

an opinion on the matter". Making a change under such circumstances seems utterly unwarranted and it is just such action that causes much of our confusion in nomenclature. So also we find *Sula leucogastra* changed to *S. leucogastris* with no word of comment although this seems to be an innovation of the author and should at least be accompanied by some explanation.

In only a very few cases does Mr. Bent give definite reasons for the changes that he makes usually contenting himself with the statement that "this name is now generally recognized." This is to be regretted since it would have been of inestimable assistance to the A. O. U. Committee to have had his reasons for every change. In some instances the use of a new name is positively misleading to the reader; *Puffinus cuneatus* for instance appears as *P. pacifica* in the heading and index but our author calls it *cuneatus* in the text and makes no reference to or explanation of the name *pacifica*.

Frankly we regret to see nomenclature dragged into a work of this kind where in our opinion it is entirely out of place, the changes confuse the average reader while the lack of explanation leaves even the expert in the dark as to why they have been made.

In running over the pages of Mr. Bent's work we are struck with the number of species whose North American status rests upon Townsend specimens alleged to have been taken off the coast of Oregon. As is well known Townsend returned by way of Cape Horn and collected specimens off the coast of Chile and at other points in the southern seas, several of these were described as from Oregon and the probability that these specimens of Tubinares came from more southern regions has always seemed to us very strong.

Every student of American birds will look forward to the appearance of Mr. Bent's succeeding volumes with the greatest interest and will agree with us, we are sure, that this work will rank as one of the most important of those which deal with the North American avifauna.—W. S.

**Sachtleben on the Birds of Lithuania.**<sup>1</sup>—This report, which constitutes the bird portion of Stechow's 'Natural History of Lithuania and Adjacent Country' is a minute study of the characters and variations exhibited by the birds inhabiting the region. The subspecies are worked out with great care and an abundance of measurements is presented based mainly upon a collection made during 1918 and many individual specimens are discussed at length under the heading of "variation."

There are also tables showing the subspecific forms of many species in six different districts extending across Europe from Russia to the British

<sup>1</sup> Beiträge zur Natur- und Kulturgeschichte Lithauens und angrenzender Gebiete, von E. Stechow. Vögel von Dr. H. Sachtleben. Mit. I Tafel. Abhandlungen der math.-phys. Klasse der Bayer. Akad. der Wissenschaften. Supl.-Band. I. Abhandlung. pp. 1-232. Munich 1922.

Isles. In this as well as elsewhere the symbols  $>$  and  $<$  are used between two subspecific names to indicate intermediates tending toward one or the other, but to which the author thinks it inadvisable to apply a distinctive name. This plan would seem to be much better than the quadri-nomial system advocated by some European writers who desire to indicate these very slightly different forms.

A table headed by a series of colored figures of skins of Nuthatches (*Sitta europaea*) shows very graphically the extent of color variation in the several subspecies and their respective ranges.

This painstaking report is not only a contribution of importance to the ornithology of the region of which it treats but also a contribution to the study of variation.—W. S.

**Schalow's Ornithology of Brandenburg.**<sup>1</sup>—This bulky volume of 600 pages represents the results of ornithological studies carried on for more than fifty years by Dr. H. Schalow in the province of Brandenburg in which he lived.

It opens with a review of the faunistic ornithology of the region with a bibliography of some 700 titles; then follows a nominal list of the 294 species treated in the main text and another list of the same species arranged in groups according to the time of their occurrence. The text itself consists of detailed accounts of the occurrence of each species in the province with dates of migration or capture, references and quotations from previous writers and measurements of the eggs.

In conclusion there is a list of popular names and reference to certain species in folk-lore, and finally a series of biographies of the leading ornithologists of the region from the time of Frisch and Shultz.

Dr. Schalow has produced a scholarly monograph which will long stand as the authority on the ornithology of this portion of Germany as well as a monument to its author whose portrait in photogravure forms the frontispiece.—W. S.

**Rowan on Bird Life at Shoal Lake, Manitoba.**<sup>2</sup>—This is an ecological paper dealing with the birds observed at the biological station of the University of Manitoba at Indian Bay, Shoal Lake, Lake of the Woods, Manitoba, a complete list of which appeared in 'The Auk' for April 1922.

Prof. Rowan defines seven well marked faunal habitats within a mile of the station, i. e. the lake; the surrounding forest; the muskeg beyond the forest belt; several small marshes; the gravel pit; islands in the lake

<sup>1</sup> Beiträge zur Vögel-fauna der Mark Brandenburg. Materialien zu einer Ornithologie der norddeutschen Tiefebene auf Grund eigener Beobachtungen und darauf gegründeter Studien von Herman Schalow. Mit 1 Photogravure und 13 Lichtdrucktafeln. Berlin. Deutsche Ornithologische Gesellschaft. 1919. pp. 1-601.

<sup>2</sup> Ecological Note on the Birds Observed at the Biological Station of the University of Manitoba. By William Rowan. Ecology, Vol. III, No. 3, July, 1922. pp. 255-260