

purpose of awakening interest in nature study among the teachers of the city.

The same number of the 'Bulletin' records the capture of a Frigate Bird (*Fregata aquila*) on Sullivan Island, Charleston harbor, on October 20, 1906, which makes the second record of this species for South Carolina.— J. A. A.

**Shufeldt on the Osteology of the Tubinares.**<sup>1</sup>— Following a review of the literature of the general subject, are a few pages on the osteology of *Puffinus borealis*, with a half-tone figure of the skeleton, and a short discussion of the taxonomy and affinities of the Tubinares. The classification that seems to the author to be "natural" is the same as that given in Sharpe's 'Hand-List of Birds.'— J. A. A.

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#### NOTES AND NEWS.

ALFRED NEWTON, an Honorary Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at Cambridge, England, June 8, 1907, at the age of 78 years. Prof. Newton was born in Switzerland, June 11, 1829, of English parents, he being the fifth son of William Newton, formerly member of Parliament for Ipswich, and of Elizabeth (Milnes), daughter of Richard Slater Milnes, formerly member of Parliament for York. He was graduated B. A., in 1853, at Magdalen College, Cambridge, and later, as a traveling Fellow of the College (1854-1863), visited Lapland, Iceland, the West Indies, and North America, and in 1864 he visited Spitzbergen. He was elected professor of Zoölogy and Comparative Anatomy at Magdalen College in 1864, which position he held at the time of his death.

Professor Newton was one of the twenty original members of the British Ornithologists' Union, founded in November, 1858 at Magdalen College, Cambridge, which organization resulted in the establishment of a Quarterly Magazine of Ornithology, 'The Ibis,' the first volume of which was published in 1859, under the editorship of Dr. P. L. Sclater. The second series of 'The Ibis' (1865-1870) was edited by Newton; he also prepared the bibliographical matter for the 'Aves' of the 'Zoölogical Record' for the years 1864-1869, and was editor of the 'Zoölogical Record,' 1870-1872. His principal publications are 'The Zoölogy of Ancient Europe' (1862), the 'Ornithology of Iceland' (1863), 'Oötheca Wolleyana' (1864-1907), 'Zoölogy' (1874, 1894), 'Yarrell's British Birds' (4th ed.,

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<sup>1</sup> On the Osteology of the Tubinares. By R. W. Shufeldt. Amer. Nat., Vol. XLI, Feb. 1907, pp. 109-124.

Vols. I, II, 1871-1882), and 'A Dictionary of Birds' (1893-1896). The latter is made up largely of earlier contributions to the 'Encyclopædia Britannica,' here revised, often amplified, and brought down to date, with the assistance of several collaborators, as Dr. Gadow for the anatomical subjects and Dr. Lydekker for palæornithology. His minor contributions to the proceedings of various scientific societies and natural history journals are numerous and cover a wide range of ornithological subjects. His 'Dictionary of Birds,' however, is his enduring monument, and is the one ornithological work of greatest service to the greatest number. Newton's preëminent erudition in the field of ornithology, his excellent judgment in all matters bearing upon its history and development, and his unsurpassed clearness of exposition, are especially exemplified in the 'Dictionary,' the introduction to which is a critical review of the literature of ornithology of value for all time.

Professor Newton received medals from the Linnæan and Royal Societies of London, and served repeatedly as Vice-President of the Royal Society and of the Zoological Society, and was President of the Cambridge Philosophical Society. He took a deep interest in bird protection, first bringing the subject to the attention of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1868, and later securing the enactment of various Acts of Parliament for their protection. He was also chairman for many years of the British Association Committee on the Migration of Birds.

Doubtless few American ornithologists who have been in England have failed to visit Cambridge to make the acquaintance of this great master, who has won their respect, not to say affection, to a greater extent than any other foreign ornithologist. He was also a most genial and faithful correspondent. In a letter of his to the writer, dated 18 May, 1907, and thus written but three weeks before his death, he refers to himself as having been "more or less of an invalid" for the previous two months, but there is nothing to imply serious illness, or to arouse apprehension for the future. The news of his death by a cable dispatch from London thus came as a sad surprise.

