

late been offered to the public as popular natural history. The colored plates and the photogravures are of a high grade of excellence, and the typography and general make-up of the work leave little ground for criticism.

The plan of treatment is as follows: (1) bibliographic references, restricted apparently to works which contain illustrations of the species under consideration; (2) vernacular names of the species, as known in the various countries comprised within its range; (3) description of the plumage, including its variations due to sex and age; (4) geographical distribution, with a map showing both summer and winter ranges; (5) life-history. The photogravure plates illustrate various attitudes of the bird assumed in courtship or in play, and also nestlings or young birds, and add greatly to the interest of the work. The account of the Grasshopper Warbler includes a long discussion of the theory of 'sexual selection,' for which his intimate studies of wild birds afford no support. He finds that the 'displays' of the male are by no means confined to the period of courtship. Under the Chiff-chaff the author discusses what he terms the "law of uniformity" in the behavior of birds, which "seems to extend to all the activities, whether referable to instinct or habit," but which does not prohibit variation in individual cases.—J. A. A.

NOTES AND NEWS.

LESLIE ALEXANDER LEE, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at Portland, Maine, May 20, 1908, in the 56th year of his age. He was professor of biology and geology at Bowdoin College since 1881, and at the time of his death was president of the Maine Ornithological Society and of the Portland Society of Natural History. Professor Lee was born at Woodstock, Vermont, September 24, 1852. He was the son of John Stebbins Lee, the first president of St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York, from which the younger Lee was graduated in 1872. He took a post-graduate course at Harvard, and went to Bowdoin College as instructor in natural history in 1876. He was connected for a time with the United States Fish Commission, and was chief of the scientific staff of the 'Albatros' on a collecting voyage for the Smithsonian Institution through the Strait of Magellan and up the Pacific coast to San Francisco in 1887. In 1891 he organized and directed the Bowdoin College Expedition to Labrador. He was also, at the time of his death, State Geologist of Maine, and Chief of the Maine Topographical Survey Commission, which he organized. His numerous scientific papers relate mainly to marine biology. He was, however, deeply interested in ornithology, tak-

ing an active part in the work of the Maine Ornithological Society, which he served four years as president. His death is a great loss to the Society, and to the scientific interests of the State.

EDWARD AUGUSTUS SAMUELS, well-known as the author of an 'Ornithology and Oölogy of New England,' published originally in 1867, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. John A. Barton, in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, May 27, 1908, at the age of nearly 72 years, he having been born in Boston, July 4, 1836, where the greater part of his life was spent. He was Assistant Secretary of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture and curator of the State collections of natural history from 1860 to 1880, and in 1885 was elected president of the Massachusetts Fish and Game Protective Association, which office he filled for seven years. His 'Ornithology and Oölogy of New England' passed through numerous editions, the title being changed in the fifth edition (1870) to 'The Birds of New England,' and though still printed from the original stereotype-plates, contained an Appendix of 70 pages of new matter. Although a compilation, the technical matter being taken from Baird's 'Birds of North America' (1858), and much other matter naturally from Wilson, Audubon, and Nuttall, it proved of great service as a popular work on the birds of the region treated, and for many years was the only one of its kind available. His 'Among the Birds,' a series of sketches for young folks, appeared in 1868, and was well adapted to interest young people in birds. He was also author of 'Mammalogy of New England,' 'With Fly-rod and Camera,' 'The Living World,' and other works of like character, and a frequent contributor to 'Forest and Stream,' and other journals devoted to natural history and field sports. An appreciative notice of Mr. Samuels, with a portrait, is given in 'Forest and Stream' for June 13, 1908.

IN APRIL last the A. O. U. Committee on Nomenclature and Classification of North American Birds held a four days' session in Washington, and took final action on practically all of the cases before it. Of the few still deferred, the greater part can doubtless be settled in time for inclusion in the new edition of the Check-List, which the Committee expects to have ready for the press in a few months. As the results of the Committee's work, not only during this session but for the past four years, are embodied in the Fourteenth Supplement to the Check-List, published in the present number of 'The Auk,' it is unnecessary to give further details here.

THE A. O. U. Revised Code of Nomenclature is now in press and will be issued next month. Many of the Canons have been more or less changed, usually by amplification without materially changing their purport or purpose; a few have been radically modified, chiefly by the adoption of the new 'Article 30' of the International Code of Zoölogical Nomenclature, which relates to the method of determining the types of genera. Copies

of the 'New Code' may be obtained on application to the Treasurer, Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., 134 West 71st Street, New York City. Price, 50 cents.

MR. ROBERT RIDGWAY, whose departure for Costa Rica was announced in the last number of 'The Auk' (p. 248), returned in safety to this country about the middle of May. Although his visit was not as prolonged as originally intended, Mr. Ridgway succeeded, with the coöperation of his friends, in collecting over 900 birds, besides other material. His collecting stations were chiefly Escasú, at the base of the Cerro de la Candelaria; Guayabo, at the eastern base of the Volcan Turrialba; also at an altitude of over 9,000 feet on the volcano itself; and at Bonilla, east of Guayabo. Owing to the extreme dryness of the plateau districts of the interior, and of the western part of the country, several projected trips, notably one to Mount Turubales, were abandoned, there having been no rain since September of last year.

Mr. Ridgway attributes much of the success of his visit to the untiring efforts of his friend Mr. Zeledon, who outfitted a party in charge of Don Paco Basulto for a difficult journey into the Santa Maria de Dota and Cerro de la Muerte districts. This party started early in May, and the results of its explorations are expected to prove of great interest. It was Mr. Ridgway's intention to personally visit the Cerro de la Muerte region, but owing to the difficulties of travel he was obliged to forego it. Mr. Zeledon thereupon took steps to have collections made there, and a party was at once placed in the field.

After unpacking his Costa Rican spoils, Mr. Ridgway will resume work on the fifth part of his 'Birds of North and Middle America.' — C. W. R.

MR. FRANK M. CHAPMAN'S trip to southern Florida (see *antea*, p. 249) for material for additional bird groups for the American Museum of Natural History was eminently successful, material being obtained for the construction of large 'habitat groups' of several of the Egrets and Herons, the White Ibis, and the Roseate Spoonbill. On the way down he made a visit to the Indian River Pelican colony on Pelican Island and secured a large number of cinematograph, or 'moving,' pictures of the birds, and also many colored photographs of them and, later, of Herons and Spoonbills. A large series of further 'habitat groups' are now in process of construction at the Museum, some of which we hope to illustrate in a later number of this Journal.