

of the hind toe in the two forms fails to be satisfactorily diagnostic, the difference in the amount of black tipping the outer primaries in the two forms is fairly constant and of sufficient importance to warrant their recognition as subspecies.

On the other hand, the extensive material of the Fulmar group leads Mr. Chapman to believe that the alleged differences between *Fulmarus glacialis* and *F. g. minor* are "ascribable to sexual and individual variation." In the case of *Somateria mollissima* and *S. m. borealis* he finds a marked difference in the size and form of the bill in the two forms, as shown by his measurements and outline figures, enough to warrant their recognition as well marked forms.

In describing the changes of plumage in the King and Greenland Eiders, Mr. Chapman distinguishes a post-nuptial plumage in the adult males, which begins to replace the nuptial in June, and affects all the brighter part of the plumage, and which in turn gives place to the breeding dress, reacquired during late autumn.

Mr. Figgins's field notes add great interest to the paper, and relate to the haunts and breeding habits of a large number of the species. — J. A. A.

Oberholser on the Flammulated Screech Owls.¹— In a paper of sixteen pages, Mr. Oberholser has summarized our present knowledge of *Megascops flammeolus* and its western subspecies *M. f. idahoensis*. The former ranges from Guatemala to California, Arizona, and Colorado, and the latter from southern California to Washington and Idaho. Each form is described in detail, with full citation of bibliographic references, and such information on their habits and distribution as the scanty records thus far afford. A new record for *flammeolus* is Presidio County, Texas, while additional records for *idahoensis* are San Gorgonio Peak and the San Bernardino Mountains, California. In view of the considerable amount of variation shown by specimens from different localities, Mr. Oberholser believes that when more material is available the group will "be found separable into several more or less segregated geographical races." — J. A. A.

Oberholser on a Collection of Birds from Liberia.²— This collection consists of 57 specimens, representing 39 forms, four of which are here described as new, namely: (1) *Dendromus caroli arizelus*, (2) *Anthreptes*

¹ The Flammulated Screech Owls, *Megascops flammeolus* (Kaup) and *Megascops flammeolus idahoensis* Merriam. Par M. Harry C. Oberholser. Ornith. Bull. du Comité Ornithologique International, Vol. X, No. 1, Dec., 1899. (Separate, 16 pp., repaged.)

² A List of the Birds collected by Mr. R. P. Currie in Liberia. By Harry C. Oberholser, Assistant Biologist, Department of Agriculture. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XXII, 1899, pp. 25-37.

idius, (3) *Dicrurus modestus atactus*, (4) *Fraseria prosphora*. Two new genera, *Horizocerus* and *Stelgidillas*, are also characterized, and a specimen of the rare Hawk, *Dryotriorchis spectabilis* is reported, the ninth specimen of this species thus far known.—J. A. A.

New Birds from the Bahamas.—Mr. C. J. Maynard, in an 'Appendix to Catalogue of the Birds of the West Indies' (which Catalogue we have not yet seen) has published (Nov. 29, 1899) descriptions of four new species of birds from the Bahamas, namely; (1) *Colinus bahamensis*, from the island of New Providence; (2) *Speotyto bahamensis*, from "New Providence and probably Eleuthera"; (3) *Dendroica bahamensis* ("similar to *Dendroica vigorsii*"), from New Providence; (4) *Hæmotopus* (sic) *pratii* (provisional name), from Flemming's Key.—J. A. A.

Kopman on the Bird Fauna of Two Sections of Louisiana.¹—This paper gives a comparison of the representation of 67 species in contiguous but very different portions of southern Louisiana, the fertile alluvial coast district and the pine barrens to the northward. These two areas are separated by the chain of lakes formed by Lake Maurepas, Pontchartrain and Borgne, and mark an abrupt transition from the alluvial fertile district, with its deciduous arboreal vegetation, to the pine districts, or 'pine barrens,' which extend from the eastern border of Louisiana into Mississippi. While scarcely a dozen species are restricted to either of these areas, the relative number of individuals of birds which are common to both varies so greatly as to form a strong contrast in the general ornithological character of the two regions, obviously due to the difference in vegetation and coincident conditions of environment. The birds listed for comparison are mainly the commoner summer residents.—J. A. A.

Faxon and Hoffmann's Birds of Berkshire County, Mass.²—Berkshire County, Massachusetts, differs so much from the rest of the State in altitude and other physical conditions as to form a well-marked region, and one, moreover, until recently ornithologically very imperfectly known. With a general altitude of 1500 to 2000 feet, and with peaks rising from 2400 to 3500 feet, the general character of the fauna and flora is distinctly more boreal than that of that portion of the State to the eastward. For many years ornithologists were left to conjecture as to the birds frequenting the higher parts of 'The Berkshires.' As early as 1884, however, definite

¹ The Bird Fauna of Two Sections. By Henry H. Kopman. The Gulf Fauna and Flora Bulletin, Vol. I, No. 2, pp. 50-57. Dec. 15, 1899.

² The Birds of Berkshire County, Massachusetts. By Walter Faxon and Ralph Hoffmann. Coll. of Berkshire Hist. and Sci. Soc., Vol. III, No. 2, pp. 109-166. Also separate, 8vo, pp. 60. Issued Feb. 23, 1900.