

birds made by Mr. F. W. Urich in northern Venezuela,¹ and numbering only 37 species, proved on examination to contain 5 that were apparently undescribed, namely: (1) *Setophaga verticalis pallidiventris*, (2) *Chlorospingus (Hemispingus) canipileus*, (3) *Mecocerculus nigriceps*, (4) *Mecocerculus urichi*, (5) *Synallaxis striatipectus*.

Mr. Chapman has also described two new subspecies of *Colymbus dominicus*,² an examination of this group in the light of the material in the American Museum of Natural History showing that there are two continental forms quite different from true *C. dominicus* of the West Indies. To the South American form (type locality, Chapada, Matto Grosso, Brazil) he has given the name *C. dominicus brachyrhynchus*, in allusion to its very small bill, and to the North American form (type locality, Lomita Ranch, Lower Rio Grande, Texas) the name *C. dominicus brachyptera*.—J. A. A.

Chapman on Birds from Greenland.³—The American Museum of Natural History has received various collections of birds from Greenland during the last few years, in connection with the work of the several Peary Expeditions to North Greenland. These collections aggregate about 500 specimens, and include several especially interesting series of plumages of Eiders, Gyrfalcons, Murres, Kittiwakes, etc., which Mr. Chapman in the present paper has turned to good use. The number of species represented is 48, and many of them are accompanied by the field notes of one of the collectors, Mr. J. D. Figgins, who accompanied the Peary Expedition of 1896. Unfortunately, the field notes for the Expedition of 1895, when one of the most important collections was made, under the supervision of Prof. L. L. Dyche, were unavailable for use in the present connection.

Mr. Chapman gives special attention to the growth and phases of plumage in such species as Brünnich's Murre, the Kittiwake, Fulmar, Greenland and King Eiders, and the Gyrfalcons, several of which are represented by series illustrating all the changes from the downy chick to the fully adult birds.

Incidentally, Mr. Chapman takes up the question of the relationship of *Rissa tridactyla* to *R. t. pollicaris*, and finds that while the development

¹ Descriptions of Five Apparently New Birds from Venezuela. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. His., XII, 1899, pp. 153-156. Aug. 5, 1899.

² Description of Two New Subspecies of *Colymbus dominicus* Linn. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. XII, 1899, pp. 255, 256. Dec. 23, 1899.

³ Report on Birds Received through the Peary Expeditions to Greenland. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XII, 1899, pp. 219-244. Dec. 23, 1899.

of the hind toe in the two forms fails to be satisfactorily diagnostic, the difference in the amount of black tipping the outer primaries in the two forms is fairly constant and of sufficient importance to warrant their recognition as subspecies.

On the other hand, the extensive material of the Fulmar group leads Mr. Chapman to believe that the alleged differences between *Fulmarus glacialis* and *F. g. minor* are "ascribable to sexual and individual variation." In the case of *Somateria mollissima* and *S. m. borealis* he finds a marked difference in the size and form of the bill in the two forms, as shown by his measurements and outline figures, enough to warrant their recognition as well marked forms.

In describing the changes of plumage in the King and Greenland Eiders, Mr. Chapman distinguishes a post-nuptial plumage in the adult males, which begins to replace the nuptial in June, and affects all the brighter part of the plumage, and which in turn gives place to the breeding dress, reacquired during late autumn.

Mr. Figgins's field notes add great interest to the paper, and relate to the haunts and breeding habits of a large number of the species. — J. A. A.

Oberholser on the Flammulated Screech Owls.¹— In a paper of sixteen pages, Mr. Oberholser has summarized our present knowledge of *Megascops flammeolus* and its western subspecies *M. f. idahoensis*. The former ranges from Guatemala to California, Arizona, and Colorado, and the latter from southern California to Washington and Idaho. Each form is described in detail, with full citation of bibliographic references, and such information on their habits and distribution as the scanty records thus far afford. A new record for *flammeolus* is Presidio County, Texas, while additional records for *idahoensis* are San Gorgonio Peak and the San Bernardino Mountains, California. In view of the considerable amount of variation shown by specimens from different localities, Mr. Oberholser believes that when more material is available the group will "be found separable into several more or less segregated geographical races." — J. A. A.

Oberholser on a Collection of Birds from Liberia.²— This collection consists of 57 specimens, representing 39 forms, four of which are here described as new, namely: (1) *Dendromus caroli arizelus*, (2) *Anthreptes*

¹ The Flammulated Screech Owls, *Megascops flammeolus* (Kaup) and *Megascops flammeolus idahoensis* Merriam. Par M. Harry C. Oberholser. Ornith. Bull. du Comité Ornithologique International, Vol. X, No. 1, Dec., 1899. (Separate, 16 pp., repaged.)

² A List of the Birds collected by Mr. R. P. Currie in Liberia. By Harry C. Oberholser, Assistant Biologist, Department of Agriculture. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XXII, 1899, pp. 25-37.