

towering flight, and hearing the notes that so markedly differ from those of *A. pensylvanicus*. — A. ALLISON, *New Orleans, La.*

The Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) at Peace Dale, R. I. — I have been very much puzzled a good many times during the past summer by hearing, in the near neighborhood of my house here, the notes of the Cardinal Bird given with great distinctness and for several minutes together. Every time when I have tried to find the author of the notes he has managed to escape observation. On the 21st of October, long after I had supposed the mysterious visitor had gone south, I heard the note very plainly and devoted half an hour to looking for the bird. I was so fortunate on this occasion as to get a good glimpse of the singer, and it proved to my astonishment to be a fine male of the Carolina Wren. As soon as I saw him he disappeared in company with his mate, both of them uttering the characteristic alarm note which the writers tell us of. I did not shoot the bird but feel entirely sure of the identification, as I distinctly saw the line above the eye, which is easily seen at tolerably close quarters. Immediately after the 21st we went through a long, cold rain storm and I supposed then I should not hear the Wren again. But on the 28th of October I did hear him singing with great spirit and for some minutes together. This is now the 28th of November and we have passed through a blizzard which began Saturday afternoon, the 26th, and has been without any doubt as severe a blizzard as we have ever experienced in this part of New England. Snow has fallen here to a depth rather difficult to estimate, but on the level it cannot be less than eight inches; of course, being accompanied by a very high wind it drifted enormously, — I observed several exhausted birds, or at least if not exhausted more or less disabled by the storm. While investigating the damage done in my garden I again heard my friend the Carolina Wren. This being the third time that he has intensely surprised me, I lose no time to report it. Is it common for Carolina Wrens to linger beyond the summer time as far north as this? I cannot find any record of it and imagine that I have a very odd specimen of the bird here. — R. G. HAZARD, *Peace Dale, R. I.*

The Finishing Stroke to Bartram. — I have changed not, and see no reason to change, my view of Bartram's case published in *Pr. Phila. Acad.* 1875, pp. 338–358, where I contend that he is a binomial author who sometimes lapses, and whose identifiable binomials which rest upon description are available in our nomenclature. On that occasion I inadvertently upon the fact that Bartram had been systematically ignored, though freely used when we wanted some binomial convenience like *Vultur atratus* or *Corvus floridanus*, for example — two specific names which still hold their proper place in the A. O. U. Check-List, showing the inherent difficulty of doing entire injustice to Bartram. But to be

consistent the Committee, in which I have always been in a minority of one on this subject, must eradicate these two names, thus giving Bartram his *coup de grâce*.

(1.) After Bartram's *Vultur atratus* of 1791 the first tenable specific name of the Black Vulture would appear to be *urubu* Vieill., Ois. Am. Sept. 1807, pl. 2; which, joined with the generic name *Catharista* Vieill., Anal. 1816, p. 21, yields *Catharista urubu* Vieill., Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. XII, 1817, p. 401, as the required onym.

(2.) After Bartram's *Corvus floridanus* of 1791, the next name of the Florida Jay appears to be *Garrulus cyaneus* Vieill., Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. XII, 1817, p. 476. This has been cited as a nomen nudum, as by Baird, 1858; that it is not such, but rests upon an unmistakable though not very good description is evident from the following verbatim copy of Vieillot's account: "Le Geai azurin, *Garrulus cyaneus* Vieill., se trouve aux Florides et ne pénètre point dans le nord des Etats-Unis; du moins je ne l'y ai pas rencontré. On ne peut le confondre avec le *geai bleu huppé*, puisqu'il est plus petit, qu'il n'a point d'aigrette sur la tête, et que tout son plumage est généralement d'un bleu d'azur. Latham le rapporte au *geai de Steller*, mais celui-ci est huppé et ne porte pas le même vêtement." Whence the onym of the Florida Jay would be *Aphelocoma cyanea*. The next name in order is *G. caerulescens* Vieill., *ibid.* p. 480, the description of which seems to indicate the same bird, but the type locality, "Kentucky," is beyond this Jay's now known range. No doubt, however, attaches to "An Account of the Florida Jay, of Bartram," by Ord, in Journ. Acad. Phila. I, 1818, pp. 345-347, where Vieillot's name *Garrulus caerulescens* is adopted. Thus we have only to decide whether the bird shall be known as *Aphelocoma cyanea* or *A. caerulescens*. We next come upon two names by the same author and of ostensibly coequal dates. These are *Corvus (Garrulus) floridanus* Bp., Ann. Lyc. N. Y., II, 1828, p. 58, and *Garrulus floridanus* Bp., Am. Orn. II, 1828, p. 59, pl. xiv, fig. 1. Part I, pp. 7-128, of the paper in the Annals has actual priority over the 2d vol. of the Am. Orn.; it was "read" Jan. 24, 1826, and published apparently in March, 1826; so that, if we could use *floridanus* as the specific name, it would be creditable to Bonaparte, after throwing out Bartram.

(3.) It is a necessary corollary of the foregoing proposition, that the use of the binomial *Corvus floridanus* by Bonaparte in 1826, and subsequently by Audubon, for the Florida Jay, precludes its use for the Florida Crow in the form *Corvus americanus* var. *floridanus* Baird, B. N. A. 1858, p. 568. The latter may, therefore, be renamed *C. a. pascuus*. This is a good Latin word, meaning of or relating to pastures; but I intend it to connote the same as *floridanus* in this instance, with allusion to the Spanish name of the country, said to have been called Pascua Florida or Pascua de Flores by Ponce de Leon, because he discovered it on Paschal or Easter Day of 1512.—ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*