

genera, while some of the species of these two groups are most certainly much more nearly related to each other than they are to any of the interposed groups. Our Robin group is allotted to *Turdus*, and forms the only American species of the genus, except *T. rufitorques* of Mexico and Central America.

It seems like returning to the 'good old times' to see such groups as the Mimidæ, Regulidæ, Paridæ, Certhiidæ, etc., installed again as full-fledged families.

Parus is restricted to a group of Old World Titmice, the American species hitherto referred to *Parus* being placed in *Picile* Kaup, except *P. gambeli*, for which the new genus *Picilodes* Bianchi (1902) is adopted.

The recent additions to the list of described forms are given at their face value, with, however, references to adverse opinions when any such have been made public. In short, the care, thoroughness and fairness of Dr. Sharpe's great work will long render it a most invaluable aid to every systematic ornithologist.—J. A. A.

Ridgway on New American Birds.—Mr. Ridgway, in preparing Part III of his 'Birds of North and Middle America,' has found it desirable to describe a number of new genera, species, and subspecies.¹ The new genera comprise the following four genera of Swallows, as follows: *Alopochelidon*, type, *Hirundo fucata* Temm.; *Orochelidon*, type, *Petrochelidon murina* Cass.; *Diplochelidon*, type, *Hirundo melanoleuca* Wied; *Lamprochelidon*, type, *Hirundo euchrysea* Gosse. The new species and subspecies, 29 in number, are mostly from Mexico and Central America, but the following come within the scope of the A. O. U. Check-List: (1) *Budytes flavus alascensis*, Western Alaska; (2) *Vireo huttoni cognatus*, Cape district of Lower California; (3) *Vireo bellii arizonæ*, western Texas and Arizona; (4) *Lanius ludovicianus mearnsi*, San Clemente and Santa Margarita Islands, L. Cal.; (5) *Bæolophus inornatus restrictus*, vicinity of San Francisco Bay, Cal.; (6) *B. i. murinus*, northern Lower California; (7) *Psaltriparus minimus saturatus*, Mount Vernon, Wash.; (8) *Chamæa fasciata rufula*, central coast region of California; (9) Mississippi Valley and Great Plains region, north to Alberta.—J. A. A.

Nelson on New Birds from Mexico.—The 13 new species and subspecies here described² were mainly collected by Messrs. Nelson and Goldman in southwestern Mexico during the winter of 1902-03. They

¹ Descriptions of New Genera, Species, and Subspecies of American Birds. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XVI, pp. 105-113, Sept. 30, 1903.

Diagnoses of Nine New Forms of American Birds. *Ibid.*, pp. 167-170, Nov. 30, 1903.

² Descriptions of New Birds from Southern Mexico. By E. W. Nelson. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. XVI, pp. 151-160, Nov. 30, 1903.

include a Quail-Dove, a Grouse (*Dactylortyx*), an Owl, 10 species of Passerine birds, of which several are given the rank of full species.—J. A. A.

Oberholser on a New Wren from Texas.—Mr. Oberholser has described¹ the Long-billed Marsh Wren of eastern Texas and Louisiana as *Telmatodytes palustris thryophilus*, it differing from *T. palustris* in smaller size, paler and grayer coloration.—J. A. A.

Hartert's 'Die Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna.'²—Mr. Hartert's Birds of the Palæartic Fauna is to comprise two volumes of about 650 pages each, to be issued in ten parts, at four marks each, and to be completed during 1905. Part I consists of an introduction of twelve pages and the first 112 pages of the text, and comprises the families Corvidæ, Sturnidæ, Oreolidæ, and the first part of the Fringillidæ, numbering altogether 184 species and subspecies. In the introduction the author clearly defines his attitude as regards 'lumping' and 'splitting,' and on various questions of nomenclature; he takes Linnæus at 1758, adheres strictly to the rule of priority, and employs trinomials in the most approved way for subspecies. These he recognizes with great liberality, but displays much conservatism in respect to genera. For example, under *Acanthis* he would combine *Carduelis*, *Chrysomitris*, *Linota*, *Spinus*, *Astragalinus*, and *Hylocanthus*, and similarly under *Corvus* various allied groups that are often given generic rank. He emphatically disapproves of the supposition that birds can change the color and markings of their plumage without a renewal of the feathers, and in other respects stands in the front rank of the new school.

Passing now to the systematic portion of the work, the higher groups are briefly characterized, and under the genera there are keys to the species, but, generally, not to the subspecies; there is no generic synonymy, and the citations under the species and subspecies are restricted to the first mention of the names adopted, and their synonyms. The characters of the species are quite fully given, with a brief statement of their geographical ranges, manner of nesting, character of the eggs, etc., and under the subspecies their distinctive characteristics and distribution.

The geographical scope of the work is sufficiently indicated by the title, but the southern boundary of the Palæartic Region is not very sharply definable. In general terms the region includes all of Europe, northern

¹ Descriptions of a New *Telmatodytes*. By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XVI, pp. 149, 150, Nov. 12, 1903.

² Die Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna. Systematische Übersicht der in Europa, Nord-Asian und der Mittelmæerregion vorkommenden Vögel. Von Ernst Hartert. Heft. I. Mit 22 Abbildungen. Berlin. Verlag von R. Friedländer und Sohn. Ausgegeben in November 1903. Large 8vo, pp. i-xii, 1-112.