

*Tetragonops*, preoccupied) being preëmpted (Oken, Mamm. 1816), as I am informed by Dr. T. S. Palmer, the genus of Barbets formerly known as *Tetragonops* may be called *Semnoris*,<sup>1</sup> with *S. rhamphastinus* (Jard.) as the type. *Semnoris frantzii* (Scl.) of Costa Rica, is the only other species at present known.

*Geothlypis velata* (Vieill. 1807) should give way to *G. cucullata* (*Sylvia cucullata* Lath., Index Orn. II, 1790, 528) of earlier date. The Mexican species recently described by Salv. and Godm. (Ibis, 1889, 237) as *Geothlypis cucullata* thus requires a new name, and it is with pleasure that I propose that of *Geothlypis nelsoni*, after Mr. E. W. Nelson, who has so thoroughly explored Mexico in the past few years.

The Wryneck of South Africa, commonly called *Lynx pectoralis* Vigors (P. Z. S. Aug. 5, 1831, 93), should properly be known as *Lynx ruficollis* Wagler (Natürl. Syst. Amphibien, 1830, 118, footnote).

*Phyllostrephus terrestris* Swains. (Birds of Western Africa, I, March, 1837, 270, footnote) is the correct name for the species now known as *P. capensis* (Swains. Classif. Birds, II, July, 1837, 229).

*Melanobucco* Shelley, 1889, should give way to *Lybius* Hermann, 1783 (Tabula Affin. Anim., 217, 235), with 'Le Guifso Balito' of Buffon (*Loxia tridactyla* Gmel.) as type. The species of this genus are: *Lybius bidentatus* (Shaw), *L. æquatorialis* (Shelley), *L. melanopterus* (Peters), *L. levaillantii* (Vieill.), *L. macclounii* (Shelley), *L. leucocephalus* (De Fil.), *L. albicauda* (Shelley), *L. abbotti* (Richm.), *L. senex* (Reichenow), *L. leucogaster* (Bocage), *L. tridactylus* (Gmel.), *L. torquatus* (Dumont), *L. torquatus congcicus* (Reichenow), *L. zombæ* (Shelley), *L. irroratus* (Cab.), *L. vieilloti* (Leach), and *L. undatus* (Rüppell).

*Pithys* Vieillot, 1823, for a genus of Ant Thrushes, is antedated by *Manikup* Desmarest (Hist. Nat. des Tangaras, text to pl. 66), 1805. The type is *Manikup albifrons* (Gmel.), with a subspecies *Manikup albifrons peruviana* (Tacz.).

*Crypturus pileatus* (Bodd. Dec. 1783, or later) is antedated (without doubt) by *Tinamus soui* Hermann, Tabula Affin. Anim., 1783, 164, 235, and the species will thus become *Crypturus soui* (Hermann). — CHARLES W. RICHMOND, Washington, D.C.

**An Interesting Bit of Manuscript.**—I have elsewhere explained how part of the edition of the Birds of the U. S. Exploring Expedition by Peale, was burned and that owing to the very small number of copies published, the volume became very scarce, especially in Europe where it was in great demand. The plates, which really did not appear until Cassin's edition of the Report came out, were supposed at the time to have been issued with Peale's volume.

In this connection the following inscription in Bonaparte's writing is of much interest. It is written on the cover of a copy of Bonaparte's 'Notes

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<sup>1</sup>Σεμνός, solemn; ὄρνις, bird.

sur Les Larides' ext. de la Rev. et Mag. de Zool., 1854, which I picked up in an old book store in Philadelphia. "Titian Peale, Esq., Zoologist, etc., from his friend the author. How can I manage to get a copy of the Am. Expl. Exp. Zool. in exchange or sale? The Plates have not yet reached Europe." Below in Peale's hand is "Rec'd June 14, 55. T. R. P." —WITMER STONE, *Academy Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

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## RECENT LITERATURE.

**Keeler's Bird Notes Afield.**<sup>1</sup>—Mr. Keeler's charming book on California birds consists of a series of thirteen essays well entitled 'Bird Notes Afield,' with an Appendix (pp. 235-353) containing 'A Descriptive List of California Land Birds with Key.' The titles of the essays—'A First Glance at the Birds,' 'Patrolling the Beach,' 'A Trip to the Farallones,' 'A Day on the Bay Shore,' 'A Glimpse of Birds of Berkeley,' 'March in the Pine Woods,' 'Summer Birds of the Redwoods,' 'In a Mission Patio,' etc.—indicate very fairly what may be expected in 'Bird Notes Afield,' if we add that they are written by a sympathetic bird lover, who is withal an excellent field ornithologist, possessing the literary ability to tell gracefully and charmingly of the bird life of California fields, seashore and mountains. The first essay, 'A First Glance at the Birds' (pp. 1-52), is a general review of the birds of the State, which, as a brief popular account, is one of the best pieces of this kind of bird literature we have ever read. The style is attractive, and the narrative replete with the enthusiasm of a true bird-lover, who writes because he has something to say. The other essays are all in the same vein, and each by itself would be perhaps equally attractive, but as they were apparently written for special occasions and separate publication (several of them had appeared before and are here republished), there is naturally some repetition, as where the same species, appearing in several different essays, is repeatedly referred to in much the same language. But this is a slight fault, noticeable only on reading the book through consecutively.

The 'Artificial Key' to the California Land Birds is based primarily on color, the birds being divided into five primary groups on this basis. Each group is subdivided into sections, under which the species are arranged by their most striking features of difference, with a reference to the page where each is more fully described, in the systematic order of

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<sup>1</sup> Bird Notes | Afield | A Series of Essays on | the Birds of California | by | Charles A. Keeler | — | D. P. Elder & Morgan Shepard | San Francisco | 1899. — 12mo. pp. i-viii + 1-353. \$1.50.