

Doves, Blue Jays, and Chewinks were abundant. Twenty-five species of birds were observed. Neither the Wood Thrush nor Wilson's Thrush was seen.

The young bird taken was probably not twenty-four hours out of the nest, in fact it corresponded in every particular with young Hermit Thrushes taken from the nest by Mr. Cherrie in Vermont the preceding season.

Obtaining this young bird, practically a nestling, unable to fly any considerable distance, was satisfactory evidence to us that the Hermit Thrush is a nesting species on Long Island. Our not meeting with adult birds would seem to indicate that on Long Island the Hermit Thrush is equally as shy as elsewhere, and perhaps to an even greater degree. We likewise decided, largely from the same reason — that of our not meeting an adult specimen — that it is but a *rare* summer resident. In this we may be in error. The nature of the ground they occupy here may give the birds need for special caution in exposing themselves, while it is possible that they may occur more commonly in other parts of the island than in the region visited.

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## SOME CHANGES IN THE CURRENT GENERIC NAMES OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.

BY WITMER STONE.

THE proposed publication of a new edition of the A. O. U. Check-List of North American Birds necessitates a careful review of the nomenclature of our birds, and in order that the names may stand on as firm a basis as possible, the more exhaustive the present investigation may be, the better.

As an effort in this direction I have, during the past year, examined the original publication of practically all the genera of the Check-List; as well as the genera of the birds of the world up to 1830. Dr. C. W. Richmond who, as is well known, has been

verifying bird names and dates of publication for many years, and whose knowledge of the literature is unrivalled, has cordially aided me in every way possible and to him I would express my deep obligations.

My investigations show that the strict enforcement of the Code, especially several recent amendments and alterations, will necessitate a number of changes in generic names, while at the same time it places the genera on a more substantial basis than before. As a matter of future record I present below a list of apparently necessary changes, and discussions of other cases which are at least open to question. Some of these cases have already been published, others are contributed by Dr. Richmond, and the rest have originated in my investigations.

#### I. OVERLOOKED NAMES OR EARLIER CITATIONS OF CURRENT NAMES.

PODICEPS Lath. 1787 (not 1790), becomes TACHYBAPTUS Reich. 1849.—This name first appeared in Latham's Synopsis of Birds, Suppl., I, p. 294, the type (first species) being *Colymbus cristatus* Linn. It thus becomes a pure synonym of *Colymbus* of the Check-List and a new name must be employed for the subgenus embracing *P. dominicus* and its allies. This is found in *Tachybaptus* Reichenbach, Av. Syst. Nat., pl. ii, 1849, based on the Little Grebe, *Colymbus ruficollis* Pallas.

SIMORHYNCHUS Merr. 1819, becomes ÆTHIA Dumont, 1816.—*Æthia* Dumont, Dict. Sci. Nat., rev. ed., I, suppl. p. 71 (1816), based exclusively upon *A. cristatellus* (*Alca cristatella* Pallas), has clear priority over *Simorhynchus* Merrem based upon the same species.

AYTHYA Boie, 1822, becomes NYROCA Fleming, 1822.—Another spelling of the preceding name, viz. *Aethya*, which is given by Dumont on the same page, seems to invalidate Boie's *Aythya* for a group of ducks. The next available name for the latter is *Nyroca* Fleming, Philos. of Zool., II, p. 260, type by tautonomy *Marila nyroca*. There has always been a question of priority between these two names, so that it is satisfactory to have one of them invalidated. The enforcement of the rule of relative page precedence, moreover, leads to the same result.

FULIGULA Steph. 1824, becomes MARILA Oken, 1817.—Oken in *Isis* for 1817, p. 1183, as already pointed out by Dr. Gill,<sup>1</sup> gave names to many generic groups of Cuvier's *Règne Animal*, for which that author had merely used vernaculars. Among them, on p. 1183, is *Marila* for Cuvier's group "Les Millouins," the type of which is *Anas marila* Linn. by tautonomy. This will therefore replace subgenus *Fuligula* of the Check-List, and inasmuch as it is earlier than *Nyroca*, the other subgenus, it will have to be used as the generic name for this group. So in place of *Aythya* with subgenera *Aythya* and *Fuligula* we shall have *Marila* with subgenera *Nyroca* and *Marila*.

CAMPTOLAIMUS Gray, 1841, becomes KAMPTORHYNCHUS Eyton, 1838.—Gray in his *List of the Genera of Birds* 1841, p. 95, proposes *Camptolaimus* in place of *Kamptorhynchus* Eyton, without comment. Baird quotes the latter as a synonym in *Birds of North America*, adding "not of Cuvier" but as neither Dr. Richmond nor I have been able to find any use of this name by Cuvier it would seem that Eyton's name (*Monog. Anat.*, p. 57) must be restored.

