

This is the third extended memoir on Galapagos Islands birds published within the last seven years, each based on extensive material, and each marking an important advance in our knowledge of this peculiarly interesting ornis. In the memoir now under review there is no reference to previous work in the same field, beyond the bibliographical citations under the species and in the general text. Some reference to the general history of the subject, and some statement of their opportunities and resources, and of the results reached, would have been a good addition to this important contribution to the literature of Galapagan ornithology.—
J. A. A.

Shufeldt on the Osteology of the Halcyones and Limicolæ.—In the 'American Naturalist' for October, 1903, Dr. Shufeldt devotes considerable space to a consideration of the Kingfishers,¹ with reference to their osteology and systematic position. It is in the main an amplification of his paper on the 'Osteology of *Ceryle alcyon*,' published in 1884 (Journ. Anat. and Phys., XVIII, 1884, pp. 279-294, pl. xiv), with the same illustrations, here reproduced in half-tone. The structure of this species is compared with allied forms, but not much new light is thrown upon the relationships of the group, nor is any very positive opinion advanced as to its nearest affinities, though believed by the author to be most nearly related to the Galbulidæ, an opinion shared by previous writers on the subject.

Respecting his paper on the osteology of the Limicolæ,² his own opinion is to the effect that "it is probably the most extensive contribution to the osteology and taxonomy of the Limicolæ that has appeared from the pen of any writer on the subject up to the present time." The 'skeletalogy' of each of the principal types is described in considerable detail, the paper closing with a synopsis of their leading osteological characters, and a review of their affinities. The Limicolæ are regarded as a suborder of the Charadriiformes, and are divided into eight families, which correspond to those adopted in the A. O. U. Check-List, except that the subfamily Arenariinæ of the Check-List is given the rank of a family.—J. A. A.

Evans's 'Turner on Birds.'³ — This is a republication, with translation

¹ On the Osteology and Systematic Position of the Kingfishers. (Halcyones.) By R. W. Shufeldt. Amer. Nat., Vol. XXXVII, Oct. 1903, pp. 697-725, figs. 1-3.

² Osteology of the Limicolæ, By Dr. R. W. Shufeldt. Ann. Carnegie Mus., Vol. II, 1903, pp. 15-70, pl. i, and 27 text figures.

³ Turner on Birds: | a short and succinct history | of the | principal birds noticed by Pliny and Aristotle, | first published by | Doctor William Turner, 1544. | Edited, with Introduction, Translation, Notes, and Appendix, | by | A. H. Evans, M. A. | Clare College, Cambridge. | Cambridge: | At the University Press | 1903—8vo, pp. i-xviii, 1 l. (transcript of original title page) + pp. 1-223.

and notes, of one of the most noteworthy early publications on birds, and has thus not only a peculiar interest, but is full of suggestive and interesting information, bearing especially upon the origin and early use of many of the present technical names of birds. Of this work, the translator tells us: "Turner's object in writing the present treatise is fully set forth in his 'Epistola Nuncupatoria' prefixed to it. While attempting to determine the principal kinds of birds named by Aristotle and Pliny, he has added notes from his own experience on some species which had come under his own observation, and in so doing he has produced the first book on Birds which treats them in anything like a modern scientific spirit and not from the medical point of view adopted by nearly all his predecessors; nor is it too much to say that almost every page bears witness to a personal knowledge of the subject, which would be distinctly creditable even to a modern ornithologist."

Turner was one of the most learned men of his time. The date of his birth is not given; he graduated a B. A. from the University of Cambridge, of which he was elected a fellow in 1530. He was a zealous student of botany, and in 1538 published a work on plants, and later others on the same subject. He traveled extensively on the continent, where he met and became a personal friend of Gesner, to whose 'Historia Animalium' he made contributions. He was, first of all, a religious reformer, and, "his scientific work apart, nearly the whole of Turner's life was spent in religious controversy." In the dedication of his book on 'The History of Birds' (mentioned above) to the then Prince of Wales, he says, in it "I have placed for your pleasure the Greek, German, and British names side by side with the Latin"; and he proposed, under certain conditions, to "bring to the light of day a further edition of this little book with figures of the birds, their habits, and curative properties, as well as another book on plants."

It is hard to characterize the peculiar interest this "little book" has for the present day bird student; but not least of course is the antiquarian, from its curious revelations of the beginnings of modern knowledge of birds, the conjectures that prevailed in place of positive information, and the early application of many names now so differently employed in technical nomenclature. The editor and translator, seconded by the Syndics of the University Press, has opened to the general reader a previously inaccessible and practically sealed book of unusual interest, for which service we owe a debt of gratitude.—J. A. A.

Recent Papers on Economic Ornithology.—In 'Birds of a Maryland farm'¹ Dr. Judd has presented us with a study of local conditions as pre-

¹ Birds of a Maryland Farm, A Local Study of Economic Ornithology. By Sylvester D. Judd, Ph. D., Assistant, Biological Survey. U. S. Department of Agriculture. Division of Biological Survey—Bulletin No. 17, Washington, 1902. 8vo, pp. 116, with 17 half-tone plates and 41 text figures.