

'02, which has furnished the basis for two papers, the first, entitled 'Field Notes on some Bahama Birds,' published recently in the 'Avicultural Magazine' (see Auk, *antea*, pp. 230, 231), and the second, here under notice, giving a formal list of the 104 species collected and notes on a few others observed but not taken.

A list of the specimens secured of each species is given, with the date and locality of capture, with, in some cases, quite extended notes on their habits and history as Bahama birds. There is some critical comment on a number of the species, particularly of the genus *Geothlysis*, but his remarks are not especially convincing to those who have reached opposite conclusions through better facilities for investigation. He claims to have added four species to the Bahama list, but one of them (*Nycticorax naevius*) was long since recorded by the late Dr. Northrop in an important paper on 'The Birds of Andros Island, Bahamas' (Auk, VIII, 1891, pp. 64-80), which Mr. Bonhote appears to have overlooked, as it is not cited in his references to previous authors. The paper contains much new and interesting information respecting the birds of the Bahamas and is thus a most welcome contribution to the subject.—J. A. A.

Sherborn's 'Index Animalium.'¹—Some ten or more years ago Mr. Sherborn entered upon the almost overwhelming task of compiling a list of the genera and species of animals, both living and extinct. An undertaking of such magnitude and importance quickly attracted the attention of prominent naturalists in England, and liberal support was received from the British Association, under whose auspices chiefly the work has been continued. The British Museum and other libraries, appreciating the exhaustive bibliographical researches involved, profited by Mr. Sherborn's knowledge of books in adding to their shelves many of the works not previously accessible in England. Through the intelligent coöperation of these libraries Mr. Sherborn has been enabled to consult practically all of the zoölogical literature from 1758 to 1800, his '*libri desiderati*' consisting mainly of unimportant works.

In view of the long time required to bring the list up to date, it was thought well to place a portion of it in the hands of zoölogists without delay, and to this end the part dealing with names published from 1758 to the close of the eighteenth century was issued late in 1902. This installment comprises a thick volume of over 1200 pages, containing nearly 60,000 entries, of which about one twelfth relate to birds.

¹ Index Animalium | sive | Index nominum quae ab A. D. MDCCLVIII | Generibus et Speciebus Animalium | imposita sunt | Societatibus eruditorum adiuvantibus | a | Carolo Davies Sherborn | confectus | sectio prima | a kalendis ianuariis, MDCCLVIII | usque ad finem Decembris, MDCCC | Cantabrigiae | E Typographio Academico | MDCCCII—Roy. Svo, pp. i-lix; 1-1195. Price 25 s., net.

The general plan of the work is excellent, the arrangement of names being alphabetical throughout, with the genera distinguished from species by means of capital initials. At the end of the main list the species are again grouped alphabetically under genera, where one may find at once all of the specific names used in combination with each genus. Thus, under *Psittacus*, we find 265 specific names; under *Falco*, 220, etc. In the general list specific names are given as originally spelled, without emendation or correction, followed by their respective generic terms, together with a correct citation, with date of publication, of the work in which they first appeared. Where a specific name is not new, but used for the first time in combination with another generic name, this fact is indicated by citing the original genus at the end of the reference.

Preceding the general list is a bibliography, wherein are briefly listed the titles of 1300 or more works handled by Mr. Sherborn in the preparation of the present volume, with important notes (too short, in most cases!) indicating the character of each work, whether binomial, or otherwise, etc.

Referring to the short list of 'libri desiderati,' we may dismiss two of those mentioned by saying that Wagner, 'Abbild. Nat. Kab. Bayreuth,' is not binomial,¹ and no systematic names occur in the 'Nieuwe Magazijn.'

In a work such as the present it is quite natural that there should be some omissions and occasional errors. These are, fortunately, as far as they pertain to birds, of no great moment, as the names omitted are more or less commonly cited in ornithological literature.² Some names are, through oversight, stated to be *nomina nuda* when they are not so. The genera of mammals named by Link (*e. g.*, *Ondatra*, *Ochotona*, *Petaurista*), in his 'Beyträge' are thus indicated, but they are properly diagnosed on pp. 74-78, where typical species are also mentioned. The species names cited from Latham and Davies, 'Faunula Indica,' 1795, figure as *nomina nuda*, but most of them are based on the descriptions or plates of other writers, hence entitled to full standing.

