

2000 feet altitude, and La Chumata mine, at 4500 feet altitude. The list (67 species) is based on a collection made by Mr. W. W. Brown, Jr., mainly during the month of May, 1905, and hence at the height of the breeding season. Many nests and eggs were taken. A new subspecies is *Psaltriparus plumbeus cecaumenorum*, and there are technical notes on a few other species.— J. A. A.

Lönnerberg on the Birds of South Georgia.—The present memoir¹ is based on collections made on the island of South Georgia by Mr. Erik Sörling for the Swedish Natural History Museum in Stockholm. Sörling, accompanying Captain C. A. Larsen on a whaling voyage to the antarctic seas, was able to spend the period from the middle of November, 1904, to the end of September, 1905, on South Georgia. He had thus nearly a full year on the island and secured important collections and valuable observations, especially on the seals, whales, birds, and fishes. The first important report on the birds of South Georgia was based on the material obtained by the German Antarctic Expedition of 1882-1883, papers on which were published by Pagenstecker and von den Steinen, respectively in 1885 and 1890, by whom 22 species were recognized as occurring on the island, and 19 as breeding. The Swedish Antarctic Expedition of 1902 added, as recorded by Lönnerberg, one more to the total number, and also one to the list of breeding birds; Sörling added still another, making 21 known to breed, and raising the total number thus far recorded, including occasional stragglers, to 29. In the present memoir all are treated at greater or less length; of 25 species Sörling obtained specimens, often in series, representing both young and adult, and frequently including skeletons as well as skins. Sörling's field notes, given in abstract or at length, are of special interest, while the author has made his report on the birds a summary of the present knowledge of the ornithology of South Georgia. There is a colored plate of a chick of *Chionis*, color sketches from life of the head and bill of *Nettion georgeum* and of *Phalacrocorax atriceps*, and reproductions of photographs of the King Penguin, Great Skua, and a rookery of *Pygocelis papua*. The only land bird recorded is the Antarctic Pipit (*Anthus antarcticus*).— J. A. A.

Harvie-Brown's 'A Fauna of the Tay Basin.'²—This is the tenth volume of 'The Vertebrate Fauna of Scotland' series, edited, and in part written by J. A. Harvie-Brown and the late Thomas E. Buckley. Following

¹ Contributions to the Fauna of South Georgia. I. Taxonomic and Biological Notes on Vertebrates. By Einar Lönnerberg. Sv. Vet. Akademiens Handlingar, Bd. XL, No. 5, 1906, pp. 1-102, pls. i-xii, and 7 text figures. Birds, pp. 50-90, pls. i, ii, colored, pl. xii, half-tone.

² A Fauna of the Tay Basin & Strathmore. By J. A. Harvie-Brown. Edinburgh, David Douglas, 1906—Small 4to, pp. i-lxxxvi + 1-377, 21 photogravure plates, 8 text cuts, and 6 maps. Price 30 shillings.

the preface is 'A Short Revision of the past Volumes of this Series' (pp. xvii-xxi), and this is succeeded by 'Annals of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science,' by the president of the Society, Henry Cootes (pp. xxii-xxviii). The next sixty pages are devoted to a detailed account of the topography of the Tay Basin, which comprises a larger area than any other river system in Scotland, comprising "some 3250 square miles. The physical, faunal and floral features of its mountains, glens, and lochs are given at length, with especial reference to their ornithology. The influences governing the dispersal of species, especially in Scotland, are also considered. In the main text of the 'Fauna' the mammals occupy about sixty pages, the birds about three hundred, and the reptiles and Amphibia about six.

The fauna of the higher parts of Scotland has a decidedly arctic tinge, through the presence in the breeding season as such birds as the Wheatear, Snowflake, Ptarmigan, Red-necked Phalarope, Whimbrel, Greenshank, Skua, Black-throated Loon, Fulmar Petrel, and various northern breeding ducks.

As Mr. Harvie-Brown is not a 'splitter,' it is of interest to note that he is able to recognize "three fairly distinct phases of coloration [in the Song Thrush (*Turdus musicus*)] in Scotland alone, viz.: the very dark insular and western form universal in the Outer Hebrides; the ordinary olive-backed bird of our shrubberies and mainland hedgerows; and the very light sand coloured bird of our eastern seaboard"; these phases being due, as he believes, to the effects of climate, or of isolation and climate combined.

The number of species of birds in the Tay Basin is not stated, but the records have evidently been exhaustively examined, and notable fluctuations in the numerical representation of several species at different periods is frequently the subject of comment. Some species have sensibly increased at certain localities, while many have greatly decreased. The comparatively recent increase of the Starling, and its recent wide dispersal over parts of Scotland where it was formerly rare or unknown is noted at length. At present he says: "Except high up among the mountains and in out-of-the-way places, the distribution has become almost universal, and the time may not be far removed when the great armies will coalesce. Then, if I may continue to speak a little metaphorically — '*Then shall come the Deluge.*'"

'A Fauna of the Tay Basin' is prepared with the same care and vast amount of historic research that has characterized the previous volumes of this admirable series, with which it conforms in typographical execution, reflecting the good taste and liberality of Mr. David Douglas, the well-known publisher of this important series of faunal works. The illustrations are especially worthy of note. Eight of the photogravure plates are portraits of local naturalists of note; others show the nests or the nesting haunts of birds, or illustrate characteristic or interesting scenic features. The text illustrations are also photogravures and mostly views of lochs or

cliffs. The maps illustrate the invasion of the Little Auk in 1894-95; the dispersal of the nesting of the Starling and of the Tufted Duck, the Firth of Tay and adjoining region, and there is a general map of the Tay Basin and Strathmore, shaded to show relative elevation of the country.—
J. A. A.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Concilium Bibliographicum as a Bureau of Ornithological Information.

TO THE EDITORS OF 'THE AUK':—

Dear Sirs:—The Concilium Bibliographicum was founded in 1895 by the International Congress of Zoölogy for the purpose of recording in a permanent way all notices regarding zoölogy published since 1896. Every paper is entered on a bibliographical card, usually with a short statement of the contents, and these cards are most minutely classified. Thus a paper on the Limicolæ of Michigan, with notes on nesting and observations on albinism would receive four entries, Limicolæ, Fauna of Michigan, Nesting, and Coloration. If the paper contained descriptions of new forms, each of these would be noted on a separate card. The cards relating to new species are not as yet printed; but the others are supplied in any desired combination, *e. g.*, cards on the Fauna of Michigan, on Nesting or Bird-song, on Migration, on Coloration, or references to a given group of birds, as Limicolæ or Parrots.

A large portion of the expense of maintaining the Concilium is defrayed by the Swiss government. There is, however, a fee charged for every set of references, depending on the number of cards supplied. Soon after its foundation the Concilium was universally recognized as the central agency of the whole world for such work, and to-day there is no country participating in the scientific movement that does not receive cards, the total number annually distributed aggregating nearly one million.

There are, however, certain strange anomalies in the participation of various constituencies. The most singular fact is that American *ornithologists* have remained aloof. This circumstance paralyses all our efforts at improving this section of the work. We can not feel justified in attributing any large portion of our subsidies for preparing lists that are not used. Nevertheless, with the positive conviction that this is only a transient feature, we have for over ten years never wavered in prosecuting