

inconsistent rulings as to forms admitted or rejected. It is to be remembered, however, that the work was begun before subspecies had obtained general recognition, and before the 1758 edition of Linnæus had come to be so generally recognized as the proper date for the beginning of zoological nomenclature.

The method of treatment is briefly as follows: The principal bibliographical references and synonymy are cited for the species and genera; the distinctive characteristics of the genera are given, with a general statement respecting the number and distribution of the species; a Latin diagnosis or description is given of each species, followed by a brief statement of its distribution, and remarks on the general history of the species, its affinities and distinctive features, its geographical distribution, and often more or less is said about its haunts and habits, based largely on original field observations. The 'Introduction' (Vol. I, pp. v-xliv) gives a general history of the work; the limits of the region treated; the material on which the work is based and how and where it was collected; the faunal relations and characteristics of the region; a list of Mr. Salvin's more important papers on the birds of Central America; and tables of distribution for the families and species of the birds of Mexico and Central America (pp. xi-xxxvii).

While later works on the avifauna of the region here treated may supersede the 'Aves' of the 'Biologia,' from the points of view of nomenclature and classification, it will ever remain a classic in the ornithological literature of 'Middle America,' and an enduring monument to its authors.—
J. A. A.

Proceedings of the Fourth International Ornithological Congress.¹—

The Proceedings of the Fourth International Congress, held in London, June, 1905, forms a volume of nearly 700 pages, illustrated with eighteen plates, seven of them colored. A 'Record of Proceedings,' occupying pp. 9-89, is followed by the President's Address, by Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe, and thirty-eight papers read before the Congress. The 'Record of Proceedings' is not only a record of the meetings and excursions, but includes a summary of the discussions on the papers read.

The President's address (pp. 90-143) is an account of the origin and history of the Bird Collection in the British Museum. This is followed by a paper on 'What constitutes a Museum Collection of Birds?' (pp. 144-156), by Frank M. Chapman. This is practically an account of the orni-

¹ Proceedings | of the | Fourth International | Ornithological Congress | London June, 1905 | forming | Volume XIV of the "Ornis" | Edited | under the direction of the President: | R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL. D., | by | The Secretaries: | Ernest J. O. Hartert, Ph.D., and J. Lewis Bonhote, M. A. | With Eighteen Plates. | London: | Dulau & Co., | 37, Soho Square, W. | February, 1907. Large 8vo, pp. 1-696, pll. i-xviii, 7 colored. February, 1907.

thological department of the American Museum of Natural History. Several full-page half-tones illustrate the method of storage of the research collections, several of the larger bird groups, and one of the Museum's travelling 'School Collections.'

Little more can be given in this connection than the titles of the papers, which indicate the varied character of the subjects brought before the Congress, as follows: 'The Ornithological Correspondence of the late Professor Johann Friedrich Naumann, by Paul Leverkühn; 'On the Migration of Birds,' by Otto Herman; 'Sur un atlas des Planches coloriées de l' Ornithologie de Brisson attribué au peintre Martinet, provenant de la vente Alph. Milne-Edwards,' by Dr. Louis Bureau, followed by remarks by Alfred Newton; 'The First Bird List of Eber and Peucer (1549), and its Relation to the "Avium... Historia" of William Turner (1544),' by Henry Scherren; 'On Extinct and Vanishing Birds,' by Hon. Walter Rothschild (with 2 colored plates); 'Kaiseradler und Aasgeier am Horst,' by Paul Leverkühn; 'On some Antarctic Birds,' by Edward A. Wilson; 'Some Notes on the Hybridizing of Ducks,' by J. Lewis Bonhote (with 4 colored plates); 'The principal aims of Modern Ornithology,' by Ernest Hartert; 'Some ornithological results of the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition,' by W. S. Bruce; 'Vorthelle und Nachtheile moderner Arten- und Unterartenbeschreibung und Namengebung,' by Rudolf Blasius; 'Monographie de la Sterne de Dougall (*Sterna dougalli*),' by Dr. Louis Bureau (with map); 'Descriptions of new species and conspecies of Neotropical Birds,' by Hans Graf von Berlepsch (see below, p. 361); 'On the genus *Elenia* Sundev.,' by Hans Graf von Berlepsch (see below, p. 362); 'On the Birds of Madeira,' by Ernesto Schmitz; 'On the origin of the differences between Nestling Birds,' by W. P. Pycraft; 'Schlusstein zur Litteratur über *Erithacus cairii*,' by Hans Freiherr von Berlepsch, 'Studien über Tyranniden,' by Hans Graf von Berlepsch (see below, p. 362); 'La Perdrix grise des Pyrénées,' by Louis Bureau; 'Sequence in Moults and Plumages, with an explanation of Plumage-Cycles,' by Jonathan Dwight, Jr.; 'Remarques au sujet de certains oiseaux méconnus,' by Alphonse Dubois; 'On Variations in the Colouring of *Colymbus cristatus*, *C. griseigena*, and *C. nigricollis*, observed at the Lake of Velencez, in Hungary,' by Steven Chernel de Chernelháza; 'The Unusual Migration of Brännich's Murre (*Uria lomvia*) in Eastern North America,' by J. H. Fleming (see below, p. 359); 'Neuere Beobachtungen über den Herbstzug des Stares (*Sturnus vulgaris*),' by F. Helm; 'Die Pyrenäen und ihre Vogelwelt,' by R. Blasius; 'On Colour Variation in the Eggs of Palaearctic Birds,' by F. C. R. Jourdain; 'The Wild Birds Protection Acts as administered by Orders in Great Britain and Ireland,' by Sir Digby Pigot; 'Bird Legislation in Australia,' by Sir John Cockburn; 'The Rationale of Bird Protection,' by Frank E. Lemon; 'The Food of Birds,' by Otto Herman; 'Ornithologie économique. A propos d' études sur le Régime alimentaire des Oiseaux,' by Dr. Quinet; 'Note sur le Freux (*Corvus frugilegus* L.)

