

Island, where a species determined as *Sula abbotti* occurs. This seems an important factor.

As there can be no difference of opinion as to the fact that *Sula piscator* (Linné) is an indeterminable mixture I maintain that it cannot be used by any ornithologist who desires accuracy. I have reconsidered the matter in every detail with Messrs. Iredale and Hartert who agree that the resumé given in my 'Birds of Australia' is correct and that *Sula piscator* Linné must be regarded as quite indeterminable.

Yours etc., GREGORY M. MATHEWS.

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Ornithological Pronunciation.

EDITOR OF 'THE AUK':

May I take a little space in The Auk, to call attention to a matter which is not in itself ornithological, but which it seems to me is of importance to ornithologists? While attending the recent meeting of the A. O. U. in New York I noticed that one word which is liable to be used frequently in ornithological discussions was almost invariably mispronounced. If this were a matter of mispronunciation by one or two individuals I should say nothing, for my own speech is often far from perfect, but it seems to be common to the ornithological profession. Not only humble associates, but members, fellows, some with most enviable reputations, were prone to talk of *adult* birds when they should have said *adult*. Only once did I hear the word pronounced correctly in the two days I attended the sessions, and then the speaker, not quite sure of himself said "the *adult* -er- *adult* birds."

I have searched the dictionaries for any authority for the "ornithological" pronunciation of this word but cannot find it. Perhaps the fact that I am a school-teacher, and continually correcting mispronunciations among the coming generation has made me particular, but I have said what I have, not with the desire to find fault with any individual, but to assist the ornithological profession in efforts to perfect its use of English.

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