

still unable to see any advantage in the recognition of subspecies; and hence it may be here noted that in the present work the subspecies of modern authors are either wholly ignored in nomenclature or are given the rank of full species. Also that tautonymy is distasteful to the author of the 'Monograph of the Petrels,' and we have *Puffinus anglorum* as a substitute for the now almost universally accepted *Puffinus puffinus*; and, of course, consistently with this mental attitude, the beginning of binomial nomenclature in zoölogy is based on the 12th instead of the 10th edition of Linnæus's 'Systema Naturæ.'

Puffinus auduboni Finsch is preferred as the name of Audubon's Shearwater, on the ground that the earlier name *Puffinus lherminieri* Lesson rests on a diagnosis "too general in character." Yet *Puffinus bailloni* is tentatively accepted for the Madeiran Shearwater, although the original diagnosis is even less satisfactory, and there is also doubt as to whether the species really occurs at the type locality given for it by its author. Although Hartert has employed this name for the Madeiran species (as *P. obscurus bailloni*), he admits that possibly it should have a new designation, an opinion to which Godman unreservedly assents. The case thus seems so clear that we propose for this species the name **Puffinus godmani**, as a slight compliment to the distinguished author of the 'Monograph of the Petrels.'

While vernacular names are not subject to the same rules as technical names, it seems well to avoid their double employ as far as possible, and especially for such nearly related birds as those of the same genus. It was probably through oversight that in the present 'Monograph' the name Pink-footed Shearwater is used for both *Puffinus creatopus* (p. 101) and *P. carneipes* (p. 142).—J. A. A.

Howard's 'The British Warblers,' Parts I and II.¹—This remarkable work is worthy of the highest praise, as regards both conception and execution. The numerous and beautiful plates are a fitting complement to the text, which together will mark an epoch in the history of this most interesting group of British birds. The account of each species is a detailed and elaborate monograph of its life history, with digressions, as expressed in the subtitle, on the "problems of their lives," based evidently on intimate first-hand knowledge of the bird in life. The treatment of these 'problems' is sane and rational in marked contrast with much that has of

¹ The | British Warblers | A History with Problems | of | their Lives. By | H. Eliot Howard, F. Z. S., M. B. O. U. | Illustrated by Henrie Grönvold | London | R. H. Porter | 7 Princes Street, Cavendish Square, W.—Part I, February, 1907. Colored plate of eggs of British Warblers, 6 species, 34 figures; Sedge Warbler, pp. 1-14, 1 colored and 4 photogravure plates; Grasshopper Warbler, pp. 1-24, 2 colored and 6 photogravure plates. Two maps, geographical distribution of Grasshopper and Savi's Warblers. Part II, March, 1908. Chiff-chaff, pp. 1-31, 2 colored and 6 photogravure plates; Yellow-browed Warbler, pp. 1-3, 1 colored plate. Also colored plate each of Sedge Warblers (3 figures) and Grasshopper Warbler; 2 maps, geographical distribution of Sedge and Aquatic Warblers. Price, 21s net per part.

late been offered to the public as popular natural history. The colored plates and the photogravures are of a high grade of excellence, and the typography and general make-up of the work leave little ground for criticism.

The plan of treatment is as follows: (1) bibliographic references, restricted apparently to works which contain illustrations of the species under consideration; (2) vernacular names of the species, as known in the various countries comprised within its range; (3) description of the plumage, including its variations due to sex and age; (4) geographical distribution, with a map showing both summer and winter ranges; (4) life-history. The photogravure plates illustrate various attitudes of the bird assumed in courtship or in play, and also nestlings or young birds, and add greatly to the interest of the work. The account of the Grasshopper Warbler includes a long discussion of the theory of 'sexual selection,' for which his intimate studies of wild birds afford no support. He finds that the 'displays' of the male are by no means confined to the period of courtship. Under the Chiff-chaff the author discusses what he terms the "law of uniformity" in the behavior of birds, which "seems to extend to all the activities, whether referable to instinct or habit," but which does not prohibit variation in individual cases.—J. A. A.

NOTES AND NEWS.

LESLIE ALEXANDER LEE, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at Portland, Maine, May 20, 1908, in the 56th year of his age. He was professor of biology and geology at Bowdoin College since 1881, and at the time of his death was president of the Maine Ornithological Society and of the Portland Society of Natural History. Professor Lee was born at Woodstock, Vermont, September 24, 1852. He was the son of John Stebbins Lee, the first president of St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York, from which the younger Lee was graduated in 1872. He took a post-graduate course at Harvard, and went to Bowdoin College as instructor in natural history in 1876. He was connected for a time with the United States Fish Commission, and was chief of the scientific staff of the 'Albatros' on a collecting voyage for the Smithsonian Institution through the Strait of Magellan and up the Pacific coast to San Francisco in 1887. In 1891 he organized and directed the Bowdoin College Expedition to Labrador. He was also, at the time of his death, State Geologist of Maine, and Chief of the Maine Topographical Survey Commission, which he organized. His numerous scientific papers relate mainly to marine biology. He was, however, deeply interested in ornithology, tak-



Howard, Henry Eliot. 1908. "Howard's 'The British Warblers,' Parts I and II." *The Auk* 25, 339–340. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4070556>.

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