

obtain in the normal behavior of fluctuational variation. This is, as everyone knows, a formidable problem, one that is likely never to be solved to our complete satisfaction because of some of just those difficulties that Dwight complains of throughout the paper cited. But we are going to approach far closer to the ideal than the present stage—provided the work of the open-minded, painstaking yet optimistic student continues to dominate the field.

JOSEPH GRINNELL.

California Museum of Vertebrate Zoölogy,
July 9, 1918.

A Correction.

EDITOR OF 'THE AUK':

My thanks are due to Mr. Alexander Wetmore, not alone for the pleasure, shared with other readers of 'The Auk,' in perusing his valuable contribution on 'The Birds of Desecheo Island, Porto Rico,' but also for having therein called my attention to a hitherto overlooked slip of the pen in my article 'A Day on De Cicheo Island' (*Oölogist*, 1900), whereby (page 117, second paragraph), I referred to the "Sooty Tern" instead of to the Noddy, as should have been the case. This error certainly requires correction, even at this late date.

Of course the character of the slip is at once apparent on referring to my paper on the 'Birds of Porto Rico' (*Auk*, 1902-03), wherein (1902, pages 357-358) the Sooty Tern is correctly recorded as noted only on Mona Island, the Bridled Tern and Noddy, however, having been noted on both Mona and Desecheo Islands.

B. S. BOWDISH.

Newark, N. J., July 11, 1918.

NOTES AND NEWS.

ALL readers of 'The Auk' are familiar with the changes which are continually being proposed in the technical names of our birds and are doubtless reminded of the old saying that 'A rose by any other name will smell as sweet.' Those actively interested in nomenclature know that many of these proposed changes, as well as similar ones in other branches of zoölogy and botany, are necessary in order to conform to the rules adopted to bring about uniformity in scientific nomenclature. What strides have been made toward uniformity and stability in bird names under these rules may be realized by comparing the 'Hand-List' of the B. O. U. and the A. O. U. 'Check-List' (cf. *Auk*, 1915, p. 243).

Other proposed changes involving the acceptance or rejection of newly described races, subdivisions of genera etc., depend upon individual opinion and can only be decided by an authoritative list prepared by a committee