

it may be of interest to the author to know that the American Museum of Natural History in New York has also a mounted specimen of the Great Auk, where it has been among its prominent exhibits for the last twenty years.—J. A. A.

**Huntington's 'In Brush, Sedge, and Stubble.'**<sup>1</sup>—Mr. Huntington's 'In Brush, Sedge, and Stubble' appeals alike to the sportsman, the naturalist, and the lover of art. The work is proposed as a series of "monographs on our feathered game," "written from the point of view of the sportsman, with a preference for the picturesque rather than the scientific. . . . In a word, we go out-of-doors from Montauk to San Lucas, and, listening to the whirring and whistling of wings, we observe the performance of dogs, and see America picturesque." The first two parts treat of the sage Grouse, the Sharp-tailed Grouse, and the Prairie Grouse.

The illustrations consist of half-tones from photographs of the birds described, and of hunting scenes and characteristic landscapes of the regions inhabited by the game under consideration, partly from nature and partly from sketches, principally by the author.

The illustrations are beautifully reproduced, abundant, picturesque, and exceedingly attractive. The text is very good ornithology, written, as stated by the author, from the sportsman's point of view, with more or less personal incident interspersed. All lovers of finely illustrated books relating to nature, and especially all sportsmen, will doubtless warmly welcome Mr. Huntington's 'In Brush, Sedge, and Stubble.'—J. A. A.

**Oberholser on the Wrens of the Genus *Thryomanes*.**<sup>2</sup>—The present paper of thirty pages deals with the Wrens of the *bewickii* group, of which 3 species and 12 additional subspecies are recognized, all the latter being variations, in most instances not strongly marked, of *Thryothorus (Thryomanes) bewickii* of the A. O. U. Check-List. The group ranges across the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from Pennsylvania, southern Minnesota, Colorado, and southern British Columbia southward to southern Mexico (Oaxaca), including the Socorro and Guadalupe Islands, off the west coast of Mexico. Of the 12 subspecies of *T. bewickii*, seven belong to the United States, the remaining five occurring in Mexico. In other words, 7 new sub-

<sup>1</sup> In | Brush, Sedge, and Stubble | A Picture Book of | the Shooting-fields and Feathered | Game of North America | By | Dwight W. Huntington | . . . [= motto, 3 lines] | M D C C C X C VIII | The Sportsman's Society | Cincinnati.—Folio, Pt. I, pp. 1-16; Pt. II, pp. 17-32; 2 pll. in half-tone and 2 in colors, and numerous half-tones in text.

<sup>2</sup> A Review of the Wrens of the Genus *Thryomanes* Sclater. By Harry C. Oberholser, Assistant Biologist, Department of Agriculture. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XXI, No. 1153, pp. 421-450. Nov., 1898

species of *T. bewickii spilurus* and *T. b. leucogaster* of the Check-List are for the first time separated and named. The United States forms of the group are as follows: (1) *T. bewickii bewickii* (Aud.), of the eastern United States; (2) *T. b. cryptus*, Texas, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas, and probably north to Kansas; (3) *T. b. eremophilus*, southern border for the United States, from western Texas and southern Colorado to south-eastern California, south over the tablelands of Mexico; (4) *T. b. charienturus*, coast region of southern California, from about Pasadena south into northern Lower California; (5) *T. b. drymæcus*, Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys west to the coast about San Simeon, California; (6) *T. b. spilurus* (Vigors), vicinity of San Francisco Bay, California; (7) *T. b. calophonus*, Pacific Coast, from Oregon north to southern Vancouver Island and the valley of the Frazer River, British Columbia; (8) *T. b. nesophilus*, Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Islands, California; (9) *T. b. leucophrys* (Anthony), San Clemente Island, California; (10) *T. b. cerroensis* (Anthony), Cerros Island, Lower California. The other members of the group are (1) *T. b. percus*, State of Jalisco, north to Central Zacatecas, south to Guerrero; (2) *T. b. murinus* (Hartl.), States of Hidalgo, Mexico, Tlaxcala, and northern Morelos, Mexico; (3) *T. b. bairdi* (Salv. & Godm.), Oaxaca, southern Puebla, and southwestern Vera Cruz, Mexico; (4) *T. insularis* (Lawr.), Socorro Island, Mexico; (5) *T. brevicaudus* Ridgw., Guadalupe Island, Mexico. Thus five of the forms are insular.

Mr. Oberholser is no doubt very keen at discriminating slight differences, not only in the present but in some other instances. The question is not so much whether the differences claimed exist, but the advisability of their recognition in nomenclature. The present group is apparently not exceptionally plastic, and the same methods carried out among North American birds in general would doubtless result in numberless similar minute subdivisions, which it would serve no good purpose to recognize as 'subspecies.' In the present case the rather startling results seem due rather to a new point of view as regards the value of slight differences than to the discovery of new characters.

We observe that Mr. Oberholser rejects the name *leucogaster* used by Baird for the Texan form, and renames it *cryptus*, on the ground that Baird did not give a new name in this instance but used the name *leucogaster* of Gould, through a misidentification of Gould's species; and that, therefore, "according to the usual procedure in such cases," Baird's name is unavailable—a point apparently well taken.

Incidentally Mr. Oberholser claims full generic rank for *Thryomanes* and *Anorthura*, and we believe with good reason.—J. A. A.

**Bangs on Birds from Colombia.**<sup>1</sup>—Mr. Bangs here reports on a third

<sup>1</sup>On some Birds from the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia. By Outram Bangs. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. XII, 1898, pp. 171-182. Oct. 31, 1898.