

in the 'Ornithologische Monatsberichte.' The delay in the publication of the Record in the 'Archiv für Naturgeschichte' was one of the inducements that led me to undertake the publication of the 'Ornithologische Monatsberichte.' This Monatsbericht contains a review of the whole ornithological literature of the year, arranged in order, and thus supplies the earliest possible account of the publications of every year.

I am,

Yours &c.,

Berlin.

A. REICHENOW.

*The Sun-birds of Ruwenzori.*—In Mr. Scott Elliot's 'Naturalist in Mid-Africa,' two Sun-birds are mentioned as met with high up on Mount Ruwenzori—*Nectarinia kilimensis* and *N. johnstoni*. In the small collection of birds (of some 30 skins) presented by Mr. Scott Elliot to the British Museum are two examples of *Nectarinia kilimensis*, which was originally described in 1884 by Captain Shelley from specimens obtained by Sir H. H. Johnston on Kilimanjaro. Other examples in the National Collection were procured by Mr. H. C. V. Hunter on Kilimanjaro. There are no specimens of *N. johnstoni* in Mr. Scott Elliot's collection, but the species is quite likely to occur on Ruwenzori, as it was found by Dr. Gregory on Mount Kenia (Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. iii. p. ix), although originally discovered on Kilimanjaro.

*Turnix sylvatica in Sicily.*—Mr. J. I. S. Whitaker, of Palermo, has sent us the following interesting, but saddening, communication:—

"I regret to say that the Hemipode, once so plentiful in Sicily, must now be looked upon as a *rara avis* here, and I only hope I may be mistaken in thinking that it will, at no distant date, be totally extinct in this island.

"Professor Doderlein, writing of *Turnix sylvatica* in 1871 ('Avifauna del Modenese e della Sicilia,' p. 168), reported the species as plentiful in Sicily at that time, he

himself having often killed as many as ten to fifteen of these birds in a day in the southern and south-western districts of the island.

"I myself remember this bird fairly plentiful in the above districts so recently as the year 1880, its favourite haunts being the so-called 'sciarre,' or tracts of uncultivated moorland, which extend for many miles along the south coast of Sicily, running parallel with it, but lying a little way inland. Here, among the clumps of dwarf broom-palm and other scrub vegetation, one might have been sure of meeting with *Turnix sylvatica*, and, with a good dog and decent luck, of making a fair bag. A friend of mine, one day when riding over the moorland near Mazzara, rescued one of these birds from the clutches of a Hawk that had just seized it. In those days one might often have seen the Hemipode in a cage hung on the wall of a peasant's cottage. During the last 15 years or so, however, the species has gradually, but steadily been decreasing in numbers, and I have not seen a single specimen in the flesh since the year 1891, when two or three were sent me from Campobello, near Mazzara. Indeed, for the past two years I have been endeavouring to procure another specimen, without success, nor can I hear of any having been obtained during this period anywhere in the island. This leads me to fear that the Hemipode, following in the steps of the Francolin, will, unfortunately, ere long be a thing of the past in Sicily. The reason for this is probably to be looked for in the fact of the greatly diminished area of country adapted to the requirements of this species, much of the former waste land in Sicily having been reclaimed of late years. The want of efficient protective game-laws may perhaps also be partly to blame, although not, I think, to any great extent, for the 'Quaglia tridattile,' or 'Quaglia triugni,' as it is called here, has never been held in great esteem by the Sicilians, either as a bird for the table or as affording much sport, and has consequently escaped persecution on the part of the native gunner and fowler."

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*The Seebohm Collection.*—The Seebohm collection of birds,