

a trinomial one and thus carrying out Linnaeus' great invention in the spirit in which it was conceived. The result is logical and necessary, but it should be remembered that such geographical races, varieties, subspecies or whatever the student cares to call them are mere divisions of the species and the specific binomial is to be regarded as a collective name, including all the trinomial variants within its meaning. Thus a "Western Robin" is as much an "American Robin" as the "Eastern one" and the name *Planesticus migratorius* is equally applicable to any of the forms into which the "American Robin" divides. It is in fact only necessary to name subspecies either vernacularly or scientifically where special exactness is required by context or scope of consideration. In any event, it is wiser to ignore it altogether unless there is definite and accurate knowledge for justification. Subspecific designation should only be based upon examinations and authoritative determination of specimens, and not upon probabilities or assumptions.

In every subspecifically divided form there is one race that is called the "type form," loosely called the "species;" this is scientifically named by repeating the specific name in the trinomial; as, the Eastern Robin, *Planesticus migratorius migratorius*. Theoretically this should represent the original stock from which the variants departed but as these are often impossible to determine and scientific nomenclature must be exact, it means in practice that this form is the one that was first discovered or described and to which, by the canons of nomenclature, the name must permanently adhere. The type race then, is really of no more scientific importance than its co-races.

The realization of the proper relative importance between type and subspecific forms and the applications of sane principles in practice will go far towards rectifying the abuses from which a valuable system has suffered.

Some subspecies are marked and conspicuous in character; but as there must be species in all stages of making, some exhibit but minute differences only evident from the examination of series of comparable material by trained perception and judgment.

Theoretically, the numbers of subspecies of a widely varying race must be innumerable, but the most of them are too fine for human recognition. The question is, of course, where to draw the line. Subspecies are actual facts and do exist. Whether it is serving the best interests of science to deferentiate and name the finer variations that only an expert, especially trained, can recognize is a subject, that is still being argued. However, whether we hold with the "Splitters" or the "Lumpers" it