

Hermit, and Swainson Warblers. There is also the specimen of Townsend's Warbler from Chester Co., Pennsylvania, the only one taken east of the Rocky Mountains, which passed through several hands, selling for fabulous prices. There is also an Ipswich Sparrow, obviously secured long before the type was obtained.

In contemplating these specimens which have reposed in their old cabinet for nearly 30 years untouched by the hands of ornithologists, their antiquated labels oblivious to the edicts of the A. O. U. committee on nomenclature, one seems to be almost in touch with the past generation. Besides those I have mentioned are some Philadelphia Vireos and other birds collected by Prof. Cope at the time he was just starting upon his scientific career and presented by him to Turnbull. One cannot but wonder what would have been the outcome had Prof. Cope in later years continued to turn his attention to ornithology instead of neglecting it, as he did almost entirely.

I recall one instance; some two years before his death, when I was engaged in systematizing a heterogeneous collection of birds he entered the room and in the course of conversation took exception to some of the characters used in their classification. "What you want," he said, "are alcoholic specimens; then you can get at their proper relationships;" and added, with a smile, "some day perhaps I shall get at the birds and straighten them all out." But other fields continued to demand his attention and Philadelphia was prevented from adding his name to her already long list of notable ornithologists.

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## GENERAL NOTES.

*Thalassidroma castro* of Harcourt. — Now that the question of *Thalassidroma castro* vs. *Oceanodroma cryptoleucura* has been brought up by Mr. Grant in 'The Ibis,' and passed upon, as far as the A. O. U. 'Check-List' is concerned, by the A. O. U. Committee on Classification, ornithologists may wish to consult the original description, which will be more generally accessible if reprinted in 'The Auk.' It is as follows: "It differs from Leach's petrel, to which it is closely allied, in being larger;

it has a shorter wing and shorter tarsus, though its entire length is greater; it has also a square tail instead of a forked one. It measures seven inches and a half entire length; from the carpus to the end of the wing, five inches and three quarters; tarsus, three-quarters of an inch. I have called it *Thalassidroma castro*, as I am not aware that it has ever been described before." (A Sketch of Madeira, 1851, 123.) The specific name is derived from that of "*Roque de Castro*," given by the natives. The type locality is the Desertas Islands, near Madeira. — CHAS. W. RICHMOND, *Washington, D. C.*

**Pelecanus occidentalis vs. P. fuscus.** — Although "*Pelecanus fuscus*," credited to Linnæus, Syst. Nat., ed. 12, 1766, 215, has stood in our 'Check-List' since 1886, a glance at the first-mentioned work will convince any one that Linnæus used no such name. He divides *Pelecanus onocrotalus* into two varieties,  $\alpha$ . *orientalis*, and  $\beta$ . *occidentalis*; under the latter are cited the "*Onocrotalus s. Pelecanus fuscus*" of Sloane's 'Jamaica,' the "*Onocrotalus americanus*" of Edwards, the "*Pelecanus subfuscus, gula distensili*" of Brown's 'Jamaica,' etc. The habitat of  $\beta$  is given as "America," and the references belong mainly to the Brown Pelican of Eastern North America. Varietal names, as used by Linnæus, were italicized and designated by a Greek letter instead of a separate number, but all such names were binomial marginal ones, and ought to be recognized. If ornithologists accept this view our Brown Pelican should stand as *Pelecanus occidentalis*; otherwise the *P. fuscus* of the 'Check-List' must be credited to Gmelin. — CHAS. W. RICHMOND, *Washington D. C.*

**Old Squaw (*Clangula hyemalis*) in Indiana.** — A few records have been given of individuals taken in the State, and in all instances they were probably blown inland by severe storms off Lake Michigan, where they are usually abundant in the winter season.

On Feb. 12, 1899, during intensely cold weather, a flock of thirteen was killed at English Lake, Ind., some thirty-five miles directly south of Lake Michigan. There was no open water, except a small space, some thirty yards square, where the ice had been cut and taken out for storing, and here the flock suddenly alighted. They were evidently in an exhausted condition, hunting for open water, as they paid no attention to twenty or thirty men working around the hole and floating out the ice, and only dove when struck at with pike poles. A gun was soon procured, and the whole flock dispatched, and a male specimen was sent to me. The following morning, February 13, three more Ducks of this species attempted to alight in the same hole, which had been kept open by the ice cutters, but a hungry Bald Eagle, who has a nest a half mile distant, stooped to them, without success however, and they continued a hurried flight over the frozen marshes.