

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.

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<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.

'California Fish and Game' for January tells of the successful use of bombs and fireworks in frightening migrant birds from the rice fields and has an admirable article on the value of wild birds by Mr. J. G. Tyler.

The 'Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey' of the U. S. Department of Agriculture contains brief mention of investigations as to the food habits of the Starling which indicate that this bird has some desirable qualities and is not all bad. The question remains however, whether in spite of his destruction of ground insects he is not from sheer force of numbers crowding out of existence many of our native species in areas inhabited by him. Another pamphlet issued by the Biological Survey 'How to Attract Birds in the East Central States' is by W. L. McAtee and is similar to those already published for other sections of the country. The 'Audubon Bulletin' of the Illinois Audubon Society for the winter of 1917-1918 and the 'Seventh Annual Report of the New Jersey Audubon Society' are full of interesting matter concerning bird protection and bird study in these states and the former has an anonymous biographical sketch, with portrait, of Mr. Robert Ridgway, which will be read with great pleasure by everyone interested in the development of ornithology in America.

'Current Items of Interest' prepared by Mr. Henry Oldys contains an account of a Sparrow campaign at Davenport, Iowa, which seems to have been more successful than the English one already mentioned.

Cornell University has issued a circular announcing courses of instruction on wild life conservation and game breeding during 1918, while from the National Association of Audubon Societies come some attractive 'Audubon Pocket Bird Collections'—clever colored drawings by E. J. Sawyer of mounted specimens, represented as in a case with a 'catalogue' on the back arranged by Dr. Frank M. Chapman.

The 'Report of the National Zoölogical Park' contains an interesting note on the park as a bird sanctuary and a list of some 180 species of birds now living in the collection.—W. S.

**Swarth on Jays of the Genus *Aphelocoma*.**<sup>1</sup>—The much discussed California Jays are again reviewed in this paper with the result that *Aphelocoma c. obscura* of the A. O. U. 'Check-List' is found to be identical with typical *A. californica* from Monterey but the bird of interior California generally supposed to be *californica* is different and is the same as *A. c. immanis*, described from Linn Co., Oregon, by Dr. Joseph Grinnell. All this seems to hinge upon the question as to which of two forms a type from somewhat intermediate territory belongs, and we have no doubt Mr. Swarth's deductions are correct. We would therefore be still in accord with the 'Check-List' so far as the number of races of *A. californica* is concerned were it not for the fact that Mr. Swarth comes to the conclusion

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<sup>1</sup> The Pacific Coast Jays of the Genus *Aphelocoma*. By H. S. Swarth. University of California Publ. in Zool., Vol. 17, pp. 405-422. February 23, 1918.