

The question of recognition of genera and subspecies is of course a matter of personal opinion, though he brings out some important and original facts in treating of the Gannets and Frigate Bird.

In consideration of the general accuracy of minute details we might call attention to the apparent omission of a synonym under *Mesocarbo ater ater*. We are informed in the last paragraph that the bird figured is the type of *M. a. territorii* but this name occurs nowhere else in the article. So also with *Hypoleucus varius whytei* under *H. v. perthi*.

We note as new forms only the following *Phalacrocorax carbo indicus* (p. 171) India; *Scœophaethon rubricauda rothschildi* (p. 303) Laysan, Niuhau; *S. r. brevirostris* (p. 303) Bonin Isls. Most of the new names required in the treatment of the Pelecaniformes have been previously published in the 'Austral Avian Record'.—W. S.

Recent Monographs by Oberholser.¹—Mr. Oberholser has recently published the results of three careful systematic studies of the American Spotted Owl; the Ruddy Kingfisher; and Long-tailed Goatsucker of the far East.

He finds that the four recognized races of the Spotted Owl resolve themselves into two valid forms. *Strix o. occidentalis* of the Pacific Coast region of which *S. o. caurina* is a synonym and *S. o. lucida* ranging from Colorado and western Texas to northern Mexico, of which *S. o. huachucae* is a synonym. The presence of a dark and light phase of plumage in this species is responsible in part for the description of so many supposed races.

Of the Kingfisher *Entomothera coromanda* nine races are recognized of which five are new. *E. c. mizorhina* (p. 645) N. Andaman Isl.; *E. c. neophora* (p. 646), Tapanuli Bay, Sumatra; *E. c. pagana* (p. 648), N. Pagi Isl., Sumatra; *E. c. ochrothorectis* (p. 652), Masbate Isl., Philippines, and *E. c. bangsi* (p. 654) Ishigaki Isl., Riu Kiu Isls.

The goatsucker, *Caprimulgus macrurus*, is also divisible into nine races, *C. m. mesophanis* (p. 590), Ambrina Isl. and *C. m. anamesus* (p. 593), Singapore Isl., being new. These papers straighten out three difficult groups of birds very satisfactorily.—W. S.

Nature and Science on the Pacific Coast.²—This little volume is

¹ Critical Notes on the Subspecies of the Spotted Owl, *Strix occidentalis* (Xantus). By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 49, pp. 251-257. July 26, 1915.

A Review of the Subspecies of the Ruddy Kingfisher, *Entomothera coromanda* (Linnæus). By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 48, pp. 639-657. May 18, 1915.

A Synopsis of the Races of the Long-tailed Goatsucker, *Caprimulgus macrurus* Horsfield. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 48, pp. 587-599. May 3, 1915.

² Nature and Science on the Pacific Coast. A Guide-book for Scientific Travelers in the West. Edited under the Auspices of the Pacific Coast Committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Illustrated with Nineteen text figures, twenty-nine half-tone plates and fourteen maps. Paul Elder and Company, Publishers. San Francisco. 12 mo., pp. 1-294.