

ORNITHOLOGY AND OÖLOGY.

INTRODUCTION.

AS I have generally adopted, in the present volume, the system of classification, and the nomenclature, &c., presented by Professor Baird in his report on the Birds of North America, I will state here, that I have given, so far as possible, his own remarks in the explanations of the characteristics of the different orders, families, genera, &c., because they are expressed in the most concise and comprehensive language possible. I have also given the same descriptions of the species as those contained in the above-mentioned report, because, being made from a much greater number of specimens than I could possibly have access to, they are certainly better than I could present from my own observations. The descriptions of the characteristics of the *Raptores*, the *Grallæ*, and the *Alcidæ*, are by John Cassin, of Philadelphia; those of the *Longipennes Totipalmes* and *Colymbidæ* were written by Mr. George N. Lawrence, of New York; those of the other birds were prepared by Professor Spencer F. Baird, of the Smithsonian Institute.

In order that the descriptions of the birds in the follow-