

Oberholser's Revision of the Ladder-backed Woodpeckers.¹—

This revision is based on the material available for study in the principal museums of the United States, numbering altogether 560 specimens, brought together by Mr. Ridgway for use in the preparation of his 'Birds of North and Middle America.' Under Mr. Oberholser's standard of subspecies "the six currently recognized races are here increased to fifteen." *Dryobates scalaris bairdi* of the A. O. U. Check-List is here treated as extralimital, with the assigned type locality the State of Hidalgo, Mexico. From the old *bairdi* of the Check-List are carved *D. s. symplectus* and *D. s. cactophilus*, the former ranging from southeastern Colorado south through Oklahoma and Texas into eastern Mexico, the latter from southeastern California, Arizona and New Mexico south into the State of Durango. The other seven new forms are from various localities in central and southern Mexico, and Nicaragua. The ranges of all the forms are indicated on an accompanying map.—J. A. A.

Oberholser's Revision of the Hairy Woodpeckers.²—

This study, the author tells us, was undertaken largely at the request of Mr. Ridgway, and is based on the material he had gathered from the leading museums of this country for use in the preparation of the forthcoming fifth part of his 'Birds of North and Middle America,' the specimens of this group alone numbering 1070. As is well known, the Hairy Woodpecker group ranges from Alaska and northern Canada south to Panama, and comprises many well-marked forms. The fourteen hitherto currently recognized subspecies are here increased to twenty. The name of the Northern Hairy Woodpecker is changed from *Dryobates villosus leucomelas* (Boddaert) to *D. v. septentrionalis* (Nuttall). Boddaert's name was based on Brisson's description of his "*Picus varius canadensis*" and on D'Aubenton's plate of Buffon's "Epeiche du Canada," the locality being simply "Canada." Mr. Oberholser finding that the measurements given by Brisson and indicated in D'Aubenton's drawing appear to be "altogether too small for the large race of northern Canada," the name *leucomelas* is treated as a synonym of *D. villosus villosus* and replaced by the next available designation, based on birds from the Saskatchewan River. Inasmuch as the range of overlapping individual variation in the length of the wing in the two forms is one third of the average difference between them, and as Brisson's specimens are quite likely to have come from either Quebec or Montreal (Oberholser records specimens of the northern form from as far

¹ A Revision of the Forms of the Ladder-backed Woodpeckers (*Dryobates scalaris* [Wagler]). By Harry C. Oberholser, Assistant Ornithologist, Department of Agriculture. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XLI, No. 1847, pp. 139-159, with map (pl. 12). Published June 30, 1911.

² A Revision of the Forms of the Hairy Woodpeckers (*Dryobates villosus* [Linnaeus]). By Harry C. Oberholser, Assistant Ornithologist, Department of Agriculture. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XL, No. 1840, pp. 595-621, with map (pl. 70). Published June 3, 1911.

south as Toronto), it seems by no means evident that the name *mesomelas* might not be properly retained for the northern form.

D. v. hyloscopus is restricted to the mountains of southern California and northern Lower California, the birds of the interior formerly referred to it now furnishing material for a new subspecies, *D. v. orius*; while another new subspecies (*D. v. leucothorectis*), is sliced from the southern border of what has been currently recognized as *D. v. monticola*. It is also to be noted that a new Mexican form, *D. v. icastus*, extends into southern Arizona from Sonora, making three new forms of the group for the United States. *D. v. fumeus* is based on specimens collected at San Rafael del Norte, Nicaragua, by Mr. William B. Richardson, for the American Museum of Natural History. The distribution of the twenty forms is conveniently shown on an accompanying map.— J. A. A.

Nelson on a New Hummingbird from Panama.¹— Among the first fruits of the Smithsonian Biological Survey of the Panama Canal Zone² is a new genus and species of Hummingbird, recently described by Mr. Nelson as *Goldmania violiceps*. The species was discovered by Mr. E. A. Goldman, of the Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, on the higher slopes of the Cerro Azul, a high mountain at the extreme headwaters of the Chagres River, and the genus is named in honor of Mr. Goldman, who for so many years was Mr. Nelson's assistant in his biological explorations in Mexico. It is allied to the genus *Saucerottea*, but has the median lower tail coverts highly specialized.— J. A. A.

McGregor on Birds of the Philippine Islands.— Mr. McGregor has published recently a number of papers on the birds of various islands of the Philippine Archipelago, to which brief references are here made. His paper on the birds of the island of Polillo³ is said to be the first contribution to our knowledge of its fauna, and is based on a trip to the island in September, 1909, with two Philippine assistants. It records 101 species as collected or certainly identified, and discusses the ornithological relations of the island to Luzon and the neighboring smaller islands.

Lists of birds from Pauai and Mount Pulog, in the Subprovince Benguet, Luzon,⁴ are based on a trip made to these localities in May, June and July, 1909, when 22 species were obtained or noted at Pauai, and 12 at Mount Pulog.

¹ Description of a New Genus and Species of Hummingbird from Panama. By E. W. Nelson. Smithsonian Miscel. Coll., Vol. LVI, No. 21, pp. 1, 2. Published July 8, 1911.

² See *antea*, p. 152.

³ Birds collected in the Island of Polillo, Philippine Islands. By Richard C. McGregor. Philippine Journ. of Science, Vol. V, No. 2, Sect. D., pp. 103-114. "Issued Oct. 17, 1910."

⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 135-138.