

fell on the 26th.) To this Audubon must have replied, but his letter is missing from the Linnæan collection. To that lost letter Swainson's letter of "2d October 1830" undoubtedly is an answer. The letters are published in the following Journals:

1830, Aug. 22 (Manchester). Audubon's letter proposing coöperation, etc. (Synopsis in Proc. Linn. Soc., London, May 22, 1900, p. 26; republished in Osprey, IV, p. 24)

1830, Aug. 26. Swainson's letter (undated) published in Auk, XXII, pp. 32-34.

1830, Aug. 29. Audubon's letter in reply to last: apparently lost.

1830, Oct. 2. Swainson's letter in answer to last, published in Auk, XV, 1898, pp. 11-13; republished in Osprey, IV, p. 171, V, pp. 8, 9.

Let us hope that the editor of 'The Auk' will procure a copy of Audubon's letter of Aug. 22 and publish it. — THEO. GILL, *Washington, D. C.*

RECENT LITERATURE.

Ridgway's 'The Birds of North and Middle America,' Part III.¹—The first 500 pages—rather more than half—of the present volume, we are told in the preface, "were printed during the year 1903," when it became necessary to suspend the printing until July, 1904; its publication was

¹ The Birds | of | North and Middle America : | A Descriptive Catalogue | of the | Higher Groups, Genera, Species, and Subspecies of Birds | known to occur in North America, from the | Arctic Lands to the Isthmus of Panama | the West Indies and Other Islands | of the Caribbean Sea, and the Galapagos Archipelago. | By | Robert Ridgway, | Curator, Division of Birds. | — | Part III. |

Family Motacilladæ — The Wagtails and Pipits.

Family Hirundinidæ — The Swallows.

Family Ampelidæ — The Waxwings.

Family Ptilogonatidæ — The Silky Flycatchers.

Family Dulidæ — The Palm Chats.

Family Vireonidæ — The Vireos.

Family Laniidæ — The Shrikes.

Family Corvidæ — The Crows and Jays. |

Family Paridæ — The Titmice. |

Family Sittidæ — The Nuthatches. |

Family Certhiidæ — The Creepers. |

Family Troglodytidæ — The Wrens.

Family Cinclidæ — The Dippers. |

Family Chamæidæ — The Wren-Tits. |

Family Sylviidæ — The Warblers | —

| Washington : | Government Printing Office, | 1904. = Bulletin of the United States National Museum, No. 50, Part III. 8vo, pp. i-xx + 1-801, pll. i-xix.

thus delayed much beyond the anticipated date when Part II was issued, only a few advance copies in paper covers being distributed during the last days of 1904. It includes about the same number of pages as Part II, and almost exactly the same number of species and subspecies, namely 434, as compared with 433 in Part II. As the general character of the work has been indicated in our review of Part I (Auk, XIX, Jan., 1903, pp. 97-102) we have now merely to note the contents of Part III, which includes the following 15 families.

(1) Motacillidæ, with 3 genera and 8 species; (2) Hirundinidæ, 12 genera and 32 species and subspecies; (3) Ampelidæ, 1 genus and 2 species; (4) Ptilogonatidæ, 3 genera and 5 species; (5) Dulidæ (wholly West Indian), 1 genus and 2 species; (6) Vireonidæ, 8 genera and 78 species and subspecies; (7) Laniidæ, 1 genus and 21 species with 6 additional subspecies; (8) Corvidæ, 13 genera and 83 species; (9) Paridæ, 4 genera and 36 species and subspecies; (10) Sittidæ, 1 genus and 10 species and subspecies; (11) Certhiidæ, 1 genus and 6 subspecies; (12) Troglodytidæ, 17 genera and 135 species and subspecies; (13) Cinclidæ, 1 genus and 3 species and subspecies; (14) Chamæidæ, 1 genus and 4 species and subspecies; (15) Sylviidæ, 3 genera and 22 species and subspecies. These statistics include the 5 subspecies added in the Addenda.

Four genera, 1 species, and 14 subspecies are described as 'new,' mostly in the first half of the volume, but only one appears to have been really new at the time of its publication, the others having been published elsewhere before the volume was completed, and thus antedate by nearly a year the date of Part III. Their real place of publication, however, is duly stated in the addenda, and attention is called to the fact in the 'Table of Contents.'

The genus *Poliophtila*, provisionally referred in Part I (pp. 18 and 23) to Mimidæ, here finds a resting place in the Sylviidæ, forming a subfamily Poliophtilinæ. The only alternative, Mr. Ridgway believes, is to make the group a separate family.

To take up the nomenclature of the work somewhat in detail with special reference to the A. O. U. Check-List, it is to be noted that *Neocorys* is considered as not entitled to even subgeneric recognition; *Vireosylva* and *Lanivireo* are given full generic rank; *Cractes* Billberg (1828) is made (in the addenda, p. 750) to replace *Perisoreus* Bonaparte (1831); *Penthestes* unfortunately has to take the place of *Parus*, which is restricted to the Old World, with *Parus major* as the type. On the whole this is a very slight disturbance of our current generic nomenclature.

In respect to species and subspecies, the status of a few forms is changed; a number of forms rejected by the A. O. U. Committee have been admitted, but in most instances its decisions are confirmed. A curious case, however, is that of "*Bæolophus atricristatus sennetti*, subsp. nov.," which takes the place of both *Bæolophus bicolor texensis* (Sennett) and *B. atricristatus castaneifrons* (Sennett), which are ruled out as

'hybrids' between *B. atricristatus sennetti* and *B. bicolor*, and are thus "without nomenclatural standing"! The 'hybrid' theory is not here for the first time invoked by our author as an easy way to clear up a knotty case, as witness his treatment in Part I of *Junco annectens* Baird, *J. ridgwayi* Mearns, etc., and in other instances on earlier occasions.

