

main, accurate and well expressed. He evidently has a keen ear, and in putting bird music on paper has been more successful than many of his predecessors. He knows how to use both gun and glass, and has the good sense never to trust the latter in matters of identification.

His careful descriptions of the physical features of several localities where much of his field work has been done contribute largely to the interest and importance of the biographies that follow. The accounts of the Ducks that frequent Niagara River and Lake Ontario contain much that is new; and attention is directed to the little-known habit of the Canada Goose of foraging in wheat-fields.

Concerning the breeding of the White-bellied Swallow on the Mud Islands in Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, he says: "I saw the nests of this species on the ground under flat stones, and in holes in the ground. They were elegantly lined with the feathers of the Herring Gull and of the Eider Duck, the feathers being so laid that the tips curved upward and nearly concealed the eggs."

His personal observations on the Horned Lark, the Butcher Bird, and many other species are full of interest and are written in a free and pleasing style. He has heard the rich night-song of the Ovenbird, and his heart has been stirred by the unspeakable melody of the Hermit Thrush. Indeed, he is a real lover of nature, and the reviewer, though forced to mention certain errors and omissions, is still in deep sympathy with much of the author's narrative.—C. H. M.

Stejneger on the Wrens of the Subgenus *Anorthura*.*—A synopsis of the various forms is given, with their synonymy. Six species and two subspecies are recognized, as follows: (1) *Troglodytes borealis*, (2) *T. parvulus*, (2a) *T. parvulus bergensis* (subsp. nov.), (3) *T. pallescens* (sp. nov.), (4) *T. alascensis*, (5) *T. hiemalis*, (5a) *T. hiemalis pacificus*, (6) *T. fumigatus*. The paper has special reference to Mr. Seebohm's treatment of the same group in his 'History of British Birds,' by whom all the known forms of *Anorthura* are degraded to subspecies of the European *T. parvulus*.—J. A. A.

Stejneger on the Ptarmigans of the Group *Attagen*.†—This paper embodies the results of Dr. Stejneger's extended and careful investigation of this difficult group of birds—more difficult than almost any other, owing to their nearly continuous moult, and to the scarcity of material collected at corresponding seasons of the year, and properly authenticated as to date of collection. The conclusions here reached are to some extent tentative, and the author appeals for further aid in the way of material. The species and subspecies recognized are as follows: (1) *Lagopus muta*,

* Ueber einige Formen der Untergattung *Anorthura*. By Leonhard Stejneger. Zeitschrift für die gesammte Ornithologie, I, pp. 7-14, Feb., 1884.

† A Brief Review of the Lagopodes belonging to the Group *Attagen* Kaup. By Leonhard Stejneger. Zeitsch. für die gesammte Ornithologie, I, pp. 86-92, pl. v.

Scandinavia; (1a) *L. muta vulgaris*, the Alps of Southern Europe, the Pyrenees, and probably Scotland; (2) *L. ridgwayi*, Commander Islands; (3) *L. hyperborea*, Spitzbergen; (4) *L. islandorum*, Iceland; (5) *L. rupestris*, Arctic America and the Siberian tundras; (5a) *L. rupestris reinhardtii*, Greenland; (5b) *L. rupestris nelsoni*, Unalashka; (5c) *L. rupestris atkhensis*, Atkha (Alutian Islands); (6) *L. leucura*, Rocky and Cascade Mountains. The synonymy and distinctive characters of each form are briefly given. The paper is here and there marred by typographical errors, for which the author is doubtless not responsible.—J. A. A.

Stejneger on New Species of Birds from Kamtschatka and the Commander Islands.*—These are: (1) *Pica camtschatica*, (2) *Corvus grebnitzskii*, (3) *Alauda blakistoni*, (4) *Dendrocopos immaculatus*, (5) *Lagopus ridgwayi*—all closely allied to species of Siberia or Japan.

Stejneger on Recent Ornithological Publications in the United States.†—This is a carefully annotated list of all the more important works and papers published in the United States between January 1, 1883, and May 1, 1884, and numbers about 65 titles. The remarks about each are sufficient to indicate the general scope and character of the papers and works mentioned.—J. A. A.

Merriam on a Bird New to the Bermudas, etc.‡—The Song Sparrow (*Melospiza fasciata*) is added to the species of birds previously recorded from these islands, and there are observations on three other species met with there, namely, *Pyranga rubra*, *Pelionetta perspicillata*, and *Cymochorea leucorrhoea*.—J. A. A.

Shufeldt on the Osteology of *Ceryle alcyon*.§—This is another of Dr. Shufeldt's carefully prepared osteological memoirs, and is devoted, as the title indicates, to the osteology of our common Belted Kingfisher. The osteological characters of the bird are fully detailed, and its structure compared with that of allied forms. The paper is illustrated by an excellent plate, and figures in the text of the skull of *Alcedo isipida*.—J. A. A.

* Diagnoses of New Species of Birds from Kamtschatka and the Commander Islands. By Leonhard Stejneger. Proc. Biolog. Soc. of Washington, II, pp. 97-98. (Separates issued April 10, 1884.)

† Die wichtigsten ornithologischen Publicationen aus den Vereinigten Staaten vom 1. Januar 1883 bis 1. Mai 1884. Von Leonhard Stejneger. Zeitsch. für die gesammte Ornithologie, I, pp. 179-189, 1884.

‡ On a Bird new to the Bermudas, with notes upon several other species of rare or accidental occurrence in these Islands. By Clinton Hart Merriam, M.D. Bull. No. 25, U. S. National Museum, pp. 283, 284, 1884.

§ Osteology of *Ceryle alcyon*. By R. W. Shufeldt, Captain Med. Corps, U. S. Army. [etc.]. Journ. of Anat. and Physiol., XVIII, pp. 279-294, pl. xiv.



Stejneger, Leonhard and Stejneger, Leonhard. 1885. "Stejneger on the Ptarmigans of the Group Attagen." *The Auk* 2, 94-95.

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