

species of *T. bewickii spilurus* and *T. b. leucogaster* of the Check-List are for the first time separated and named. The United States forms of the group are as follows: (1) *T. bewickii bewickii* (Aud.), of the eastern United States; (2) *T. b. cryptus*, Texas, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas, and probably north to Kansas; (3) *T. b. eremophilus*, southern border for the United States, from western Texas and southern Colorado to south-eastern California, south over the tablelands of Mexico; (4) *T. b. charienturus*, coast region of southern California, from about Pasadena south into northern Lower California; (5) *T. b. drymæcus*, Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys west to the coast about San Simeon, California; (6) *T. b. spilurus* (Vigors), vicinity of San Francisco Bay, California; (7) *T. b. calophonus*, Pacific Coast, from Oregon north to southern Vancouver Island and the valley of the Frazer River, British Columbia; (8) *T. b. nesophilus*, Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Islands, California; (9) *T. b. leucophrys* (Anthony), San Clemente Island, California; (10) *T. b. cerroensis* (Anthony), Cerros Island, Lower California. The other members of the group are (1) *T. b. percus*, State of Jalisco, north to Central Zacatecas, south to Guerrero; (2) *T. b. murinus* (Hartl.), States of Hidalgo, Mexico, Tlaxcala, and northern Morelos, Mexico; (3) *T. b. bairdi* (Salv. & Godm.), Oaxaca, southern Puebla, and southwestern Vera Cruz, Mexico; (4) *T. insularis* (Lawr.), Socorro Island, Mexico; (5) *T. brevicaudus* Ridgw., Guadalupe Island, Mexico. Thus five of the forms are insular.

Mr. Oberholser is no doubt very keen at discriminating slight differences, not only in the present but in some other instances. The question is not so much whether the differences claimed exist, but the advisability of their recognition in nomenclature. The present group is apparently not exceptionally plastic, and the same methods carried out among North American birds in general would doubtless result in numberless similar minute subdivisions, which it would serve no good purpose to recognize as 'subspecies.' In the present case the rather startling results seem due rather to a new point of view as regards the value of slight differences than to the discovery of new characters.

We observe that Mr. Oberholser rejects the name *leucogaster* used by Baird for the Texan form, and renames it *cryptus*, on the ground that Baird did not give a new name in this instance but used the name *leucogaster* of Gould, through a misidentification of Gould's species; and that, therefore, "according to the usual procedure in such cases," Baird's name is unavailable—a point apparently well taken.

Incidentally Mr. Oberholser claims full generic rank for *Thryomanes* and *Anorthura*, and we believe with good reason.—J. A. A.

**Bangs on Birds from Colombia.**<sup>1</sup>—Mr. Bangs here reports on a third

<sup>1</sup>On some Birds from the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia. By Outram Bangs. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. XII, 1898, pp. 171-182. Oct. 31, 1898.

lot of birds, received from Mr. W. W. Brown, Jr., collected in May and June, 1898, at various localities in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia, at altitudes ranging from 5000 to 8000 feet. The collection numbers about 300 specimens, representing 66 species and subspecies, of which 8, and one genus, are described as new, as follows: *Neocrex colombianus*, *Aulacorhamphus lautus*, *Leucuria* (gen. nov.) *phalerata*, *Elania sororia*, *Grallaria spatiator*, *Spinus spinescens capitaneus*, *Diglossa nocticolor*, *Merula phaeopyga minuscula*, *M. gigas cacozela*. The new Hummingbird (*Leucuria phalerata*), remarkable for its pure white tail, is related to *Helianthea* and *Hemistephania*; a colored figure of it will be given in a future number of this journal. — J. A. A.

Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science.—The 'Proceedings' of the Indiana Academy of Science for 1897 (1898) contains (pp. 175-207) several short ornithological papers, as follows: (1) 'Some Indiana Crow Roosts,' by A. W. Butler (pp. 175-178), enumerating 13 roosts, with a population varying from a few thousands to tens of thousands each, while one roost was estimated to contain "one hundred thousand Crows." (2) 'Notes on Crow Roosts of Western Indiana and Eastern Illinois,' by John S. Wright (pp. 178-180), — brief notes on six or eight roosts. (3) 'Brünnich's Guillemot (*Uria lomvia*) an Addition to the Birds of Indiana,' by A. W. Butler (pp. 180-183), — previously published, in substance, in 'The Auk' (XIV, April, 1897, pp. 197-199). (4) Notes on the Birds observed in the vicinity of Richmond, Wayne County, Indiana,' by Alden H. Hadley (pp. 183-198), — an annotated list of 137 species. (5) 'Notes on Indiana Heronries,' by A. W. Butler (pp. 198-201). This is an attempt to enumerate all the heronries at present or formerly existing in Indiana. Evidence is given of the former breeding of the American Egret (*Ardea egretta*) in some numbers in the Kankakee Marshes in northern Indiana, as well as at various points in the lower Wabash Valley. The inference is drawn that the few birds of this species noted in the central and northern parts of the State after the breeding season are not stragglers from the southward, as formerly supposed, but migrants on their way south from breeding stations in the northern part of the State. (6) 'The Recent occurrence of the Raven in Indiana,' by A. W. Butler (pp. 201, 202). Reported as breeding as late as 1894 at Raven's Rock, in Martin and Dubois Counties, and as recently occurring in winter in the northeastern part of the State. (7) 'An Instance of Bird Ferocity,' by Glenn Culbertson (pp. 206, 207). A Loggerhead Shrike observed impaling a Sparrow Hawk on the thorns of an osage orange tree.— J. A. A.

Recent Papers on the Great Auk. — Under the title 'The Orcadian Home of the Gargawf,' Prof. Newton in 'The Ibis' for October describes a visit to the Holm of Papa Westray, the breeding place of the species