

**The Ornithological Journals.**—As many of the ornithological journals, especially those published in foreign countries, are seen by but a comparatively small proportion of the readers of 'The Auk,' it seems that a brief résumé of their contents would be a desirable addition to each installment of RECENT LITERATURE. In accordance with this idea, the titles of the more important papers, beginning with January 1, 1912, will be given, followed in some instances by a few words of comment. Purely local articles in foreign journals as well as minor notes, etc., will be omitted while matter relating directly or indirectly to North American ornithology or general bird-study will be given especial attention. In this way readers may learn of papers dealing with subjects of special interest to them of which they would otherwise fail to hear. This plan will not, of course, interfere with the more extended reviews under separate headings of important excerpts received from the authors, which will be continued as heretofore.

**Bird Lore.** Vol. XIV, No. 1. January–February, 1912.

My experience with Von Berlepsch Nesting-boxes. By F. H. Kennard.

A Glimpse into the Life History of the Turkey Vulture. By R. W. Williams.

A Myrtle Warbler Nest. By William Pepper.

Twelfth Christmas Bird Census — 217 lists!

Illustrations, Migrations, and Plumages of the Crossbill. In the series on North American Sparrows.

The White Egrets. By T. G. Pearson. Educational Leaflet No. 54, with two colored plates.

**The Condor.** Vol. XIV, No. 1. January–February, 1912.

The Shore Birds of Santa Barbara. By J. H. Bowles and A. B. Howell.—With interesting photographs of Phalaropes.

Through Tahoean Mountains. By M. S. Ray.

A Visit to Nootka Sound. By H. S. Swarth.

Some Birds of Southwestern Montana. By A. A. Saunders — Annotated list of 149 species.

Birds of a Mohave Desert Oasis. By Chester Lamb — 134 species found near Daggett, California.

**The Ibis.** IX Series. Vol. VI, No. 21. January, 1912.

On the Birds collected by Mr. Claude H. B. Grant at various Localities in South Africa. By W. L. Selater with Field Notes by the Collector (Concluded).

Notes on the Ornithology of Corsica, Part III. By Rev. Francis C. R. Jourdain.

On the Birds of Mauritius. By Capt. R. Meinertzhagen.—Fifteen of the native species are now protected by law.

On some newly described Birds of Paradise, and some Undescribed Eggs of the same Group. By Hon. Walter Rothschild.—*Pardigalla brevicauda* Rothschild & Hartert figured.

On the Eggs of certain Birds-of-Paradise. By W. R. Ogilvie-Grant.—

Refers to the wonderful aviaries of Mr. E. J. Brook at Hoddam Castle where there were living at one time twenty-three species of Paradise and Bower Birds and where two have nested.

Descriptions of two new Species and a new Genus of Australian Birds. By Alfred J. North — *Neositta mortoni*, *Alcyone ramsayi* and *Trichodere* nov. gen. for *Ptilotis cockerelli* Gould.

Field-Notes on a Collection of Birds from the Mediterranean. By Commander H. Lynes. With Systematic Notes by H. F. Witherby.— The nomenclature of this paper seems strangely out of place on the conservative pages of 'The Ibis.' Trinomials are used throughout but while the editors allow such names as *Emberiza calandra calandra* and *Chloris chloris aurantiiventris*, they take pains to explain in foot-notes that they are unable to permit such a name as *Petronia petronia petronia* and have stricken out one of the repetitions!

Under 'Letters and Notes.' Mr. Mathews makes another appeal to the B. O. U. for the rejection of Brissonian Genera and for the transference of *Saxicola* from the Wheatear to the Chats (*Pratincola*). In the latter case he seems to entirely overlook the fact that the International Code does not recognize type fixing by restriction except where a genus consists of but two species (opinion 6). The first actual designation of a type for *Saxicola* is by Gray, 1841, who designated *S. oenanthe*.

**Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.** No. CLXXV.

Hon. Walter Rothschild describes a new Cassowary, *Casuarus keysseri* and discusses the relationships of the thirty species and subspecies now known, of which by the way he has described exactly one half. There was a general exhibition and discussion of Capercaillie, Black Grouse and Pheasants in which males were assuming female plumage and vice versa. Mr. Witherby regarded the abnormal feathers as not exactly like those of the opposite sex and suggested that the cause was probably not related to the sexual organs. Mr. Pycraft thought that "the assumption of female plumage by males was due to a lack of 'tone' or vitality at the time of moulting."

**Journal für Ornithologie.** LX. Heft. 1, January, 1912. Studies on the Avifauna of Emsland. Dr. Edwin Detmers.

The Distribution of the Genus *Emberiza*. Dr. H. Duncker. With maps showing lines of dispersal of the various groups of species.

