

sleeping), the nests with the single egg or young bird, the young in various stages of growth, the adults in various acts and attitudes, the old birds in the air leaving the rookery, a deserted rookery, etc. In addition to this the various plumages of the young are described, the adult plumage, the changes in the form of the bill with growth, with a table of comparative measurements of old and young birds, showing the great relative increase in the length of the tarsus in the old as compared with young birds. As a result we have laid before us in detail the life history of a species of which comparatively little was previously positively known.—J. A. A.

Oberholser on Birds Collected in the Kilimanjaro Region, East Africa.¹—This collection, made by Dr. W. L. Abbott during the years 1898 and 1899, comprises 256 species and subspecies, represented by 684 specimens. Most of the novelties had previously been described by Dr. C. W. Richmond in 1895, the new forms brought out in the present paper numbering three species and six subspecies. In the course of the paper, however, several new genera and ten new subgenera are proposed, since in working up Dr. Abbott's collection Mr. Oberholser has incidentally included considerable revisionary work on several groups of East African birds, and upon the nomenclature of other species.

The collection was found to include a number of rare species, besides extending, even at this late day, the known range of a number of others. "The best idea," says Mr. Oberholser, "of the marvelous richness of this collection of Dr. Abbott's is probably furnished by the subjoined list of 62 species and subspecies that were undescribed when obtained by him, an exposition that is possibly of more than passing interest as indicative of the great progress in African ornithology that the past eighteen years have witnessed."—J. A. A.

McGregor on Philippine Birds.—We are in receipt of two papers² by Mr. McGregor, giving a further account of his ornithological work in the Philippine Islands. The first relates to the islands Romblon, Sibuyan, and Cresta de Gallo, and is based on two months spent in their exploration in 1904 (May 25–July 21). Besides field notes on about 90 species,

¹ Birds collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott in the Kilimanjaro Region, East Africa. By Harry C. Oberholser, Assistant Ornithologist, Department of Agriculture. Proc. U. S. National Museum, Vol. XXVIII, pp. 823–936, 1905.

² I. Birds from the Islands of Romblon, Sibuyan, and Cresta de Gallo. II. Further notes on Birds from Ticao, Cuyo, Culion, Calayan, Lubang, and Luzon. By Richard C. McGregor. Publication No. 25, Bureau of Government Laboratories, Depart. of the Interior, Philippine Islands, Manila, May, 1905. 8vo, pp. 1–34, pll. i, *ibis*, ii–x.

some of which are here recorded for the first time from these islands, two are described as new and descriptions are given of previously unknown plumages of others. Nominal lists follow the general list, giving the species observed on each island.

The second paper is of a similar character, and relates to the islands Ticao, Cuyo, Culion, Calayan, Lubang, and Luzon, and are supplementary to previous papers on collections from these islands. This relates to 15 species, including two described as new and interesting notes on the nesting habits of the Panay Hornbill (*Penelopides panini*) and the nesting habits of several of the Philippine Swifts.

The eleven half-tone plates illustrate the mound of *Megapodius cumingi* (two plates), the nests and eggs of several species of swifts (genus *Salangana*), the nest and eggs of the Panay Hornbill, and a species of *Cisticola*. — J. A. A.

Hartert's 'Die Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna,' Heft III. — The third part¹ of Dr. Hartert's Birds of the Palæarctic Fauna carries the species and subspecies from No. 394 to 629 — from about the middle of the Alaudidæ through the families Motacillidæ, Mnioiltidæ (three extralimital species), Nectariniidæ, Zosteropidæ, Certhiidæ, Sittidæ, and the greater part of Paridæ. The method of treatment is of course uniform with that of the preceding parts (cf. Auk, XXI, 1904, pp. 95 and 505), showing similar conservatism in respect to genera and the same proneness to fine splitting in respect to subspecies. Especially noticeable also is the tendency to combine allied forms as subspecies, sometimes apparently without satisfactory reasons therefor, as where *Parus sclateri* of Mexico is made a subspecies of *Parus palustris*, although separated geographically by thousands of miles from the range of any other member of the group. Similarly a form of Nuthatch from Corsica and another from northern China are made subspecies of *Sitta canadensis*. Ten palæarctic forms of titmice are referred to *Parus atricapillus*, including the whole *P. montanus* group, and a number of others. The author apparently has no use for subgenera, all of the palæarctic subgenera of *Parus*, recognized by Hellmayr in his recent excellent monograph of the Paridæ, being merged in *Parus*. In short, our author's treatment of this and allied families is far less satisfactory, and less consistent and rational, than the recent revision of these groups by Hellmayr. Hartert includes under *Parus* 93 palæarctic forms, of which 20 rank as species and of which 8 have no subspecies, leaving 73 subspecies under the other 12 species, or an average

¹ Die Vögel | der paläarktischen Fauna. | Systematische Übersicht | der | in Europa, Nord Asien und der Mettelmeerregion | vorkommenden Vögel. | Von | Dr. Ernst Hartert. | Heft III. | Seite 241-384. | Mit 16 Abbildungen. | — | Berlin. | Verlag von R. Friedländer und Sohn. | Ausgegeben im Juni 1905.—8vo, pp. 241-384. Price 4 marks.