

spotted belly; crown sepia; ground color of back bistre; white stripes of back with a tendency to break up into two sagittate or cuneate spots through invasion of the median part of the blackish parallel borders.

Couesi, (or *anthonyi*, if distinct from *couesi*) as found in California: tail with the intermediate rectrices mostly black, the white bars on the inner webs often reduced to one or two white spots; ground color of abdomen and flanks fulvous; chin white; throat heavily spotted with black, sometimes nearly solid black, and strongly contrasting with the scantily spotted belly and flanks, the spots on these parts more or less linear; crown varying from seal brown on the coast (at San Diego) to sepia in the interior; the white stripes on the back in the Californian coast region and in Arizona and New Mexico are broken into spots as in *bryanti*, while in those from the Colorado Desert region they are linear as in *affinis*.—FRANK STEPHENS, *San Diego, Cal.*

Dusky Horned Lark in Lake County.—Mr. A. W. Johnson has recently sent me a specimen of *Otocoris alpestris merrilli* which he took at Red Hill Ranch near Upper Lake, Lake county, California, November 13, 1893. It was one of a large flock of similar birds which remained in the vicinity about three weeks. Mr. Johnson states that this is the only time that he has ever met with any sort of horned lark in Lake county, and doubtless the flock observed were winter visitants from the northeast. I also have a skin of *O. a. merrilli* taken by M. P. Anderson at Yreka, California, March 14, 1902.—J. GRINNELL, *Pasadena, Cal.*

THE EDITOR'S BOOK SHELF

THE BIRDS OF FERGUS COUNTY, MONTANA. By P. M. SILLOWAY. Bulletin No. 1, Fergus County Free High School. 8 vo. 78 pages; numerous halftone plates. Lewistown, Mont. 1903.

The Birds of Fergus County, Montana, is really a handbook of the birds to be found in central Montana. An introductory sketch of the topography of Fergus county, with map, is followed by a Partial Bibliography of Montana Birds. Under each species biographical and distribution notes are recorded, with a paragraph on "Distinguishing Features"—a brief description to aid the general reader in recognizing the bird. An analysis of the list, given at the end, shows that thirty species are permanent residents; 101 species summer residents, 31 species migrants, 13 species winter residents or visitors, and 4 other visitors; total 179 species. Numerous halftones of live birds, nests and eggs, by M. J. Elrod and E. R. Warren, add much to the usefulness of this excellent piece of work.

PAPERS FROM THE HOPKINS-STANFORD GALAPAGOS EXPEDITION, 1898-1899. XVI BIRDS. By ROBERT EVANS SNOODGRASS and EDMUND HELLER. From Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci. V, Jan. 28, 1904, pp. 231-372.

In this paper the authors present the ornithological results of their explorations among the Galapagos Archipelago, and 109 species and subspecies are listed, extending through 31 families. Under each species is given pertinent synonymy, range, field observations and often critical notes. Measurements and notes on life colors are also frequently included. Naturally the greatest interest centers about the various species of the three peculiar Galapagos genera, *Geospiza*, *Certhidea* and *Nesomimus*, the accounts of which are particularly full, including description of plumage stages, pterylosis, color of bills, relationship between color of bill and plumage, and maturity, nature of change from one phase of plumage to next—moulting, habits, song, nests and eggs.

In the case of those species which include several races the authors have made an innovation. "A number is given to each species of a genus, and this number is intended to stand, not for the form first named, but for the sum of all the subspecies, where subspecies that compose the species occur, not this number and a letter for each of the other subspecies as in the A. O. U. Check List. Each variety of a species is lettered. Thus: 63, *Geospiza fortis* consists of 63a, *G. fortis fortis*, 63b, *G. fortis fratercula*, etc; not 63, *Geospiza fortis*; 63a *G. fortis fratercula*." In the text the word "series" follows the species heading, thus: 55. THE GEOSPIZA PROSTHEMELAS SERIES. *Cactospiza*, *Camarynchus* and *Cactornis* are regarded as subgenera of *Geospiza*.

The present paper is a very carefully prepared and valuable contribution to our knowledge of the avifauna of the Galapagos.