et son utilité au point de vue de l' Agriculture et de la Sylviculture,' by Fd. Visart de Bocarmé; 'The Sparrow! Is it useful or harmful to Agriculture?' by Igalí Svetozár; 'Étude sur la grosseur des grêlons dangereux pour les Oiseaux,' by Paul Martin; 'Notice sur l'opportunité de protéger la becasse au printemps,' by Louis Ternier; 'The Importance of Aviculture as an Aid to the Study of Ornithology,' by D. Seth-Smith.

In the account of the meeting held at Cambridge is an interesting list of books, letters, papers, and drawings exhibited in the Philosophical Library, with notes thereon by Professor Newton.—J. A. A.

Newton's 'Ootheca Wolleyana.'—The fourth and concluding part¹ of the 'Ootheca' comprises lots 4841–5918, in sequence, with Nos. 5919–6076 in a 'Supplement' of 'Corrections, Omissions, and Additions.' The nature of the work and the admirable manner of treatment having been previously stated,² it remains to record its completion and to note the matter in the 'Appendix,' which consist of a reprint of all the natural history publications of John Wolley, in chronological sequence, except the large amount of ornithological matter given *passim* in the 'Ootheca.' These papers are 56 in number, of which 14 relate to mammals, 26 to birds, 10 to reptiles and amphibians, 9 to insects, and 2 to 'miscellaneous,' and bear dates, 1845–1859.

Says the editor, in a 'Retrospective Note': "Thankful as I am at being able to complete this work, my feeling is rather of regret than satisfaction, for, owing to the length of time which has elapsed since the first part of it appeared, so few of Mr. Wolley's personal friends are left to see its conclusion, and this Catalogue is largely a record of ancient friendships. My only consolation is that the protracted delay has not been my own fault, as I can honestly say that whenever the cessation of more important duties gave me opportunity I resumed my labor of love, but again and again months — not to say, years — passed without such opportunity recurring. Furthermore, I may repeat, as I pointed out in the Introduction (Vol. I, p. iii), that the delay has not been without its advantages, by enabling me to make considerable additions to the Collection of great value and interest — many of them specimens wholly unattainable in

¹ Ootheca Wolleyana: | An illustrated Catalogue | of | the Collection of Birds' Eggs | formed by the late John Wolley, Jun., M. A., F. Z. S. | Edited from the original notes | by | Alfred Newton. | — | Part IV. Alca-Anseres: | with Supplement and Appendix. | — | London: | R. H. Porter, 7 Prince's Street, Cavendish Square. | M. CM. VII. | [Price £1 5s. net.] — 8vo, pp. i–iv, 385–665 + 1–96, i–vi, 3 pll. and map.

Title-page of the completed Volume II: Ootheca Wolleyana: | An illustrated Catalogue | of | the Collection of Birds' Eggs, | begun by the late | John Wolley, Jun., M. A., F. Z. S., | and continued with additions | by the Editor | Alfred Newton. | — | Vol. II. | — | London: | M. CM. V.–M. CM. VII. | [Sold by R. H. Porter, 7 Prince's Street, Cavendish Square.]

² For notice of Part III, see Auk, XXIII, Jan., 1906, p. 118. •