

and less to the subspecies, filled with pertinent and well-digested information. The nomenclature and general view-point is well up to date. Marginal headings clearly set off the topical divisions of the subject matter, adding clearness of arrangement without sacrifice of space. The work gives the impression of thoroughness and reliability,—in others words, appears to be an excellent hand-book of European Oölogy, the plates being good, and the typography all that need be desired. The work will comprise ten parts, with 140 colored plates.—J. A. A.

Hartert's 'Die Vögel der Paläarktischen Fauna,' Heft IV.¹—Part IV of this exceedingly useful work completes the Paridæ, includes the families Laniidæ, Ampelidæ, Brachypodidæ, and Campephagidæ, and begins the family "Muscicapidæ," which here includes the current families Sylviidæ, 'Timeliidæ,' and Turdidæ, the author stating that it is impossible to separate the families Muscicapidæ, Sylviidæ and Turdidæ. The Muscicapidæ (sens. strict.) are all included in the present part, and the account of *Phylloscopus* (Sylviidæ auct.) is begun. About half-a-dozen subspecies are characterized as new.

The method of treatment is, of course, the same as in the former parts, and has already been stated in notices of them in this journal.² The present part includes species and subspecies Nos. 630-795. The general criticisms made in our notices of previous parts are still applicable here, and need not be repeated. Attention, however, may be called to a few points which go to confirm them, as where (p. 394) it is said that "*Regulus satrapa* muss als Unterart von *Regulus regulus* betrachtet werden"; and where (p. 423) *Lanius borealis* is not only made a subspecies of *L. excubitor* but all the various forms of *L. ludovicianus*, it is also declared, must be regarded as subspecies of *L. excubitor*. In the key on p. 456, *Ampelis cedrorum* is given as a subspecies of *A. garrulus*! Such combinations give the author's point of view in regard to the matter of subspecies, and may well be borne in mind when other parts of the work are under consideration.

He adopts *Bombycilla Vieillot*, 1807, for the Waxwings in place of *Ampelis* Linné, 1766, remarking that through no process of elimination can *Ampelis* be retained for the Waxwings. The reasons for a ruling so contrary to current usage would be welcome, none being here stated.—J. A. A.

Beebe on the 'Owls of the Nearctic Region.'—The Eleventh Annual Report of the New York Zoölogical Society contains two ornithological papers, both by the Curator of Birds, Mr. C. William Beebe. The first

¹ Die Vögel | der paläarktischen Fauna. | Systematische Übersicht | der | in Europa, Nord-Asien und der Mittelmeerregion | vorkommenden Vögel. | Von | Dr. Ernst Hartet. | — | Heft IV. | — | Seite 385-512. | Mit 32 Abbildungen. | — | Berlin, | Verlag von R. Friedländer und Sohn. | Ausgegeben im März 1907.— 8vo, pp. 385-512. Preise 4 mark.

² Auk, XXI, pp. 95, 505, XXII, p. 428.

relates to the 'Owls of the Nearctic Region' (pp. 157-192, with numerous half-tone illustrations), and the second is a 'List of the Birds living in the New York Zoölogical Park, December 31, 1906' (pp. 193-212).¹ (See below, under 'Notes and News.') Mr. Beebe treats first of owls in general, their structure, relationships and adaptations; then especially of the owls of North America, by groups or genera, enumerating the species, their ranges, and their leading characteristics and ways of life. We here meet for the first time, we believe, the adoption of the generic name *Otus* for the Screech Owls, in place of *Megascops*, in accordance with a recent and as yet unpublished ruling of the A. O. U. Committee on Nomenclature.¹ J. A. A.

Woodruff's 'The Birds of the Chicago Area.'²—The territory here considered includes all of Cook and Du Page Counties and the northern part of Will County, Illinois, and the northern part of Lake County, Indiana, or "an area about 50 miles square." An introduction of 24 pages describes the topographic and climatic conditions of the region, certain localities of special interest, with comment on certain extralimital species, and on migration. Then follows the list, very fully annotated, including the citation of authorities for the rarer records; the manner of occurrence is stated, often with reference to former conditions when the species was more abundant. In this connection Mr. E. W. Nelson's 'Birds of North-eastern Illinois,' published in 1876, is drawn upon at length, with great advantage. A short paragraph is usually devoted to the general range of the species outside of Illinois, based mainly on the ranges given in the A. O. U. Check-List or Mr. Ridgway's 'Birds of North and Middle America.' The classification and nomenclature of the A. O. U. Check-List being avowedly followed, considerable space under each species is rather wastefully devoted to synonymy.

The list has evidently been prepared with great care and can hence be safely taken as authoritative. It contains a large amount of conveniently arranged information about the birds of the 'Chicago Area,' both past and present. The number of species listed is apparently not stated. An extended — probably nearly complete — bibliography, and separate indexes to the scientific and common names, fittingly close this very creditable piece of work. Nine of the twelve half-tone plates illustrate special features of the country; the other three give views from life of a Bonaparte's Gull, a young Black Tern, and the Belted Plover, with its nest and eggs.—J. A. A.

¹ See, however, Stone, Auk, XX, 1903, pp. 272-276.

² The Birds of the Chicago Area. By Frank Morley Woodruff. Chicago Academy of Natural Sciences. Bulletin No. VI of the Natural History Survey. Issued April 15, 1907.—Svo, pp. 1-221, with 12 half-tone plates. Price, 75 cents.