Thaninistes anabatinus coronatus, Dysithamnus mentalis suffusus, Herpsiochmus rufomarginatus exiguis, Grallariuca flavirostris brevis, Margarornis bellus, Mitrephanes eminulis, Caryothraustes canadensis simulans, Tangara fucosus, Chrysophylpis chrysomelas ocularis, Vireolanius eximius mutabilis, Basileuterus melanogenys ignotus, B. m. eximius, Troglodytes festinus, Myadestes coloratus, Catharus fuscatel mirabilis. There are also three new species for which Mr. Nelson establishes new genera: Goethalsia bella on interesting hummingbird allied to Goldmania, and named in honor of Col. Goethals, head of the Panama Canal Commission; Prado audax, a flycatcher allied to Aphanotriccus but resembling Empidonax in color; and Hylospingus inornatus a tanager resembling Chlorospingus. Incidentally Mr. Nelson also describes Tanagra xanthogastra quitensis from Quito, Ecuador, and Hemithraupis ornatus from Truando, Colombia.

The Genus Tanagra is used by Mr. Nelson for the genus formerly called Euphonia while Tangara is used in place of Calospiza (=Calliste). This seems inevitable if we regard these names as different and take them from the first place of publication but in the absence of any word of explanation it is misleading to those not familiar with the history of the case. — W. S.

Oberholser's Revision of the Green Herons. — As the result of a critical study of 568 specimens of Green Herons, Butorides virescens, Mr. Oberholser recognizes eighteen geographic races, twelve of which are here named as new. These are B. v. cremononum, north central Mexico; B. v. mesatus, western Nicaragua; B. v. hypernotius, Costa Rica to Brazil; B. v. margaritophilus, San Miguel Island, Bay of Panama; B. v. cubanus, Greater and northern Lesser Antilles; B. v. christophorensis, St. Christopher; B. v. dominicanus, Dominica; B. v. lucianus, St. Lucia; B. v. barbadensis, Barbados; B. v. grenadensis, Grenada; B. v. tobagensis, Tobago; and B. v. curacensis, Curacao.

Mr. Oberholser has presented extremely detailed descriptions and a large array of measurements and his paper represents a painstaking piece of work. Whether ornithologists will endorse his views remains to be seen. With practically the same material before them Messrs. Thayer and Bangs have already (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 46, p. 142) expressed precisely opposite views on the status of the San Miguel Island birds and have questioned the distinctness of several of the forms named up to that time. As San Miguel Island is but twenty miles off shore, it would indeed seem remarkable that a bird of the size and habits of a heron should there become differentiated into a local race, and in considering any group of large water birds it would seem that much more latitude should be given to individual varia-

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tion, and the greater possibility of passage from one island to another be admitted, than in the case of small resident passerine species. — W. S.

Oberholser's One Hundred and Four new Birds from the Barussan Islands and Sumatra. — To those who are familiar with Mr. Oberholser's painstaking monographic work and detailed descriptions the present contribution must come as a distinct shock. The presentation of 104 new forms on 21 octavo pages naturally permits of but very brief diagnoses, but so short are some of these here given, that for all practical purposes they might as well have been omitted entirely, leaving simply a type locality. For example Meiglyptes grammithorax micropterus is described as "Resembling Meiglyptes grammithorax grammithorax, but smaller."

In such contributions the advancement of science seems to have been completely lost sight of, and the only explanation would seem to be the desire to secure the species to an author or the types to an institution. The promise of later detailed publications does not constitute an excuse for the issue of such useless diagnoses.

If publication of species in advance of faunal papers is absolutely necessary, the journal should devote the space, and the author the time, necessary to make the diagnoses adequate. Our rules of nomenclature are binding us more and more to the original descriptions in all systematic work and it behooves us to make these adequate.

This criticism is not directed at Mr. Oberholser but at a practice that is all too common and which we are sorry to see endorsed by him and by the Smithsonian Institution.

In foot-notes several nomenclatural matters are briefly discussed. Denrophassa Gloger 1842 is substituted for Osmoteron Bonap. on ground of priority, while Treron nipalensis (Hodgson) is changed to T. curvirostra (Gmelin) for the same reason. Psittinus cyanurus (Forster) is shown to be the proper name for the bird commonly called P. incertus (Shaw.), while Mixornis gularis (Raffles) becomes M. pileata (Blyth), and Lalage terat Auct. becomes L. nigra (Forster). So also Cinnyris pectoralis (Horsf.) becomes C. ornata Less. and Chalcoparia phænicotis Auct. becomes C. singalensis (Gm.).— W. S.

1 Descriptions of One Hundred and Four New Species and Subspecies of Birds from the Barussan Islands and Sumatra. Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections. Vol. 60. No. 7, pp. 1–21. October 26, 1912.

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