On the other hand, a glance through Mr. Sherborn's list reveals many unfamiliar names, testifying to the care with which he has searched forgotten volumes. Especially to be mentioned are the specific names quoted from Vroeg, 'Catalogus Verzam. Vogelen,' 1764, and to the genera given in the 1758 edition of Moehring's 'Generum Avium' ('Geschlachten d. Vogelen'). The question of accepting Moehring's names at 1758 is one that may give rise to differences of opinion, but we are glad

¹ The mammal names *Armodillo* and *Tatu* occur in it.

² Among the omissions may be mentioned *Rallus ecaudatus* King, 1784; *Motacilla cyanea* Ellis, 1782; *Larus crepidatus* Banks, 1773; also the species of Hermann's *Tabula Affin. Anim.*, 1783, and those described by Gunnerus, in Leem's *Beskr. over Finmarkens Lapper*, 1767.

to see them in the 'Index'; it is better to include doubtful names than to omit them, as their disposition is a matter for the decision of the specialist.

In conclusion, we have only the highest praise to offer for Mr. Sherborn's work. It is to be hoped that workers in the various branches of zoölogy will coöperate with the compiler, with the object of gathering up the odds and ends overlooked in the present part, that they may be included in a later one, and we trust the undertaking will not lack the assistance and support necessary to bring it to a successful and early termination.—C. W. R.

The 'Index Zoologicus.'¹—This important supplement to the well-known 'Nomenclator Zoologicus' of Scudder is based largely upon the names recorded since 1879 in the yearly volumes of the 'Zoological Record,' but valuable references have been gathered from other sources, such as published lists of genera of special groups; from works overlooked by Agassiz, Marschall, and Scudder, as well as from manuscript lists submitted by various systematists. About 40,000 names are given in the 'Index,' nearly one fourth of which were instituted prior to 1880; the remainder represent the work of zoölogists during twenty years, an average of 1500 names per annum.

The new 'Index' will afford temporary relief to the zoölogist, but a new and thoroughly revised 'Nomenclator' is much needed. In the 'Index' we have a worthy complementary volume to the list prepared by Scudder, thus making accessible to workers a more complete catalogue of generic and subgeneric names than has hitherto been possible, but it is evident that the next edition will produce an additional large crop of forgotten terms,² and that perfection cannot be expected until zoölogical literature

¹ Index Zoologicus | an alphabetical list of names of genera and | subgenera proposed for use in Zoology | as recorded in the | "Zoological Record" 1880–1900 | together with | other names not included in the "Nomenclator | Zoologicus" of S. H. Scudder | compiled (for the Zoological Society of London) | by | Charles Owen Waterhouse | and edited by | David Sharp, M. A., F. R. S. | Editor of the "Zoological Record" | London | Printed for the Society | Sold at their house in Hanover Square | and by | Gurney & Jackson, Paternoster Row | MDCCCXII — 8vo, pp. i–xii; 1–421. Price, 20 s.

² The following are suggested, in the Class *Aves*: *Asturætos* Brehm, 1855; *Autruchon* Temm., 1840; *Budythanthus* David, 1867; *Calandrina* Blyth, 1855; *Chlorion* Temm., 1838; *Cinnamopteryx* Reichenow, 1886; *Corax* Kaup, 1854; *Cyphornis* Cope, 1894; *Falcator* Temm., 1821; *Gingala* Rafin., 1815; *Huhus* Rafin., 1815; *Kenopia* "Blyth, 1855"; *Melanopteryx* Reichenow, 1886; *Miserythrus* Newton, 1875; *Oxyporus et al.* Brookes, 1828; *Palconornis* Emmons, 1857; *Phacopharus* Madarász, 1900; *Pomarinus* Fischer, 1803; *Tupera* Thunberg, 1819; also names proposed by Bertoni (see Auk, 1902, pp. 414–416).