Further changes among the Titmice include *Bæolophus inornatus murinus* as a new subspecies from southern California and northern Lower California; *B. wollweberi* is restricted to the highlands of Mexico, and the United States form takes the name *B. w. annexus* (Cassin). *Parus* (or *Penthestes*) *carolinensis impiger* of Bangs is added, as is also *P. hudsonicus littoralis*, while *P. h. stoneyi* is referred to *hudsonicus*. *Psaltriparus minimus saturatus* is described as new from the Puget Sound region.

The range of *Corvus corax clarionensis* is extended northward to include the Santa Barbara Islands, and is thus brought within our Check-List limits. *Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperius* is revived, and *C. caurinus* is reduced to a subspecies of *C. brachyrhynchos*. *Cyanocitta stelleri borealis* is not recognized while *C. s. carbonacea* is, although the former is quite as good a form as the latter.

Among the Wrens are many additions of forms recently denied admission to the Check-List, as *Telmatodytes palustris thryophilus*, *Thryomanes bewickii eremophilus*, *T. b. cerroensis*, *T. b. nesophilus*, *T. b. drymæus*, and *Catherpes mexicanus polioptilus* while, on the other hand, *T. leucophrys* is reduced to a subspecies of *T. bewickii*, and *Troglodytes ædon aztecus* is made a synonym of *T. a. parkmani* and the range of the latter continued eastward to Indiana. *Salpinctes obsoletus pulverius* is also admitted, and *S. guadalupensis* is reduced to a subspecies of *S. obsoletus*.

The American Dipper takes the name *Cinclus mexicanus unicolor* (Bonap.), typical *mexicanus* being restricted to Mexico and Guatemala. All the hitherto described forms of *Chamæa* are admitted, and *Regulus cuvierii* ranks as a good species on the basis of a single record and the "type lost"; in other words, on the description and drawing of a specimen alleged to have been taken near Philadelphia nearly a century ago.

The 'Addenda,' as often happens, forms an important part of the volume. It not only contains many overlooked references which are to be added to the tables of synonymy, but many references to publications that appeared during the printing of the volume, and especially after the printing of the first half, among which, as already noted, are references to the publication of the genera and subspecies indicated as new in the main text; and it also includes a number of additional subspecies and changes of nomenclature. Attention is called to most of these, by footnotes or otherwise, in the table of contents, but the table of contents is not to be taken as giving the nomenclature of the species as finally modified in the addenda; for there are no footnote references to guide the unwary to such changes as that of *Corvus americanus* to *Corvus brachyrhynchos*, or the substitution of *Cractes* for *Perisoreus*, as one would naturally expect.

Part III is of course uniform with the preceding parts in execution, showing the same painstaking attention to details of citation in the synonymies, and care and thoroughness in elaboration, and is invaluable as an exponent of our present knowledge of the fifteen families of birds embraced within its scope, as represented in North and Middle America. It brings up the total number of families treated to 20, of genera to 216, and of species and subspecies to 1256, and includes more than three fourths of the Oscines of the region.

Part IV, which is about half completed, will contain the remaining families of the Oscines and the Tyrannidæ, Pipridæ, and Cotingidæ. We trust the author's present change of scene through a long vacation trip to the mountains of Costa Rica will give him renewed energy and zeal for the completion of this great task, already so well advanced.—
J. A. A.

Richmond on Birds described by Pallas in 1764.—In 1764 appeared a sale catalogue of natural history specimens published by A. Vroeg, to which was added a separately paged supplement in which were described 38 species of birds by P. S. Pallas. A transcript of this appendix, by C. Davies Sherborn, has just been republished under the title 'The New Species of Birds in Vroeg's Catalogue, 1764.'¹ This 'Catalogue' is so rare, says Mr. Sherborn, that the only copy he has seen "is preserved among Linnæus' collection of books in the library of the Linnæan Society of London. The new species of birds," says Mr. Sherborn, " (there are no other new species) are collected at the end of the *Catalogue* in a separately-paged 'Adumbratiuncula,' and as these new species are properly diagnosed the Linnæan Society has kindly consented to a reprinting of the pages. The reprint follows the original, line for line, the only addition being the localities, which have been added from the entries in the *Catalogue* to which the numbers prefixed to each item refer." Mr. Sherborn states that there is no clue to the author of these names, but Dr. C. W. Richmond has found that the author was P. S. Pallas, and that Linnæus cited some of these names in the twelfth edition of his 'Systema Naturæ,' 1766, as from "*Pallas. adumbr.*" etc., and says (*l. c.*, p. 342 inedit.) "without doubt Linnæus was indebted to Pallas for his copy of the *Catalogue*."

Following Mr. Sherborn's reprint of the 'Adumbratiuncula,' Dr. Richmond² gives the modern equivalents of Pallas's names. He says: "This separately-paged portion of the *Catalogue* contains descriptions of thirty-

¹The New Species of Birds in Vroeg's Catalogue, 1764. By C. Davies Sherborn. Smithsonian Miscel. Coll. (Quarterly Issue), Vol. XLVII, p. 332-341, Jan. 31, 1905.

²Notes on the Birds described by Pallas in the "Adumbratiuncula" of Vroeg's Catalogue. By Charles W. Richmond. *Ibid.*, pp. 342-347.