

No less than 4561 forms are given in the list, one thousand more than are contained in the Selater and Salvin list and that included Mexico, Central America and the Galapagos all of which are omitted in the work before us. Each species is accompanied by an English name which will be of great assistance to the museum curator in preparing exhibition labels. Some of these names however are unduly cumbersome while others conflict with the names of common North American birds as the use of 'Pewee' for the species of *Empidonax*, of 'Marsh Wren' for *Thryophilus*, etc., we fully appreciate, however, the difficulty of finding English names for over four thousand birds.

One matter of detail, which will of course be corrected in the synonymy, is the failure to quote the name as originally published, so that one cannot ascertain under what generic name a species was described until the reference is consulted. There are also occasional lapses in stating the distributions, for having recently been working over a Venezuelan collection, we note a number of instances where this country is omitted in the ranges of species which are well known to occur there. These are however trifling matters, which should not be seriously charged against a list admittedly only preliminary and which is so excellent and helpful in other respects.

We note a number of changes in names. Some of those which affect North American species are *Columbina* for *Chamepelia*, *Podiceps* for *Colymbus*, *Catharacta* for *Megalestris*, *Pluvialis* for *Charadrius*, *Charadrius* for *Aegialitis* + *Oxyechus* + *Ochthodromus*, *Tringa* for *Helodromas*, *Canutus* for *Tringa*, *Nyroca* for *Marila*, *Oxyura* for *Erismatura*, *Merganser* for *Mergus*, and *Caprimulgus* for *Antrostomus*. *Falco* is divided, *Cerchneis* being used for the Sparrow Hawks; while *Pisobia* is split into *Pisobia* and *Heteropygia*. We note also the use of *Sula dactylatra* Lesson 1837 in place of *S. cyanops*, and *Egretta thula* Molina 1782 for the Snowy Heron, while the Black Vulture, at least so far as South America is concerned, stands as *Catharista fætans*. Some of these changes are undoubtedly necessary but in other cases we think the A. O. U. Check-List is correct.

Ornithologists everywhere will look forward with interest to the succeeding parts of this long needed work.— W. S.

Oberholser's 'A Revision of the Forms of the Great Blue Heron.'¹

— In this carefully prepared monograph, Mr. Oberholser treats the Great Blue Heron as he has previously discussed the Green Heron. Plumages are described in detail and there are numerous tables of measurements and lists of localities from which specimens have been examined.

The races recognized are as follows with approximate breeding ranges: *A. herodias herodias*, eastern North America exclusive of Lower Austral zone; *A. h. wardi*, southeastern U. S., mainly Lower Austral zone; *A. h. adoxa* subsp. nov., Bahamas and West Indies; *A. h. treganzai*, western U. S.

¹ A Revision of the Forms of the Great Blue Heron. *Ardea herodias* Linnæus. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. 43, pp. 531-559. December 12, 1912.

north to the Transition zone, east of the coast district; *A. h. sanctilucae*, southern Lower California; *A. h. cognata* Galapagos Islands, *A. h. hyperonca* subsp. nov., Pacific coast region of U. S.; *A. h. oligista* subsp. nov., Santa Barbara Islands, California; *A. h. fannini*, Pacific coast of north-western North America; *A. h. lessonii*, Mexico to northern South America.— W. S.

Torrey's 'Field-Days in California.'¹— Our pleasure in turning the pages of this last volume of Bradford Torrey is mingled with sadness at the thought that the pen, which for so many years depicted for us the ever-changing face of nature, is forever stilled.

This little book treats of the experiences of the last few years of his life, which were spent in California; and it is particularly interesting to those bird-lovers who are familiar only with the Atlantic slope as it depicts so vividly the easterner's impressions of the birds of 'the coast.'

There is a frontispiece portrait of the author and eight plates illustrating localities treated in the book, in two of which Mr. Torrey himself appears. The Chapter headings are, A California Beach; In the Estero; An Exciting Forenoon; A Long Procession; A Visitation of Swans; My First Condor; My First Water-Ouzels; An Unsuccessful Hunt; Yellow-billed Magpies; Some Rock-haunting Birds; Under the Redwoods; In the Santa Cruz Mountains; Reading a Check-List; On Foot in the Yosemite; A Bird-Gazer at the Grand Cañon.

The Chapter on the A. O. U. Check-List will be read with much interest and the Committee we feel sure will be gratified with Mr. Torrey's opinion of this volume, that 'there's plenty of good reading in the Check-List,' while they will be surprised to see what inspiration he derives from its pages.

'Field Days in California' will take its place as the fitting completion of a series of nature studies which will continue in the future, as they have in the past, to delight all lovers of the great out doors, to sharpen our powers of observation and to help us the better to appreciate what we see.— W. S.

Nelson on Two New Birds from Panama.²— The specimens here described are from the rich collections made by Mr. E. A. Goldman on the Smithsonian Survey of Panama. Mr. Nelson names them *Capito maculicoronatus pirrensis*, the Mount Pirri Barbet, and *Pseudotriccus pelzelni berlepschi*, the Berlepsch Flycatcher.— W. S.

Bent on a New Crossbill from Newfoundland.³— A series of eleven Crossbills obtained by Dr. L. C. Sanford in Newfoundland prove to be

¹ Field-Days in California | By | Bradford Torrey | With Illustrations from Photographs | [vignette] | Boston and New York | Houghton Mifflin Company | The Riverside Press, Cambridge | 1913. 12mo, pp. 1-235. Frontispiece portrait and eight half-tone plates. \$1.50 net.

² Two New Species of Birds from the Slopes of Mount Pirri, Eastern Panama. *Smithson. Misc. Collec.*, Vol. 60, No. 21, pp. 1-2. February 26, 1913.

³ A New Subspecies of Crossbill from Newfoundland. By A. C. Bent. *Smithson. Misc. Collec.*, Vol. 60, No. 15, pp. 1-3. December 12, 1912.