

heretofore proposed for forms of *Collocalia* is appended with the status of each.—W. S.

**Preble on the Woodcock.**—Mr. E. A. Preble has published a most interesting and well written sketch<sup>1</sup> of the Woodcock and an earnest plea for saving the remnant of this once abundant bird from extinction.

Sportsmen may as well recognize the fact that certain species are bound to be exterminated if their hunting is continued and such birds should be placed on the protected list as soon as possible, while there is still a chance to save them.

With the adoption of the Migratory Bird Treaty in 1916 most of the shorebirds were placed on the closed list; last year the shooting of Black-breasted Plover was prohibited and this year the Yellow-legs receives complete protection. Why not add the Woodcock? Any objection that can possibly be made will come from those who are too selfish and greedy to give up their personal pleasure for the pleasure of a vastly larger proportion of the community who are interested in saving wild life from annihilation, and enjoying its presence.—W. S.

**Miller on Structural Variations in Scoters.**—Mr. Miller presents some important structural characters in this paper<sup>2</sup> which emphasize the difference between the two genera of Scoters, *Oidemia* and *Melanitta* now generally recognized. The most conspicuous of these are the great difference in the trachea and the remarkable abbreviation in the intestinal caeca of *Oidemia*, which resemble those of the Mergansers, while in most other ducks, including *Melanitta*, they are long and slender.

The Surf Scoter (*Pelionetta*) he still regards as close to *Melanitta* and best regarded as a subgenus. The paper is welcome as strengthening our present arrangement of these interesting Ducks.—W. S.

**Recent Papers by Dwight and Griscom.**—Mr. A. W. Anthony has been collecting birds in the mountains of northern Guatemala for Dr. Jonathan Dwight and among other interesting specimens has secured a remarkable Tyrant Flycatcher<sup>3</sup> apparently belonging to a new genus and species which has recently been described by Dr. Dwight and Mr. Ludlow Griscom under the name *Xenotriccus callizonus* (p. 2) Lake Atitlan (5500 ft.). In color it is unique among Central American Flycatchers—brown above and yellow below, with a conspicuous rufous breast band—while in general appearance it suggests *Aphanotriccus* though it has an occipital crest and longer tail and tarsus.

<sup>1</sup> The Vanishing Woodcock. By Edward A. Preble. Nature Magazine, April, 1927. pp. 235-240.

<sup>2</sup> Structural Variations in the Scoters. By W. DeW. Miller. American Museum Novitates, No. 243, December 31, 1926. pp. 1-5.

<sup>3</sup> A New and Remarkable Flycatcher from Guatemala. By Jonathan Dwight and Ludlow Griscom, American Museum Novitates, No. 254, March 8, 1927. pp. 1-2.

Another paper<sup>1</sup> by the same authors reviews the Blue Grosbeaks (*Guiraca caerulea* subsp.) of which five races are recognized. Neither of the names by which our bird of the southwestern United States has been known prove applicable. *G. c. eurhyncha* of Coues is evidently based on the southern Mexican bird, although he gave only "Mexico" as his type locality and our authors have apparently been unable to locate his type, as they make no reference to it. Unfortunately they too have failed to designate a definite type locality which should have been done under the circumstances. The type specimen of *Pitylus luzula* another name that has been attributed to our bird is pretty definitely shown to have come from San Carlos, Salvador, and our authors restrict this name to the resident Blue Grosbeak of Central America. The California form is recognized as distinct under Grinnell's name *salicaria* and our southwestern form thus left nameless. For it they propose *G. c. interfusa* (p. 4), selecting a specimen from Ft. Lowell, Arizona as their type.

Nelson's *chiapensis* is considered as a synonym of *eurhyncha*.—W. S.

**Lewis on the Production of Eider Down.**—Mr. Harrison F. Lewis has recently published for the Canadian Government an interesting report<sup>2</sup> on the Eider Duck and the commercial possibilities of developing the Eider down industry in Canada, an industry which is now practically restricted to Iceland.

The Canadian National Parks Service is using every effort to interest the people resident in the region where the Eider Ducks breed, in the protection of the bird and the development of the down industry, and this pamphlet is issued as part of this propaganda. Those who attended the Ottawa meeting of the A. O. U. will recall Mr. Lewis's practical demonstration of the method of cleaning the down which is fully described in the pamphlet before us.

We learn further that the first gathering of the down is made about the time when the bird begins to set. She will replace what is taken with the down remaining on her breast and no further gathering should be made until the young leave the nest. A further gathering of the best of the remaining down is then made immediately.

Descriptions and figures of the cleaning frames are presented and details about heating and cleansing the down are explained. The report is a valuable economic paper and we sincerely hope that it will result in the saving of this splendid bird from further decimation as well as in the development of an additional industry which has great possibilities for profit. Mr. Lewis is to be congratulated on his work in behalf of the Eider and upon a well prepared report.—W. S.

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<sup>1</sup> A Revision of the Geographical Races of the Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*) By Jonathan Dwight and Ludlow Griscom. *Ibid.* No. 257, March 14, 1927. pp. 1-5.]

<sup>2</sup> Producing Eider Down. By Harrison F. Lewis. Canadian National Parks Branch, Department of the Interior, Ottawa, Canada, where copies of the report may be obtained.