

'Check-List,' with the several local vernacular names and brief comments on the time of occurrence, relative abundance, habits and more important color marks. No less than 368 species and subspecies are listed in this pamphlet, an increase of forty-five over the list of Messrs. Beyer, Allison and Kopman, published in 'The Auk' (Vols. XXIII, XXIV and XXXII).

An introduction of eight pages considers the history of Louisiana bird life, migration and other general topics, while a number of small maps and half-tone text figures illustrate this interesting and welcome publication.—W. S.

**Murphy on the Natural History of the Mexican Portion of the Colorado Desert.**<sup>1</sup>—Mr. Murphy made two trips into this interesting region in March 1915, for the purpose of securing specimens of the Lower Californian Pronghorn and other desert animals for the museum of the Brooklyn Institute. In the present paper he presents some general information about the region, an exceedingly interesting and well illustrated narrative of his trips and an annotated list of the birds, as well as some account of the Pronghorn.

The list of birds comprises 134 species and includes besides those observed by Mr. Murphy, a number of others which were secured or observed by Mr. Samuel N. Rhoads on a trip through this country in 1905 (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1905, pp. 679-690). Mr. Murphy's excellent paper forms a valuable supplement to Dr. Grinnell's recent report on the fauna of the Lower Colorado Valley, farther north.—W. S.

**Batchelder on New Birds from Newfoundland.**<sup>2</sup>—An examination of a considerable series of Ovenbirds and Yellow Warblers taken during the breeding season in Newfoundland, has convinced Mr. Batchelder that they are separable subspecifically from individuals from the rest of eastern North America, and he therefore proposes for them the names, *Seiurus aurocapillus furvior* (p. 81) and *Dendroica aestiva amnicola* (p. 82) respectively. In a general way these new forms are darker in coloration than the 'typical' races.

The establishment of very slightly differentiated geographical races in the east will soon bring us face with some of the problems that have troubled our friends in California and other parts of the west, in the matter of sight identifications. The advent of a "Brown-headed Chickadee" in the eastern states a year ago, which could not be subspecifically identified without collecting the specimen, caused great speculation as to how observations on the bird should be recorded and as these Newfoundland Oven-

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<sup>1</sup>Natural History Observations from the Mexican Portion of the Colorado Desert. By Robert Cushman Murphy. Abstract Proc. Linnæan Soc. of New York, Nos. 24-25, 1917, pp. 43-101, plates I-VI.

<sup>2</sup>Two Undescribed Newfoundland Birds. By Charles Foster Batchelder. Proc. New England Zool. Club, VI, pp. 81-82. February 6, 1918.

birds and Yellow Warblers in all probability pass down our Atlantic coast in migration we shall in future be in doubt as to which form we have seen. Meanwhile it will be interesting for those who have good series of migrant specimens to see whether they can detect the new forms among them.— W. S.

**Murphy on a New Albatross.**<sup>1</sup>— Under the name *Diomedea sanfordi* (p. 861), Mr. Murphy describes a single specimen of an Albatross secured at sea forty miles off Corral, Chile, by R. H. Beck who was engaged in obtaining specimens for the Brewster-Sanford Collection. The specimen is compared at length with *D. exulans* and the difference in the structure of the nostril is so great that in Mr. Murphy's opinion the two should be separated subgenerically, and he therefore erects the subgenus *Rhothonia* (p. 861) for his new species.

Whether Mr. Murphy compared his specimen with *D. chionopectera* Saly. we do not know but in the last number of the 'Bulletin' of the British Ornithologists' Club, Lord Rothschild, in commenting upon Mr. Murphy's paper, identifies his new species with this latter form, citing records to show that it ranges widely after the breeding season which would make its occurrence off the coast of Chile not unlikely.— W. S.

**Shufeldt on Fossil Birds from Vero, Florida.**<sup>2</sup>— This is an elaboration of a previous report on the same material published in 'The Journal of Geology' for January-February, 1917, pp. 18-19, and already noticed in these columns. A reference to the present publication seems desirable in order to prevent future complications by calling attention to the fact that the new species described in the former paper all appear as "sp. nov." in this one as well, and may easily be quoted from it in mistake. Such practice is decidedly reprehensible. As the present paper is dated July 20, 1917, at the end of the text, it would seem that the author had ample time to give the proper references to the earlier publication had he so desired.— W. S.

**Publications on Bird Protection.**— From the Winter Number of 'Bird Notes and News' we learn that Venezuela has passed a law to stop the killing of Egrets for their plumes, limiting the traffic to cast feathers. In England great damage has been done to the native birds by the indiscriminate destruction of both birds and eggs by members of the 'Sparrow Clubs' which were organized for the purpose of reducing the numbers of the House Sparrows but whose activities, through ignorance, were extended to other species as well.

<sup>1</sup> A New Albatross from the West Coast of South America. By Robert Cushman Murphy. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XXXVII, pp. 861-864. December 10, 1917.

<sup>2</sup> Fossil Birds found at Vero, Florida, with Descriptions of New Species. By R. W. Shufeldt. Ninth Ann. Rep. Fla. State Geol. Surrey, 1917, pp. 35-42.