

two eggs each, and four with three eggs each were observed. The above is the earliest date of arrival of the birds of which I have any knowledge. This island has now been posted, and the Terns are likely to have better protection than ever before. — GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Onychoprion, not Haliplana. — As I have remarked before (Pr. Philada. Acad., 1862, p. 555), "Wagler's *Onychoprion* is based upon the *S[terna]*, *serrata* of Forster; while his *Haliplana* has as type *S. fuliginosa*, Gm. The former of these species . . . is in all probability identical with *fuliginosa*, and is at all events strictly congeneric with it. This being the case, perhaps *Onychoprion* ought to be employed for the genus; as it is instituted several pages in advance of *Haliplana*" in *Isis*, 1832. I now find the case to be exactly as I surmised 35 years ago. The synonymy of the Sooty Tern section of *Sterna*, so far as Wagler is concerned, is: *Onychoprion*, *Isis*, 1832, p. 277, type *serrata* Forst., = *fuliginosa*; *Planetis*, *Isis*, 1832, p. 1222, type *guttata* Forst., = *fuliginosa*; *Haliplana*, *Isis*, 1832, p. 1224, type *fuliginosa*. All three names are thus based on one species, and all bear the same ostensible date; but of actual priority of *Onychoprion* there is no question, as reference to the dates of parts of *Isis* for 1832 shows.

The specific name of another bird of the subgenus *Onychoprion* must be changed from the misspelling "*anæthetus*" of our Check-List, for we have absurdly adopted a mere misprint, besides failing to observe grammatical gender. Our rules allow us the privilege of correcting a typographical error, as dropping of the *s* in this case certainly is; and though *Sterna* was once of common gender, it is feminine now, both by analogy of form and by common consent. The full form of the word would be *anæsthetica*, as in my 'Key,' etc.; but lest I be accused of wanton 'purism,' I will compound that felony by accepting *anæstheta*, (Gr. ἀνάσθητος, stolid, unfeeling, apathetic).

Our mistake regarding *Onychoprion* is counterbalanced by a reverse error. Having ignored actual priority in this case, we turn around and bestow a fictitious priority upon *Sterna tschegrava* Lepechin, to avoid using the established name *S. caspia*. These two names are ostensibly of same date, 1770, in same part of same volume of the publication in which they both appear; and there is no evidence that the 82 pages concerned (p. 500 to p. 582) make a difference of a day or an hour in actual date of publication. Why then drop *caspia* for *tschegrava*, except to show how great we can be in little things? I shall continue to use *caspia*; and so will all other ornithologists, when the flurry and hurry and worry of our Check-List is over. — ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

Remarks on certain Procellariidæ. — On reviewing these objects of my early solicitude (1864-66), chiefly in the light of Salvin's recent admirable Monograph, I observe that a number of classificatory and nomenclatural changes are required in the A. O. U. List, besides those which the Committee adopted in 'The Auk' of last January, or then deferred.