

Some changes in nomenclature affect North American birds, for instance *Pisobia aurita* (Latham) must become *P. acuminata* Horsf. since Mr. Mathews states that Sharpe was clearly in error when he claimed that Watlings drawing 244, upon which Latham based his name, represented this bird. It is obviously *Actitis hypoleucos*. Mr. Mathews moreover divides the genus *Pisobia* and places this species in *Limnocinclus*; *Actodromas* being a synonym of true *Pisobia* with *P. minuta* as its type.

The name of the Pectoral Sandpiper must change also, since *Tringa maculata* Vieill. is rendered invalid by *T. maculata* Linn. 1766, we therefore return to *pectoralis* of Say.

The American Knot is separated as *Canutus canutus rufus* Wilson while the Japanese race is described as new under the name *C. c. rogersi*.— W. S.

Mearns on New African Birds.¹— In working over the rich collections of African birds in the U. S. National Museum obtained mainly by himself, Dr. Mearns finds the following new Weaver-birds and Thrushes, *Estrilda rhodopyga polia*, from the Gato River, Southern Abyssinia, *E. rhodopyga hypochra*, *Granatina ianthinogastra roosevelti*, *Planesticus helleri*, *P. olivaceus polius*, *Geocichla piaggia keniensis* and *G. gurneyi raineyi* from British East Africa. While Dr. Mearns' first aim is naturally the description of the new forms obtained by him, ornithologists will await with interest a general account of the collections made on the Smithsonian and the Childs Frick Expeditions which he accompanied as naturalist.— W. S.

Riley on the Bahama Barn Owl.²— While accompanying the Bahamas Expedition of the Geographic Society of Baltimore a few years ago, Mr. Riley obtained a specimen of a peculiar looking Barn Owl which in the light of additional material now available he describes as new, under the name of *Tyto perlatus lucayanus*.— W. S.

Shufeldt's Studies of Fossil Birds.³— In the former of two recent publications on North American fossil birds, Dr. Shufeldt presents the results of a reëxamination of the Cope and Condon Collections and a study of

¹ Descriptions of three new African Weaver-birds of the Genera *Estrilda* and *Granatina*. By Edgar A. Mearns. Smithsonian. Misc. Collns., Vol. 61, No. 9, pp. 1-4. July 31, 1913.

Descriptions of four New African Thrushes of the Genera *Planesticus* and *Geocichla*. By Edgar A. Mearns. Smithsonian. Misc. Collns., Vol. 61, No. 10, pp. 1-5. August 11, 1913.

² The Bahama Barn Owl. By J. H. Riley. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, XXVI, pp. 153-154. June 30, 1913.

³ Review of the Fossil Fauna of the Desert Region of Oregon, with a Description of additional Material collected there. By R. W. Shufeldt. Bull. Amer. Museum Nat. Hist., Vol. XXXII, Art. VI, pp. 123-178. New York, July 9, 1913.

Further Studies of Fossil Birds with Descriptions of New and Extinct Species. By R. W. Shufeldt. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XXXII, Art. XVI, pp. 285-306. New York, August 4, 1913.