**The Zoologist.** No. 847. January 15, 1912.

The Prehistoric Origin of the Common Fowl. By Fredk. J. Stubbs and A. J. Rowe.

**The Emu.** January, 1912. Vol. XI, Part 3.

Eleventh Session of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union.

Bush Birds of New Zealand. By J. C. McLean. Part III.

Relative Dimensions of Red Blood Cells of Vertebrates, especially of Birds. By J. Burton Cleland and F. Harvey Johnston.

Avifauna of New South Wales Islands. By A. F. Basset Hull. Part II.

Bird-Life in the Riverina. By Capt. A. S. White.

**British Birds.** January 1, 1912. Vol. V, No. 8.

Dr. L. Bureau's work on the Partridge. By N. F. T.—A review in English of this recent volume which comprises probably the most detailed study of molt in live birds that has yet appeared.

The North American Peregrine in Lincolnshire and Leicestershire. By G. H. Eaton Haigh.

**British Birds.** February 1, 1912. Vol. V, No. 9.

Breeding and "Eclipse" Plumages of the Common Partridge. By W. R. Ogilvie-Grant.—A phase not hitherto recorded, perhaps analogous to one of the plumages of the Ptarmigan.

**The Avicultural Magazine.** Vol. III. No. 3. January, 1912.

A Roccolo in Italy by Hubert D. Astley.—An interesting account of the device for catching migrating birds.

The Blue Robin [!] *Sialia sialis*. By Catharine Currey.—An account of our Bluebird as a cage bird.

A Jay New to Aviculture, *Calocitta lidthii* Hubert D. Astley.—It is but a few years ago that this rare Loo Choo *Garrulus* was known only from Bonaparte's description. This is probably the first time that it has been placed in the genus *Calocitta*!

**The Avicultural Magazine.** Vol. III. No. 4. February, 1912.

Some Notes on the Secretary Bird. By Major Horsbrugh and W. H. St. Quentin.—Habits of wild and captive birds.

Notes on a Storm Petrel in Captivity. By C. B. Ticehurst.—The bird *Procellaria pelagica*, always stood on the entire tarsi, only rising on the toes when flapping the wings at the beginning of flight.

**Publications Received.**—**Beebe**, C. William and Crandall, Lee, S. The Undescribed Juvenal Plumage of the Yucatan Jay. Zoölogical Scientific Contributions of the New York Zoological Society, Vol. I, No. 7, 1911.

**Bent**, A. C. Notes on Birds Observed During a Brief Visit to the Aleutian Islands and Bering Sea in 1911. (Smithson. Misc. Coll. 56, No. 32, 1912.)

**Berlepsch**, Hans Graf von. Beschreibung neuer Vogelformerans dem Gebiete des unteren Amazonas. (Ornith. Monatsberichte Februarheft 1912, pp. 17-21.)

**Berlepsch**, Hans Graf von. Revision der Tanagriden. (Bericht über den V. Internationalen Ornithologen-Kongress, Berlin, 1910, pp. 1001-1161.)

**Campbell**, A. J. A History of Australian Ornithological Research. (Emu, XI, Pt. 3, 1912, pp. 153-157.)

**Goldman**, E. A. A New Kingfisher from Panama. (Smithson. Misc. Coll. 56, No. 27, 1911.)

**Hellmayr**, C. E. Description de Trois Nouvelles Espèces d'Oiseaux des Familles de Dendrocolaptides et Formicariides. (Rev. Francaise d'Orn. Nos. 24 et 24 bis 1911.)

