

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.

scenic features of the county, nests and eggs, and birds from life or from historic specimens. The volume is beautifully printed on heavy unglazed paper, and forms an attractive and important addition to the series of works relating to local faunas in the British Isles.— J. A. A.

**Report on the Immigration of Summer Residents in England and Wales in the Spring of 1909.**<sup>1</sup>— This is the Report (the fifth of the series) of the Committee of the British Ornithologists' Club on the spring immigration of the summer resident birds into England and Wales in the spring of 1909, and on migratory species observed in the Autumn of 1908. In respect to the species reported upon and in form of treatment the present report conforms closely to its predecessors, previously noticed in this journal, although containing about one third more pages, due mainly to a fuller treatment of the autumn records. The stream of spring migrants, while "fairly continuous," was at its height from the 9th of April to the 13th of May, with the usually large 'waves.' "The main immigration took place on the 9th, 17th and 25th of April, and on the 2nd-5th, 10th and 13th of May, the largest on the 17th of April, when the arrival of at least twenty species was observed."— J. A. A.

**Beetham's 'The Home-Life of the Spoonbill, the Stork and Some Herons.'**— This is the second volume<sup>2</sup> of the "Home-Life" series, published by Witherby & Co., the first being Macpherson's 'The Home-Life of a Golden Eagle,' already noticed in these pages (Auk, XXVII, Jan. 1910, pp. 101, 102). The present volume treats of the Spoonbill, the White Stork, the Common Heron, and the Purple Heron. These four species were carefully studied and photographed from screens or blinds erected near nests, and the text and accompanying beautiful illustrations are an important contribution to the life histories of these species. The author takes us to the haunts of these birds, without however telling us just where he found them, but the setting and the allusions indicate, at least for three of the species, the marshes of Holland.

Of the Spoonbill the author says: "The manner of feeding was quite distinct from that of the cormorant-like birds, where the young thrust their heads far down their parents' distended gullets, for here the food was regurgitated into the top of the throat and the trough at the base of the lower mandible, whence the young could pick it out without their heads

<sup>1</sup> Report on the Immigration of Summer Residents in the Spring of 1909: also Notes on the Migratory Movements and Records received from Lighthouses and Light Vessels during the Autumn of 1908. By the Committee appointed by the British Ornithologists' Club. = Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club, Vol. XXVI, October, 1910. Edited by W. R. Ogilvie-Grant. 8vo, pp. 347.

<sup>2</sup> The Home-Life of the | Spoonbill | the Stork and some Herons | Photographed and described | by | Bentley Beetham, F. Z. S. | With thirty-two mounted Plates | London Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, W. C. | MCMX.— Large 8vo., pp. viii + 47, with 32 plates. 5s.