

The mark of interrogation clearly indicates, therefore, Forster's intention to propose *Luscinia aedon* as a new name for the *Sylvia luscinia* of Latham, and *Luscinia* as a generic term consequently must date from this place.

The generic name *Philomela* Link (Besch. Natur. Samml. Univers. Rostock, I, 1806, p. 31) which Doctor Sclater (*loc. cit.*, p. 40) has proposed to use for the nightingale is merely a substitute for the *Sylvia* of Bechstein and therefore identical in application, whatever species may have been included. Its author gives this reason for its introduction: "Ich habe den unbequemeren Namen *Sylvia*, welchen Bechstein dieser Gattung gegeben, in *Philomela* verwandelt." The species that Link enumerates under *Philomela* indicate that he had in mind the group called *Sylvia* by Bechstein in the latter's 'Ornithologisches Taschenbuch von und für Deutschland,' 1803, pp. 165-191, which name he apparently thought originated with Bechstein; and consequently the type of *Philomela* Link must be ascertained by determining the type of *Sylvia* Bechstein. Bechstein (*loc. cit.*) divides his heterogeneous group *Sylvia* into three sections, for the first two of which he gives new subgeneric names, leaving the last one as typical *Sylvia*, from which, of course, the type of the whole genus must be selected. These divisions are:

- a. Grasmücken (*Curruca*) [p. 165].
- b. Laubvögel (*Asilus*) [p. 173].
- c. Wurmresser [p. 177].

The first (*Curruca*) includes the nightingale, but by tautonomy has for its type *Motacilla curruca* Linnæus, from which Bechstein evidently took the name; the type of the second (*Asilus*) is commonly considered to be *Motacilla sibilatrix* Bechstein; and of the third, or typical *Sylvia* (Bechstein), the first species, *Motacilla rubecula* Linnæus, may be fixed as the type. By this arrangement *Motacilla rubecula* Linnæus becomes the type of *Philomela* Link which therefore falls as a synonym of the prior *Erithacus* Cuvier (Leç. Anat. Comp., I, 1800, tab. ii) based on the same species. Since this disposes of the generic name *Philomela*, in so far at least as the nightingale is concerned, the latter must be called *Luscinia* as above shown.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

Winter Record for the Robin in Hanover, N. H.—January 24, 1906, following a week's thaw and exceptionally warm weather for the season, two Robins (*Merula migratoria*) appeared in the trees about the college campus. Both seemed to be males, one of them uttering a few song notes. They were not seen again. The presence of Robins in this region in winter is so unusual that their occurrence is worthy of record.—FRANCIS G. BLAKE, *Hanover, N. H.*

Questionable Records.—In 'The Auk' for October, 1905, pages 410 and 419, Mr. Arthur T. Wayne published records of two birds from south-