

garded as subspecies of the Old World *Gallinula chloropus* is correct. Besides *G. c. galeata* here restricted to southeastern South America, he recognizes four other races *G. c. garmani* Allen, from the Andes; *G. c. cerceris* Bangs, from the Lesser Antilles; and two here described as new *G. c. pauxilla* (p. 96), Rio Cauca, western Colombia; and *G. c. cachinnans* (p. 96) type from De Soto Co., Florida, for the North American bird.

In another paper<sup>1</sup> the smaller Mockingbird of the northern Bahamas is separated as *Mimus polyglottos delenificus*, type locality Andros Island; and in conjunction with Mr. John E. Thayer<sup>2</sup> the Song Sparrow of Nova Scotia is described as *Melospiza melodia acadica* (p. 67), type locality Wolfville.—W. S.

**Swarth on the Pacific Coast Races of Bewick's Wren.**<sup>3</sup>—From an examination of 597 skins, nine races are recognized.

Two other forms are "pointed out and their characteristics described, but no names affixed," because "it is impossible to indicate more than obscure average distinctions" and because the "extreme variability of even the most strongly marked of the described forms militates against" their recognition. The author fears possible criticism of his action but we think it will meet with very general endorsement.

Mr. Swarth's study is a very painstaking one, abounding in minute data, and will be a great help to those who wish to name their specimens, for to many who do not have a series of 500 skins for comparison this is by no means an easy task. There are some helpful suggestions to the A. O. U. Committee as to defining of the ranges of *spilurus* and *charienturus* in view of their refusal to recognize the poorly defined race *drymæcus*.—W. S.

**Murphy and Harper on New Diving Petrels.**<sup>4</sup>—In their studies of the family Pelecanoididæ Messrs. Murphy and Harper have found two unnamed forms of the curious little Diving Petrels which so closely parallel in size and appearance the Murrelets of the northern hemisphere. These are named in the present paper, *Pelecanoides urinatrix chathamensis* (p. 65), Chatham Islands; and *P. georgica* (p. 66) South Georgia Island.—W. S.

**Chapin on the Pennant-Winged Nightjar.**<sup>5</sup>—During his sojourn in the great Equatorial forest of Central Africa, Mr. Chapin secured

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<sup>1</sup> The Smaller Mockingbird of the Northern Bahamas. By Outram Bangs. Proc. N. E. Zool. Club, Vol. VI, p. 23. March 29, 1916.

<sup>2</sup> A New Song Sparrow from Nova Scotia. By John E. Thayer and Outram Bangs. Proc. N. E. Zool. Club, Vol. V, pp. 67-68. May 29, 1914.

<sup>3</sup> The Pacific Coast Races of the Bewick Wren. By Harry S. Swarth. Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci., Vol. VI, No. 4, pp. 53-85, pl. 2. May 8, 1916.

<sup>4</sup> Two New Diving Petrels. By Robert Cushman Murphy and Francis Harper. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XXXV, pp. 65-67. April 1, 1916.

<sup>5</sup> The Pennant-winged Nightjar and its Migration. By James P. Chapin. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XXXV, pp. 73-81. Scientific Results of the Congo Expedition. Ornithology, No. 3. April 12, 1916.