

Bonasa umbellus fusca (ORD) COUES vs. *B. u. sabini* (DOUGL.).
Cf. COUES, Lewis and Clark's Exped. ed. 1893, III, 872.

It is held that the proposed change is not in accordance with
Canons XLIII and XLIV of the A. O. U. Code.

VI. ACTION DEFERRED.

Icterus gularis yucatanensis BERLEPSCH. Cf. Auk, XI, Jan.
1894, 51. Final action was again postponed.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Newton's 'Dictionary of Birds.' Part III.¹—Part III² of this admirable work includes, besides the minor articles to be expected in such a connection, others of considerable length and unusual importance, as naturally follows from their authoritative authorship. Among such may be especially mentioned *Moa* (concluded from Part II) and *Odontornithes*, by Mr. Lydekker; *Monstrosities, Muscular System, Nervous System, and Pterylosis*, by Dr. Gadow; *Moor-hen, Moult, Nidification, Nightjar, Owl, Parrot, Partridge*, etc., by Professor Newton. Everywhere throughout the work Professor Newton has enriched his pages with much curious historic and philological information of great interest to every intelligent reader. His views regarding nomenclature, the status and relationship of groups, and kindred general questions, are conservative and based on full knowledge of what has been said by previous authorities. He is strenuously opposed to the admission of either genera or species based on slight differences, with a tendency perhaps to underrate the fine distinctions commonly made by the writers of the 'new school.' Dr. Gadow

¹ A | Dictionary of Birds | By | Alfred Newton | Assisted by | Hans Gadow | With Contributions from | Richard Lydekker, B. A., F. R. S., Charles S. Roy, M. A., F. R. S. | and | Robert W. Shufeldt, M. D. (late United States Army) | Part III (Moa-Sheathbill) | London | Adam and Charles Black | 1894. 8vo., pp. 577-832.

² For notices of Parts I and II, see *antea*, Vol. X, pp. 357-360, and Vol. XI, pp. 56-60.

and Mr. Lydekker display also a masterly command of their subjects. In short, the work thoroughly maintains the high standard of Parts I and II.

In concluding the present notice it may be not out of place to transcribe a few remarks on special points of interest to readers of 'The Auk.' Thus Dr. Gadow, in his article 'Muscular System' makes the following comment: "The taxonomic value of muscles is theoretically great, but very limited when put to practical test. Most of them cannot be understood unless the whole group to which they belong be examined, and the study of their correlations is a very complicated problem. To pick out a few of the most variable muscles of the leg, and to arrange birds in accordance with their mere presence or absence, without regard to intermediate stages, is an easy but scarcely serious mode of investigation, and there is no wonder that systems built on such simple notions broke down. There is no reason why a dozen different kinds of birds should not have lost the same muscle at different times and independently of each other, and that other kinds may not lose it in future if its function be no longer required or can be fulfilled by some other combination. . . It is certain that similar muscular combinations in two or more birds do not necessarily mean relationship, while on the contrary similar requirements are often met in similar ways. . . ."—J. A. A.

Stone's Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey.¹—Mr. Stone, with the assistance of his fellow-members of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, has presented us with a faunal list which, except in unimportant details, may well stand as a model for works of this nature.

Chapter I, on 'The Geographical Distribution of Birds,' opens with remarks on the 'General Laws of Geographical Distribution,' and is followed by a detailed consideration of the 'Faunal Areas of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey— their Physical Features and Characteristic Birds,' the value of which is much enhanced by a colored map.

Chapter II, on 'Bird Migration,' treats of the subject from both a general and local standpoint and should be read by every one interested in the study of this branch of ornithology. This chapter concludes with a nominal list of the 'Birds found within Ten Miles of Philadelphia,' some 260 in number, grouped under the following, in the main, well-chosen headings: I. Resident Birds. II. Species which are of rare or irregular occurrence in winter, but common summer residents.

¹The | Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania | and | New Jersey | With Introductory Chapters on | Geographical Distribution and Migration | Prepared under the direction of the | Delaware Valley Ornithological Club | By | Witmer Stone | Conservator Ornithological Section Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia | — | Philadelphia | Delaware Valley Ornithological Club | 1894.—8vo., pp. vii 185, frontispiece and two maps.