

**Oberholser's Revision of the Ladder-backed Woodpeckers.**<sup>1</sup>—

This revision is based on the material available for study in the principal museums of the United States, numbering altogether 560 specimens, brought together by Mr. Ridgway for use in the preparation of his 'Birds of North and Middle America.' Under Mr. Oberholser's standard of subspecies "the six currently recognized races are here increased to fifteen." *Dryobates scalaris bairdi* of the A. O. U. Check-List is here treated as extralimital, with the assigned type locality the State of Hidalgo, Mexico. From the old *bairdi* of the Check-List are carved *D. s. symplectus* and *D. s. cactophilus*, the former ranging from southeastern Colorado south through Oklahoma and Texas into eastern Mexico, the latter from southeastern California, Arizona and New Mexico south into the State of Durango. The other seven new forms are from various localities in central and southern Mexico, and Nicaragua. The ranges of all the forms are indicated on an accompanying map.—J. A. A.

**Oberholser's Revision of the Hairy Woodpeckers.**<sup>2</sup>—This study, the author tells us, was undertaken largely at the request of Mr. Ridgway, and is based on the material he had gathered from the leading museums of this country for use in the preparation of the forthcoming fifth part of his 'Birds of North and Middle America,' the specimens of this group alone numbering 1070. As is well known, the Hairy Woodpecker group ranges from Alaska and northern Canada south to Panama, and comprises many well-marked forms. The fourteen hitherto currently recognized subspecies are here increased to twenty. The name of the Northern Hairy Woodpecker is changed from *Dryobates villosus leucomelas* (Boddaert) to *D. v. septentrionalis* (Nuttall). Boddaert's name was based on Brisson's description of his "*Picus varius canadensis*" and on D'Aubenton's plate of Buffon's "Epeiche du Canada," the locality being simply "Canada." Mr. Oberholser finding that the measurements given by Brisson and indicated in D'Aubenton's drawing appear to be "altogether too small for the large race of northern Canada," the name *leucomelas* is treated as a synonym of *D. villosus villosus* and replaced by the next available designation, based on birds from the Saskatchewan River. Inasmuch as the range of overlapping individual variation in the length of the wing in the two forms is one third of the average difference between them, and as Brisson's specimens are quite likely to have come from either Quebec or Montreal (Oberholser records specimens of the northern form from as far

<sup>1</sup> A Revision of the Forms of the Ladder-backed Woodpeckers (*Dryobates scalaris* [Wagler]). By Harry C. Oberholser, Assistant Ornithologist, Department of Agriculture. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XLI, No. 1847, pp. 139-159, with map (pl. 12). Published June 30, 1911.

<sup>2</sup> A Revision of the Forms of the Hairy Woodpeckers (*Dryobates villosus* [Linnaeus]). By Harry C. Oberholser, Assistant Ornithologist, Department of Agriculture. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XL, No. 1840, pp. 595-621, with map (pl. 70). Published June 3, 1911.