

215), type locality Alabama, is proposed for the Raven of eastern U. S. and southern Canada. *C. c. sinuatus* is limited to central U. S. and Central Mexico, and *C. c. clarionensis* extended to include birds of extreme N. W. Mexico and S. W. United States. *C. c. principalis* remains the form of the far north.

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**Bangs**, Outram and **Noble**, G. K. Description of a New Woodpecker from Peru. (Proc. N. E. Zool. Club, VI, pp. 85-86. June 7, 1918.)

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

### Concerning a Certain Tendency in Systematic Ornithology.

EDITOR OF 'THE AUK':

The more I think of it, the more dangerous appears to me to be the stand of those few who would assign to an extreme of one subspecies or species (an individual from within the breeding range of that form as typically represented by the mean) the name of an essentially different subspecies or species which that individual happens to resemble.

To illustrate, Dr. Dwight in his recent essay on the Genus *Junco* (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. XXXVIII, 1918, pp. 289-309, 5 text-figs. [maps], pls. XI-XIII), cites (p. 293) the case of a series of breeding juncos, one hundred males, all from one locality in the Sierra Nevada of central California. He finds in this series, with regard to one character, color, variations which lead him to refer about seventy-five percent (with pinkish brown backs) to *thurberi*, fifteen percent (with browner backs) to "*couesi*," and a smaller percentage (with deeply ruddy backs) to *oregonus*. Of course, as pointed out by him, there are further variations, and also these categories are not sharply demarked. Dwight says (p. 294): "I do not see how we can escape the necessity of calling a specimen *oregonus* or