadelphia. For the year 1900. Published by the Club. 1901. pp. 15.

²On the Wheatears (*Saxicola*) occurring in North America. By Leonhard Stejneger, Curator, Division of Reptiles and Batrachians. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XXIII, No. 1220, pp. 473-481. March, 1901.

186, 187), so that little remains to be said in reference to the paper beyond the statement that the whole matter is discussed at length and the full synonymy given for the two forms of the Wheatear (*Saxicola ænanthe* and *S. æ. leucorhoa*), both recognized by Dr. Stejneger as occurring in North America, the former in Greenland and northeastern North America, and the latter in Alaska. The distribution of both forms is carefully worked out, with tables of measurements showing the length of wing, etc.—J. A. A.

Bangs on a New Meadowlark from South America.¹—Mr. Bangs describes as new a Meadowlark collected at San Sebastian and El Mamon in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia, previously referred by him to *S. meridionalis* Sclater. The type locality of *S. meridionalis* is the Bogota region of Colombia, and the species is distinguished by its very long bill and dark coloration, while the new *S. magna paralius* is a pale race from the coast region of northeastern Colombia.

Brewster and Bangs on a New Bécard from Lower Uruguay.²—This species is based on specimens collected by Mr. Walter B. Barrows in 1880 and previously left unidentified, being recorded in Mr. Barrow's list of birds of Lower Uruguay, published in Vol. VIII of the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club' and Vol. I of 'The Auk' as "*Pachyrhamphus*, sp. incog." Though nearest *polychropterus* it is considered quite distinct and is named *P. notius*.—J. A. A.

Shufeldt's 'Osteology of the Herodiones.'³—As stated by the author in the Introduction, this is a reprint of Dr. Shufeldt's 'Osteological Studies on the Subfamily Ardeinæ,' published in 'The Journal of Comparative Medicine and Surgery' in 1899, to which is prefixed a summary of various recent classifications proposed by different authors for the group, supplemented by an account of the osteology of the Wood Ibis and other North American species of Ibises and the Spoonbill. He then gives his own views on the taxonomy of the suborder Herodiones, in which the North American families stand as in the A. O. U. 'Check-List,' he associating with them the Scopidæ, Balænicipidæ and Ciconiidæ, as has been commonly done by previous authors.

¹ A New Meadowlark from South America. By Outram Bangs. Proc. New Engl. Zoöl. Club, Vol. II, pp. 55, 56. Feb. 15, 1901.

² Description of a New Bécard from Lower Uruguay. By William Brewster and Outram Bangs. Proc. New. Engl. Zoöl. Club, Vol. II, pp. 53, 54. Feb. 15, 1901.

³ Osteology of the Herodiones. By Dr. R. W. Shufeldt. Annals of the Carnegie Museum, Vol. I, pp. 158-249, pls. v-vi, and 43 text figures. April, 1901.