

The Proper Name of the Western Horned Owl.¹—In a paper in 'The Auk' for April, 1896 (p. 153), Mr. Stone proposed the name *occidentalis* in place of *subarcticus* Hoy, the latter being a synonym of *arcticus* Swain., selecting a type specimen from Mitchell Co., Iowa. This specimen, however, proved not to belong to the form he intended to name (see Auk, Jan., 1897, p. 134), and he therefore now renames it *pallescens* (*Bubo virginianus pallescens*), selecting as type an example from near San Antonio, Texas.

With this change the Horned Owls would stand in the A. O. U. Check-List as follows:

- 375. *Bubo virginianus* (Gmel.). Great Horned Owl.
- 375 a. *Bubo virginianus pallescens* Stone. Western Horned Owl.
- 375 b. *Bubo virginianus arcticus* (Swains.). Arctic Horned Owl.
- 375 c. *Bubo virginianus saturatus* Ridgw. Dusky Horned Owl.
- 375 d. *Bubo virginianus pacificus* Cass. Pacific Horned Owl.—J. A. A.

'**Nature's Diary.**'²—Under this title Mr. Francis H. Allen has brought together a large number of selections from the works of Thoreau, Burroughs, Torrey, Bolles, Lowell, Hawthorne, Emerson, and others—in all 379 quotations from 14 well-known authors—one or more for each day of the year. Nearly two-thirds of the quotations are from Thoreau, and about one seventh from Burroughs. They relate primarily to birds and flowers, but many are general, or relate to the season rather than to any individual species of bird, beast, or plant. The work is not paged, and has no index. The quotations are printed on the left hand page, two days being allotted to each page, and the right hand page is a "Calendar of the arrival of birds and the first blooming of flowers." The locality to which most of the quotations refer is "the neighborhood of Boston. This will doubtless prove a welcome anthology to lovers of nature.—J. A. A.

Baskett's 'The Story of the Birds.'³—Mr. Baskett's 'Story of the Birds' does not pretend to tell the whole story but attempts "to present in a

¹ Proper name for the Western Horned Owl of North America. By Witmer Stone. American Naturalist, March, 1897, p. 236.

²Nature's Diary | Compiled by | Francis H. Allen | "A minstrel of the natural year." | [Seal] Boston and New York | Houghton, Mifflin and Company | The Riverside Press, Cambridge | 1897 | — 12mo. pp. v + about 190ll., un-paged, with 8 photogravure pll.

³ Appleton's Home Reading Books | — | The | Story of the Birds | By | James Newton Baskett, M. A. | Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union | [Vignette] New York | D. Appleton and Company | 1897—12mo, pp. xxx + 263, with 20 full-page illustrations and numerous cuts in the text.