- Hellmayr, C. E.** A Contribution to the Ornithology of Western Colombia. (Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1911, pp. 1084-1213.)
- Hellmayr, C. E.** Ueber neue und seltene Vögel aus Südperu. (Verhandl. Ornith. Gesells. in Bayern XI, 1912, pp. 159-163.)
- Hellmayr, C. E.** und Seilern, Josef Graf von. Beschreibung eines neuen Dendrocolopitiden aus Venezuela. (Verhandl. Ornith. Gesells. in Bayern XI, 1912, pp. 157-158.)
- Henshaw, H. W.** Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey for 1911. (Ann. Rep. U. S. Dept. Agr.)
- Mearns, E. A.** Description of Seven New African Grass-Warblers of the genus *Cisticola*. (Smithson. Misc. Coll., 56, No. 25, 1911.)
- Mearns, E. A.** Description of a New Species of Sunbird, *Helionympha raineyi*, from British East Africa. (Smithson. Misc. Coll. 56, No. 28, 1911.)
- Nelson, E. W.** Description of two new species of Nun Birds from Panama. (Smithson. Misc. Coll., 56, No. 37, 1912.)
- Parkin, Thomas.** The Great Auk. A Record of Sales of Birds and Eggs by Public Auction in Great Britain 1806-1910. (Hastings and East Sussex Naturalist Extra Paper to Pt. 6, Vol. I). Hastings, Burfield & Pennells Ltd. 1911. Price, 2 shillings.
- Pycraft, W. P.** A History of Birds. Methuen & Co. London. 1910. 10 s. 6 d. net.
- Ridgway, Robert.** The Birds of North and Middle America. Part V., Bull. 50, U. S. Nat. Mus., 1911.
- Slater, W. L.** A History of the Birds of Colorado. Witherby & Co. London. 1912. \$5.
- Shufeldt, R. W.** American Wild Fowl I-II. (Amateur Sportsman, Jan.-Feb., 1912.)
- Shufeldt, R. W.** Study of Birds' Eggs. (Emu, XI, Pt. 3, 1912.)
- Swarth, H. S.** Report on a Collection of Birds and Mammals from Vancouver Island. (Univ. of California Publ., Zoology, X, No. 1, pp. 1-124. Feb. 13, 1912.)
- Taylor, W. P.** Field Notes on Amphibian, Reptiles and Birds of Northern Humboldt County, Nevada. (Univ. of California Publ., Zoology, VII, No. 10, pp. 319-436, Feb. 14, 1912.)
- Townsend, Charles W.** Captain Cartwright and his Labrador Journals. Boston, Dana Estes & Co., 8vo. 1911.
- Wallace, John H., Jr.** Alabama Bird Day Book. Issued by the Department of Game and Fish. 1912.
- Abstract Proc. Zool. Soc. London, No. 104, 1912.**
- Animals, Friend XVIII, No. 4, January, 1912.**
- Austral Avian Record, I, No. 1.**
- Avicultural Magazine, (3) III, Nos. 3-5, Jan.-Mar., 1912.**
- Bird-Lore, XIV, No. 1, Jan.-Feb., 1912.**
- British Birds, V. No. 8-10, Jan.-Mar., 1912.**
- Bulletin Charleston Museum VIII, No. 3, Mar., 1912.**
- Cassinia, No. XV, 1911 (Mar., 1912).**

- Condor**, The, XIV, No. 1, Jan.-Feb., 1912.  
**Emu**, The, XI, Part 3, Jan., 1912.  
**Forest and Stream**, LXXVIII, Nos. 1-12, 1912.  
**Ibis**, The (9) VI, No. 21, Jan., 1912.  
**Journal Maine Orn. Soc.**, XIII, No. 4, Dec., 1911.  
**Messenger Ornithologique**, No. 1, 1912.  
**Oologist**, The, XXIX, Nos. 1-3, Jan.-Mar., 1912.  
**Ornithologische Monatsschrift**, XXXVI, No. 12, December, 1911.  
**Philippine Journal of Science**, VI, Nos. 4-5, Aug.-Nov., 1911.  
**Proceedings Acad. Nat. Sci.**, Philadelphia, LXIII, Pt. 3, 1911.  
**Records of the Australian Museum**, IX, No. 2, Oct., 1911.  
**Revista Italiana di Ornitologia**, I, 1-2, July-Dec., 1911 (Nov., 1911).  
**Science**, N. S., XXXV, Nos. 888-899, 1912.  
**Wilson Bulletin**, XXIV, No. 5, Mar., 1912.  
**Zoölogist**, The (4) XVI, No. 181, Jan., 1912.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

### The Photography of Birds' Eggs.

TO THE EDITOR OF 'THE AUK':—

*Dear Sir:*—A number of years ago I published several articles on my methods of photographing the eggs of birds, and at that time the subject was attracting considerable attention. Mr. Henry E. Dresser, then engaged upon his *Eggs of the Birds of Europe*, sent me several of his colored plates of eggs for my criticism with respect to the selection of backgrounds. They were the most beautiful things of the kind I had ever seen, and, in fact, I had one or two of them framed for my study. Besides being far ahead of my own achievements in that line, they were elegantly colored and true to nature. Mr. Dresser never wrote me how he made his photographs of birds' eggs, which latter, as we know, stand among the most difficult of all small, inanimate objects representing biological material that the naturalist seeks to obtain photographs of for illustrative purposes. Some ten or fifteen years ago, when I first undertook to photograph birds' eggs, the success I met with was only partial. In those days I used to stick the blown eggs on to a vertical pane of glass with a piece of soft wax. Care was taken that the glass was free from all blemishes (air-bubbles, etc.), and the eggs could be arranged as desired and as they were to appear in the photograph for reproduction and publication. A background of any selected kind was firmly fixed at a proper distance behind the glass and in a plane parallel to it. In setting up the camera to make the exposures, it was done so that the visual axis or line passing through the lens was perpendicular to these planes, and at a middle point of the egg or eggs to be photographed.