

[It is a matter of surprise and regret to me that any portion of my remarks, above referred to, should be construed by Dr. Cooper as being either "discourteous" or "almost personal." They were certainly not so intended, and upon again carefully reading both Dr. Cooper's 'Corrections,' and my 'Rectifications' I am unable to find anything in the latter justifying such construction.

In taking cognizance of Dr. Cooper's article, I exercised merely the privilege of an author to defend his writings against adverse criticism, and in the present case it was my duty, as well as privilege, to do so, in order that the interested portion of the public might have the *other side* of the "points in dispute." The points under discussion are not so much matters of personal concern as they are questions of facts; and the circumstance that exactly one-half of the thirty items given by Dr. Cooper under the indiscriminating title of 'Corrections' relate merely to typographical errors, many of them so obvious that no correction is necessary, while of the remaining fifteen more than half constitute, as he himself states, items of "additional information," will, I think, justify my use of the term "so-called" in connection with them — a characterization the more necessary since Dr. Cooper expressly says, in his introductory remarks, that "the following corrections . . . relate chiefly to quotations from my [his] own writings," which, in point of fact, as shown above, they do not do.

Dr. Cooper himself, in the above, 'rectifies' his 'so-called correction' regarding the breeding of *Mareca americana* by explaining that he meant *Aythya americana*. In regard to this species, I would also refer him to 'Ornithology of the Fortieth Parallel' (p. 625), where it is stated that "in June, either this species [*A. vallisneria*] or the Red-head was very abundant in the tule sloughs in the vicinity of Sacramento, where they were undoubtedly breeding." I have since had reason to consider the species as being beyond question *A. americana*, and not *A. vallisneria*.

Respecting the overburdening of the synonymy of "most of the Longipennes and Tubinares," for which Dr. Cooper suggest a remedy, a considerable "lumping together" of allied forms, it must be stated that the unfortunate condition which others, no less than Dr. Cooper, deplore is chargeable much less to those who draw fine distinctions (or, more properly, who are scientifically accurate), than to those who ignore distinctions which really exist, who have made erroneous identifications, and who have given new names to species already named without being aware of the fact. In short, to any one who will take the trouble to look up the history of the synonyms of almost any species thus burdened, it will become very evident that they owe their existence to very many circumstances over which the so-called 'hair-splitter' has no control, and for which he is in no way responsible.

The suggestion that certain dark colored *Puffini* "may be dichromatic forms" of other white-bellied species, is not new, having been made at least a year ago. Speaking of dichromatism among the Herons, Dr. Leonhard Stejneger, in 'Standard Natural History,' Vol. IV, p. 7 (1885), says: "The example from the herons can be nearly duplicated by the status