A REVISION OF THE AMERICAN GREAT HORNED OWLS. By HARRY C. OBRERHOLSER. From Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. XXVII, 1904, p. 177-192.

Mr. Oberholser has given us a revision of the American forms of the genus *Asio* (which supercedes *Bubo*) and these he considers are referable to one species, the various races being intimately connected by individual or geographical intergrades. On this account the specific designation changes to *magellanicus*, which has precedence over *virginianus*. Sixteen forms are recognized, of which six are new. *Asio magellanicus icelus*, from San Luis Obispo, Cal., ranges over the coast of California north to about 35° north latitude. *A. m. lagophonus*, from Fort Walla Walla, ranges over Washington and northern Oregon (excepting the coast region), and Idaho; north through eastern and central British Columbia to Cook Inlet and the interior of Alaska. *A. m. heterocnemis* hails from Labrador, and *A. m. algistus* from the northwest coast region of Alaska. The other two come from Costa Rica and Mexico. The following are now the recognized Californian forms: *Asio magellanicus pallescens* (Stone), southeastern portion of state; *pacificus* (Cassin), "California, except the southeastern part and the northern and central coast districts; extending northward to Fort Klamath, Oregon, eastward to the San Francisco Mts., Ariz." (Dulzura, San Diego, St. Tejon, Fullerton, San Bernardino, Ft. Crook, Kern Lakes, Red Bluff); *icelus* Oberholser (San Luis Obispo, Redwood City, Nicasio).

Mr. Oberholser has discovered the interesting fact "that there exists in at least several of the American forms, and probably in not a few of the old world species as well, a dichromatism comparable to that of the genus *Otus* [*Megascops*] though perhaps not so impressive, which is manifested in a light and a dark, sometimes also a rufous or ochraceous, phase, independent of sex, age, season, or locality; in extreme conditions entirely distinct, yet completely connected by various intermediates. This dichromatism, or rather, polychromatism, together with better knowledge of actual distribution, serve to explain away the supposed interrupted distribution of one or two West American races."

An Analytical Key to the American Forms of *Asio*, Based on Adult Females, is included in this welcome and valuable paper.

A REVIEW OF THE WRENS OF THE GENUS *TROGLODYTES*. By HARRY C. OBERHOLSER. From Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. XXVII, 1904, 197-210.

The genus as here restricted comprises a group of wrens that is wholly American, 37 species and subspecies being recognized, of which three are new. The West Indian forms commonly attributed to *Thryothorus* are included, and a new genus, *Thryorchilus*, founded on *Troglodytes browni* Bangs is erected. The revision does not affect the status of the forms now recognized in the United States.—WALTER K. FISHER.

NEWS NOTES

Joseph Grinnell and Joseph Mailliard spent the Christmas holidays collecting at Palm Springs. An account of their trip is given on another page.

At the last A. O. U. Congress R. E. Snodgrass was elected Member of the Union.

W. Otto Emerson writes that the first *Selasphorus rufus* passed northward through Haywards, February 16, "like a streak of fire." Ever since then meteors have been at a discount in Haywards.

The Southern Division recently held a successful public meeting at Throop Institute, Pasadena. Over 150 visitors were present and a number of popular papers were read by Dr. Newkirk, Prof. Grinnell, and others.

At the A. O. U. Congress the Union voted to abolish the 'bond clause' from its model bird law.

A. C. McClurg and Company have just issued a popular book on California birds by Mrs. Irene Grosvenor Wheelock. This will be reviewed in our next issue.

Joseph Mailliard recently read a paper entitled, "A Midwinter Trip to the Colorado Desert" before the Section of Ornithology, California Academy of Sciences.

Edmund Heller is collecting in Mexico for the Field Columbian Museum of Chicago.

The Delaware Valley Ornithological Club has recently issued the seventh number of *Cassinia*, for 1903. The leading article, John K. Townsend, with portrait, is contributed by Witmer Stone. Among the other articles we note Water Birds of the Middle Delaware Valley by Henry W. Fowler. The brochure is beautifully printed and is one of which the club may feel justly proud.

The Southern Division of the Cooper Club announces No. 4 of the Pacific Coast Avifauna series for the near future.