

from Esquimaux Point to Natashquan (pp. 103-130), Three Modern Cartwrights (pp. 130-148), The Montagnais Indians (pp. 149-179), Wings and Feet in the Air and under Water (pp. 180-205), Some Labrador Trees (pp. 206-219), Some Labrador Rivers (pp. 220-250). Much of the ornithological matter had previously appeared in 'The Auk' (for April and July, 1909, and April, 1910), but the incidental and special references to individual species of birds which occur throughout the narrative portions of the work impart an ornithological flavor to much of the general text, while the nature lover and general reader will find throughout the volume matter of exceptional interest, presented in a spirit of sympathetic appreciation. The work is based on a five weeks trip in May and June, 1909, for recreation and study, and the author has been successful in rendering available to his readers a large share of the pleasure and intellectual profit of the journey. The fifty-six half-tone illustrations add greatly to the interest of the work, which is a worthy successor to the author's 'Along the Labrador Coast.' — J. A. A.

#### Hartert on the Proper Names of Various Species of British Birds.<sup>1</sup>

— British conservatism in matters of technical nomenclature, especially in reference to British species of birds, has been incidentally the subject of remark in this journal on several recent occasions, in reviews of works dealing with British birds. Dr. Hartert, in the present paper, however, confines his attention to a few special cases, namely the correct names of White's Thrush, the Song Thrush and Redwing, the Black-throated and Eared Wheatears, the Black Redstart, British Wrens, British Dippers, and the generic names of the British Swallow and House Martin.

On grounds of priority, it is shown that the name of White's Thrush should be *Turdus aureus* and not *T. varius*; the Song Thrush should be called *Turdus musicus* (not *T. iliacus*) and the Redwing *T. philomelos* Brehm, and the British form of this species *T. philomelos clarkei* Hartert. The Black-throated and Eared Wheatears are declared to be only dimorphic forms of the same species; and that while hitherto known respectively as *Saxicola stapazina* and *S. aurita*, the proper name for the species is *S. hispanica* (Linn., 1758).

The name of the Black Redstart is changed from *Ruticilla tithys* to *Phœnicurus ochrurus gibraltariensis*, since *Phœnicurus* antedates *Ruticilla*, and the British form is a subspecies of the Caucasian *P. ochrurus*. The name *tithys* usually employed for the British bird, was based on a female of the Common Redstart (*P. phœnicurus*).

The British Wrens are considered referable to the genus *Troglodytes*, *Nannus* Billberg being regarded as too slightly different to be entitled to generic separation. Three British subspecies of *N. troglodytes* are recognized, and also two British subspecies of the Dipper.

<sup>1</sup> Notes on Various Species of British Birds. By Ernst Hartert. British Birds, Vol. IV, No. 5, October 1, 1910, pp. 129-136.

The question of the generic names of the Swallows is of more than local interest. Hartert accepts Forster's division of the Linnæan genus *Hirundo*, namely, *Chelidon* for *H. rustica*, *Riparia* for *H. riparia*, and *Hirundo* for *H. urbica*, as was done by the A. O. U. Nomenclature Committee in 1886 and 1895. Later Sharpe assumed that Schæffer, in 1774, fixed the type of *Hirundo* as *H. rustica*, which view was later accepted by numerous authorities, including the A. O. U. Committee. Only within the last few months, however, has the present writer had an opportunity to examine Schæffer's work, and his treatment of the genus *Hirundo*. A careful study of this work makes it evident to us that he did not, in any true or acceptable sense, fix the type of *Hirundo* or of any other genus.—J. A. A.

**Gladstone's 'The Birds of Dumfriesshire.'**<sup>1</sup>—The avifauna of Dumfriesshire numbers 218 indigenous species, of which 56 are given as "very rare or accidental visitors," while 29 others are entered as of doubtful occurrence; 10 others are included as introduced species. The author has followed the classification and nomenclature of Howard Saunders, except in the case of geographical races, where trinomials and the nomenclature of Dr. E. Hartert are employed.

It is a very comprehensive work in all that relates to the manner of occurrence of the species of birds in Dumfriesshire. The general character of the presence of each is summarized in a line or two of small heavy-faced type as a sort of heading to the detailed account which immediately follows, with references in footnotes to the authorities on which the various statements in the text rest, when not based on the personal knowledge of the author.

The introduction includes short biographies of the ornithologists of Dumfriesshire (pp. xxv–xlii), a list of correspondents who have assisted the author in the work, an extended bibliography (pp. xlix–lxiii), a sketch of the physical features and climate of Dumfriesshire (pp. lxxv–lxxvii), a few pages on bird migration as observed in the county, two pages on 'flight-nets' as used by fishermen in capturing wild-fowl, six pages on bird protection (including "The Wild Birds Protection Order" of 1908 for the County of Dumfries), a few pages of "local misnomers and names," and three pages on the number of species recorded for Dumfriesshire, and the method of their treatment in the 'Birds of Dumfriesshire,' which occupy the rest of the volume (pp. 1–472). The illustrations include, besides a large folding map of the county (printed in colors to show contours of altitude), twenty-four finely executed half-tone plates, representing

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<sup>1</sup> The Birds of Dumfriesshire | a contribution to the Fauna of the Solway Area | By | Hugh S. Gladstone | M. A., F. Z. S., F. R. S. E., M. B. O. U. | President of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History | and Antiquarian Society. | With illustrations from photographs | by | Messrs. D. Legard, F. Barber-Starkey, the Author | and others, and a map. | Witherby & Co. | 326 High Holborn London | 1910 — 8vo, pp. xcix + 482, 24 half-tone plates, and a folded map. Edition, 350 numbered species. 25s. net.