

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.