

Shelley's 'Birds of Africa,' Vol. IV, Pt. II.<sup>1</sup>—The second part of volume IV, completing the volume, follows very promptly Part I, noticed in the April number of this Journal (Auk, XXII, pp. 228, 229), concluding the family Ploceidæ and carrying the species from No. 523 to No. 646. The seven colored plates, by H. Grönwold, beautifully illustrate fourteen species. We are glad to see the good progress which now marks this great undertaking, the scope and character of which have been fully explained in our notices of the earlier parts.—J. A. A.

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### NOTES AND NEWS.

WALTER E. BRYANT, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologist's Union, died in San Francisco, Cal., May 21, 1905. A biographical notice of Mr. Bryant will appear in a later number of this Journal.

ADOLPHE BOUCARD, a well-known ornithological explorer and collector, and the author of many papers and works on birds and insects, died at the residence of his son, 24 Stanley Gardens, Hampstead, N. W., England, March 15, 1905, at the age of 66 years. He was born in France in 1839, but passed the later years of his life at his villa near Ryde, in the Isle of Wight. He collected extensively in the different countries of Central America and in southern Mexico, where he lived for many years. There are probably few large museums which do not contain many examples of his beautifully prepared bird-skins. His ornithological publications comprise 'Catalogus Avium hucusque descriptarum' (1876), 'Genera of Hummingbirds' (1893-95), and various papers in 'The Ibis,' the 'Proceedings' of the Zoölogical Society of London, and elsewhere. In 1891 he began the publication of an ornithological journal called 'The Hummingbird,' of which five volumes were completed. The greater part of his large collection of birds, numbering about 25,000 specimens and including many types, was presented to the Musée d'Histoire Naturelle, of Paris, in 1895.

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<sup>1</sup>The | Birds of Africa, | comprising all the species which occur | in the | Ethiopian Region. | By | G. E. Shelley, F. Z. S., F. R. G. S., &c. | (Late Grenadier Guards), | Author of "A Handbook to the Birds of Egypt," | "A Monograph of the Sun-Birds," etc. | — | Vol. IV. | Part II. | — | London: | Published for the Author by | R. H. Porter, 7, Princes Street, Cavendish Square, W. | 1905.—Roy. 8vo, pp. vi + 289-511, pll. col. xxxvi-xlii. Price 31s. 6d. net.

THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS was held in London, June 12-17, 1905, under the presidency of Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe of the British Museum (Natural History). The Congress opened with an informal reception at the Imperial Institute on the evening of Monday, June 12, followed by daily sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. Thursday was given over to an excursion to Tring, where the members of the Congress were guests of the Hon. Walter Rothschild. On Friday afternoon the members were tendered a reception by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of London at the Mansion House, and in the evening were given a dinner by the British Ornithologists' Union. On the evening of Wednesday a conversazione was held at the Natural History Museum. After the adjournment of the Congress excursions were made on Monday, June 19, to the Duke of Bedford's Park at Woburn; on Tuesday to Cambridge, where Professor Newton welcomed the members of the Congress, and luncheon was served at Magdalene College; on Wednesday an expedition was made to Flamborough Head in Yorkshire, the breeding place of many sea birds.

The Congress was marked by a large attendance of members, and the presentation of many noteworthy papers, and altogether was an occasion long to be remembered by those participating in its proceedings, and especially by the visiting member for the bountiful hospitality extended to them. In addition to the general meetings, the Congress was organized into sections, as follows: (1) Systematic Ornithology, Geographical Distribution, Anatomy and Palæontology; (2) Migration; (3) Biology, Nidification, Oölogy; (4) Economic Ornithology and Bird Protection; (5) Aviculture. It is impracticable at the date of this writing to give any account of the papers presented, which we hope to do in a later issue of this journal. Among the members of the A. O. U. present were the Misses Florence and Maria R. Audubon, Frank M. Chapman, Dr. J. Dwight, Jr., James H. Fleming, and Dr. L. Stejneger. Papers were presented by Chapman, Dwight, and Fleming.

MR. ROBERT RIDGWAY has recently returned from a six months' collecting trip to Costa Rica, made in the interests of the U. S. National Museum. The objects of his visit were to secure material for use in the preparation of his 'Birds of North and Middle America'; to familiarize himself with the topographic and climatic conditions of that ornithological paradise, and with the birds in life; and to study the birds in the rich collection of the Museo Nacional, at San José.

With San José as his headquarters, and as the guest of the well-known Costa Rican ornithologist, Mr. Zeledon, he was enabled to reach several of the more interesting localities, such as Turrucares, Santo Domingo, and Pigres on the Pacific side of the country, Monte Redondo on the south side of the Candelaria range, Turrialba, Bonilda, and Coliblanco on the Atlantic slope, and the volcanos of Poás, Irazú, and Turrialba of the Central Cordillera. On these several expeditions he was accompanied

by his friends, Messrs. Alfaro and Zeledon, to whose ready assistance and knowledge of the country much of the success of his trip was due.

In the vicinity of Pigres, at the entrance of the Gulf of Nicoya, the party made the acquaintance of *Arinia boucardi*, a hummingbird known only from the original pair, collected in 1876, by the late M. Boucard. At Bonilda they found the rare cuckoo, *Neomorphus salvini*, and such desirable tanagers as *Calospiza florida* and *C. guttata*; while on the Volcano of Turrialba specimens of *Empidonax atriceps*, *Contopus ochraceus* and two new species of *Chlorospingus* were secured.

Knowing so well the Costa Rican material contained in the National Museum, Mr. Ridgway was enabled to direct his attention to filling gaps in the collection, and, although nearly three months elapsed before the arrival of his outfit, he succeed in bringing back over 1300 very desirable specimens, representing many important desiderata. A number of species interesting from an anatomical view point were preserved in alcohol.