CLANGULA Leach, 1819, and HARELDA Stephens, 1824.—It has been recognized that the substitution of *Clangula* Leach for *Glaucionetta* Stejneger and the revival of *Harelda* Steph. for the Oldsquaw, as published in the eighth Supplement to the Check-List, was a mistake since Leach in 1819 (*Ross, Voyage*, App. p. xlviii) based his genus *Clangula* solely upon the Oldsquaw. In Oken's review of Cuvier already mentioned, however, we find on page 1183 the genus *Clangula* established in 1817 on *Anas clangula* Linn., so that in light of this earlier action the names will remain as at present.

QUERQUEDULA Steph. 1824, becomes QUERQUEDULA S. G. Gmelin, 1770.—Originally used in *Reise Russ.*, p. 70; type, by tautonomy, *Q. prima* (*Anas querquedula* L.).

GALLINAGO Leach, 1816, becomes GALLINAGO Koch, 1816.—Koch, *Syst. Baier. Zool.*, I, p. 312; type by tautonomy *G. media* (*Scolopax gallinago* Linn.).

Leach's name is a *nomen nudum* but is in any case antedated by Koch.

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<sup>1</sup> Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XXVI, p. 965.

COLUMBIGALLINA Boie, 1826, becomes CHÆMEPELIA Sw.—The name *Columbigallina*, usually cited from Boie, was first used by Oken (1817) in the Cuvier review already referred to, and was based upon "La Colombi Gallin" of Levaillant, which is *Columba carunculata* Temm. and Knip, an unidentifiable bird. This name disposed of, we fall back upon *Chæmepelia* Sw., Zool. Jour., III, p. 361, 1827, for the Ground Dove, the type (first species) being *Columba passerina* Linn.

ARDETTA Gray, 1842, becomes IXOBRYCHUS Billberg, 1828.—Billberg, Synop. Faun. Scand., Aves, p. 166, proposed *Ixobrychus* for *Ardea minuta* and *A. stellaris* of Linnæus, the former being the type by the first species rule the name will replace *Ardetta* Gray, 1842, of the Check-List.

IACHE Elliot, 1879, becomes CYNANTHUS Sw. 1827.—*Cyananthus* first appeared in the Philos. Magazine, I, p. 441, 1827, not Zool. Jour., III, p. 357, whence it is usually quoted (*cf.* Oberholser under *Ammodramus* below). The type (first species) is *C. latirostris* Sw. and the name will replace *Iache* Elliot, 1879, of the Check-List which is based upon the same species.

MEGASCOPS Kaup, 1848, becomes OTUS Pennant, 1769.—*Cf.* Stone, Auk, 1903, p. 275.

GLAUCIDIUM Boie, 1826, becomes NOCTUA S. G. Gmelin, 1771.—*Noctua* was first used in a generic sense by S. G. Gmelin, Nov. Com. Sci. Petr., XV, p. 447 (1771), the only species mentioned being "*Noctua minor* Briss." He states that his bird is rather smaller than that described by Brisson, and from the locality it is clear that it was the *Strix passerinum* of Linnæus. It may be claimed that Brisson's name was based upon the little owl of southern Europe, *Athena noctua* (Scopoli), but while he no doubt confused the two species, as did Linnæus, the majority of references are identical in the two cases and both names have been restricted to the northern species so far as their application is concerned.

As *Glaucidium* Boie, Isis, 1826, p. 970 is based upon *Strix passerinum* it is obvious that it must become a synonym of the earlier *Noctua* S. G. Gmelin.

TROGON Linn. 1766, becomes TROGON Brisson, 1760.—Type remains the same.

CONTOPUS Cab. 1855, becomes HORIZOPUS Oberh. 1899.—*Cf.* Oberholser, Auk, 1899, p. 331.

COTURNICULUS Bp. 1838, becomes AMMODRAMUS Sw. 1827.—*Cf.* Oberholser *Smithson. Misc. Coll., Quart. Issue, III, pt. 1, p. 67.*

AMMODRAMUS Sw. 1827, becomes PASSERHERBULUS Mayn. 1895.—In the paper above quoted Mr. Oberholser, finding no name available for the group formerly known as *Ammodramus*, proposed the excellent name *Ammospiza*. Dr. Richmond, however, finds the name *Passerherbulus* proposed for *Ammodramus lecontei*, a member of this genus, by C. J. Maynard, *Birds of Eastern N. A., 2d ed., pt. 40, 1895, p. 707*, and on grounds of priority it must be adopted.