THOMAS HENRY DOUGLASS, one of Illinois' best informed ornithologists, died at Los Angeles, Cal., April 2, 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Douglass left their home in Waukegan, Ill., in December to visit California, as they had done in several previous years. Mr. Douglass had a severe cold, and later heart trouble developed, which soon terminated fatally. He was 55 years old, and during the sixties and seventies did a good deal of active field work among the birds of Lake County, Illinois, securing many rare specimens of birds and eggs, which were then new to the State. Mr. Douglass conducted one of the largest nurseries in this country, his specialty being Conifers of every variety, which he raised from seeds and supplied the young trees to most of the other nurseries in the United States. He was a

thorough lover of nature, very modest and kind-hearted, and beloved by all who knew him.<sup>1</sup>—H. K. C.

THE A. O. U. Committee on the Nomenclature and Classification of North American Birds held a five days' session in Washington in April (April 18–25), at which satisfactory progress was made in settling the large number of cases that awaited its action preparatory to the publication of a new edition of the Check-List. A few questions, relating mainly to little known forms of birds, were necessarily deferred on account of lack of material, but all questions of nomenclature were practically cleared away, and only the preparation of the manuscript for the printer remains to be completed. This, however, is a serious undertaking, especially the part relating to the geographical ranges of the species and subspecies. The preliminary draft for this part, kindly undertaken for the Committee by Mr. Stone, is, however, well advanced, but the new Check-List as a whole will probably not be ready for the printer before the end of the present year.

It is an open secret that the new Check-List will differ materially in arrangement from former editions, through the adoption of a modern system of classification, and also otherwise through the elimination of the old concordance and the secondary references. The various propositions in reference to the character of the vernacular names, which have been suggested to the Committee, either publically in 'The Condor' or 'The Auk,' and also privately through correspondence, have been carefully and for the most part favorably considered, so that the changes that will be made in this respect will meet all of the essential objections that have been raised in reference to this important feature of the Check-List.

THE rapid development of the New York Zoölogical Park is emphasized by the Eleventh Annual Report of the Society (for the year 1906) recently issued. The satisfactory increase of all the departments, and the completion of many permanent improvements is noted, as also the good health and very low rate of mortality prevailing among the animals. The bird collection, at the close of the year 1906, "contained living examples of 26 orders of birds out of the total 31 orders," while the net increase over 1905 was 136 species and 549 specimens. The total number of specimens at the end of 1906 was 2104, representing 491 species, the birds of the United States being represented by about 170 species. Great advance has been made in labeling the collection with large descriptive labels, embracing maps showing the distribution of the species. The management, Director Hornaday, and his able corps of Curators, are entitled to the highest credit for developing a zoölogical park of the first rank in so short a period.

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[<sup>1</sup>See also an appreciative reference to Mr. Douglass in 'The Auk' for April, 1907, p. 122, in a paper by Mr. John F. Ferry on 'Ornithological Conditions in North-eastern Illinois,'—Ed.]

DURING the last year a considerable number of important bird groups have been added to the collections of the American Museum of Natural History, a more detailed account of which, with illustrations, may be given later. These include, among others, the Heath Hen, the Prairie Hen, the Sage Grouse, the Golden Eagle, the Sand Hill Crane, the Anhinga, the Farallone Cormorant, an Arizona Desert Group, and a new Brown Pelican Group. Material was gathered in April and May of the present year by Mr. Chapman in the Bahamas for a Man-o'-War Bird group and a Booby group, and in Georgia for an Egret group. He is now in the Saskatchewan region to secure material for a large group of marsh-breeding waterfowl, and later will visit the Canadian Rockies for material for groups of Alpine species.

MR. E. THOMPSON SETON, accompanied by Mr. Edward A. Preble of the U. S. Biological Survey, is spending the present season in the exploration of the region northeast of Lake Athabasca, with especial reference to the mammals and birds, and will doubtless add greatly to our knowledge of that little known area.

THE occurrence of an immense flock of Thick-billed Parrots (*Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha*), numbering from 700 to 1,000, in the Chiricahua Mountains, Arizona, in August, 1904, is recorded in 'The Condor' for July, 1907 (IX, p. 104) by Mr. Austin P. Smith, who believes that this species is not so casual in Arizona as has been supposed, but may be expected to occur "every few years or so" in the mountains of southern Arizona.

A NOTEWORTHY arrival at the Zoölogical Gardens in London is a collection of living South American Hummingbirds received May 27 last, through the liberality of Captain Albert Pam. Of a consignment of some fifty specimens, all from Venezuela, twenty arrived alive, representing four species.