MAJOR EDGAR A. MEARNS, Medical Corps, U. S. Army, who has been in this country for a number of months on sick leave, is about to return to his post of duty in the Philippines, and will doubtless be able to resume, as circumstances may favor, his important natural history explorations begun during his former official sojourn of nearly two years in these islands. These resulted in his discovery of several new genera, and many new species and subspecies, of both birds and mammals, which he has been able promptly to publish during his enforced leave of absence in the United States.

Messrs. E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman are devoting the present season to a careful reconnaissance of the peninsula of Lower California and its islands, especially those in the Gulf of California.

Dr. Merriam, Chief of the Biological Survey (now raised from a Division to the rank of a Bureau of the Department of Agriculture), is continuing his survey of California, and Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Baily are continuing their work in New Mexico.

THE ONE hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the birth of John James Audubon was commemorated by appropriate exercises in the Church of the Intercession, Broadway and 158th Street, New York City, on the evening of May 4, 1905. Addresses were made by the Hon. Alton B. Parker, Mr. Richard Watson Gilder, Mr. Frank M. Chapman, Mr. Ernest Thompson Seton, and others, with an original poem by Mr. Edward Doyle. At the American Museum of Natural History a large collection of Auduboniana was placed on temporary exhibition in honor of the occasion, including the portfolio used by Audubon in soliciting subscriptions to his great work, many of his original drawings, his hunting coat, gun, and other mementoes of his early wanderings in Labrador and the Far West.

A 'SUPPLEMENT' to the 'Birds of New Zealand' is announced, to form two quarto volumes, with twelve hand-colored plates (by Keulemans) and numerous text illustrations. The subscription price is three guineas per volume, and the edition will be limited to 500 copies. During the seventeen years that have passed since the publication of the second edition, quite a number of species have been added to the bird fauna of New Zealand, and much new information respecting those previously known, and in place of issuing a third edition the author, Sir Walter L. Buller, has decided to issue two supplemental volumes, in the same style as the original work. Subscriptions are to be addressed: "To the Publisher of the Supplement to the 'Birds of New Zealand,' 62 London Wall, London, E. C."

WE HAVE received also the prospectus of a work entitled 'The Eggs of European Birds,' by the Rev. Francis C. R. Jourdain, to be published in ten parts, octavo size, each to contain twelve or more colored plates. The price is 10 shillings per part, and subscriptions may be sent to the Author, Clifton Vicarage, Ashburne, Derbyshire, or to Mr. R. H. Porter, 7 Princes St., Cavendish Square, London, W.

A NEW natural history journal is 'The Ontario Natural Science Bulletin: Journal of the Wellington Field Naturalists' Club,' of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, an annual, of which No. 1 was published April 16, 1905. It is an octavo of 48 pages, of which pages 1-24, 38-41, and 43-45 are ornithological, the remaining portions dealing with mammals and botany. The editor is Mr. A. B. Klugh, Guelph, Ont., and the price is 25 cents. The bird papers are: 'The Birds of Wellington County, Ontario,' by A. B. Klugh (pp. 1-10, 197 species); 'An Unusual Migration of the Canada Jay,' by J. H. Fleming; 'The Origin of the Kirtland's Warbler,' by P. A. Taverner; 'The Thrushes of Eastern Ontario,' by C. J. Young; 'Migration Report, Guelph, Ontario, March 1, 1904-March 1, 1905,' pp. 21-24 (tabular, and anonymous). There are several pages each of ornithological 'Notes,' and of brief reviews of ornithological publications.

THE annual meeting of the Michigan Ornithological Club was held in the University of Michigan Museum at Ann Arbor on April 1, 1905, at which the following papers were read: 'Recent Advances in Ornithology,' Walter B. Barrows; 'In Memoriam—Albert Bowen Durfee,' Leon J. Cole; 'Birds Noted en route to Northern Michigan,' Norman A. Wood; 'Ecological Distribution of the Birds of the Porcupine Mountains, Michigan,' Otto McCreary; 'Observations on the Nesting Habits of a Pair of House Wrens,' Max M. Peet; 'On the Use in Surgery of Tendons of the Ardeidæ and Gruidæ,' Alex. W. Blain, Jr.; 'Some New and Rare Records for Michigan,' Norman A. Wood; 'A List of Birds from the Michigan Forest Reserve, Crawford County,' Earl H. Frothingham; 'The

Occurrence of Bewick's Wren at Grand Rapids,' Leon J. Cole; 'A Preliminary Notice of an Interesting Migration Route,' P. A. Taverner.

The following officers were elected for 1905-06: President, Walter B. Barrows; Vice-Presidents, A. H. Griffith, James B. Purdy, and J. Claire Wood; Secretary, Alex. W. Blain, Jr.; Treasurer, Frederick C. Hubel. Editorial Staff of the 'Bulletin': Walter B. Barrows, Editor; P. A. Taverner and Norman A. Wood, Associates.

THE American Ornithologists' Union Committee on the Classification and Nomenclature of North American Birds held a four days' session in April last at the U. S. National Museum in Washington, with all the members present except Mr. Ridgway, who was in Costa Rica. Final action was taken on about one hundred cases, thus disposing of the greater part of those listed for consideration. A number of others were considered, but final action on them was deferred, owing to lack of material or unexpected complications in questions of nomenclature. These were all assigned to subcommittees, to be reported upon at the next meeting of the Committee. As the greater part of the cases acted upon had previously been considered by subcommittees, they were more readily decided than would have been otherwise possible.

At the conclusion of the session the Committee decided not to issue a report of its decisions in the form of a Supplement to the Check-List, as has been heretofore customary, in view of the fact that a new edition of the Check-List is under consideration for publication in 1906.