PIPILO Vieill. vs. HORTULANUS Vieill.—In the introduction to his *Oiseaux Amér. Sept.*, Vieillot used the name *Hortulanus* for three birds, as follows: *H. erythrophthalmus*, *H. albicollis* (*Fringilla albicollis* L. Gm.), *H. nigricollis* (*Fringilla flavicollis* and *Emberiza americana* Gm.), and gave figures of the bills. The last two species are easily identified by the synonyms in brackets but there is no positive clue to the first one, except through the figure. There being no indication of a type for *Hortulanus* the first species is to be selected as such, and the acceptance of the name in place of *Pipilo* will thus depend upon whether or not we consider it recognizable.

HELMINTHOPHILA Ridgw., 1882, becomes VERMIVORA Sw. 1827.—*Cf.* Oberholser, *Smithson. Misc. Coll., Quart. Issue, III, pt. 1, p. 66.*

GALEOSOPTES Cab. 1850, becomes DUMETELLA S. D. W. 1837.—Dr. Richmond finds in the *Analyst, V, No. XVIII, Jan. 1837, p. 206*, a paper by "S. D. W." in which occurs the generic name *Dumetella* based upon *D. felivox* or "Cat Thrush of Latham." Latham really called the Catbird "Cat Flycatcher," but Wilson used "Cat Thrush" (*Amer. Ornith., II, p. 90*) and so did Stephens (*Gen. Zool., X, i, 1817, p. 272*). The latter also uses the name *Turdus felivox*. Altogether the name is so obviously based upon the Catbird that it should be adopted in place of the later *Galeoscoptes* which is also antedated by *Spodesilaura* Reichenbach, 1850, *Av. Syst. Nat., pl. liii.*

CYANECULA Brehm, 1828, becomes CYANOSYLVA Brehm, 1828.—Dr. Richmond calls my attention to this earlier name for *Motacilla suecica* L., proposed by Brehm, *Isis, 1828, p. 920.*

MERULA Leach, 1816, becomes PLANESTICUS Bp. 1854.—*Merula* Leach, 1816, is a nomen nudum but in any case is antedated by *Merula* Koch, 1816 (Syst. Baier. Zool., p. 242), based upon *Sturnus roseus* L.; Koch's work, as I am told by Dr. Richmond, appearing earlier in the year.

The name *Merula* being thus doubly invalidated we must adopt for the Robin and its allies *Planesticus* Bp., Compt. Rend., XXXVIII, p. 3, 1854; type (first species) *Turdus lereboulleti* Bp. = *Turdus jamaicensis* Gm. There is an earlier name, *Hodoiporus*, proposed by Reichenbach in 1850, Av. Syst. Nat., pl. liii, based on a figure of head, feet, wing, etc., but there is no specific name and the specific identification of the bird is in doubt. It is, however, certainly one of the group formerly called "*Merula*" so that the name may be considered available by some.

OLBIORCHILUS Oberh. 1902, becomes NANNUS Billberg, 1828.—Billberg's genus *Nannus* Synop. Faun. Scand., p. 57, is a substitute for *Troglodytes* Cuvier, 1817, Règn. Anim., I, p. 370, the type of which is *Motacilla troglodytes* Linn., and thus has many years priority over *Olbiorchilus*.

## II. EQUIVALENT GENERA.

DYSPORUS Illiger, 1811, becomes MORUS Vieill. 1816.—In the introduction to Illiger's Prodrômus he mentions a number of generic names which for one reason or another he declines to accept and for which he proposes substitutes in the body of the work. One of these is *Sula* Briss., for which he proposes *Dysporus*. The two names being synonymous we must seek another subgeneric name for the Gannet, which is found in *Morus* Vieillot, 1816, Analyse, p. 63, based entirely upon *Pelecanus bassanus* Linn.

MERGANSER Brisson, 1760, becomes SERRATOR 'Sprungli' Storr, 1784.—Brisson's *Merganser* and Linnæus's *Mergus* seem to be based upon exactly the same birds and are therefore synonymous. *Serrator* Sprungli, in Storr's Alpenreise, I, p. 74 (1784), seems to be the next name for the Mergansers of authors; type by tautonomy *Mergus serrator* L.

III. NOMINA NUDA OR NAMES NOT PROPOSED IN A GENERIC SENSE.

FREGATA Briss. 1760, becomes FREGATA Lacép. 1799.—Brisson did not use the name in a generic sense.

NYCTICORAX Raf. 1816, becomes NYCTICORAX Forster, 1817.—Rafinesque's name is a nomen nudum. Type (only species), *Ardea nycticorax* L.

BOTAURUS Herm. 1783, becomes BOTAURUS Stephens, 1819.—Hermann did not use the name in a generic sense. This was first done by Stephens, Gen. Zool., vol. XI, p. 592. Type from Forster (first species), *Ardea stellaris* L.

MACRORHAMPHUS Leach, 1816, becomes MACRORHAMPHUS Forster, 1817.—All the new genera in Leach's Catalogue are nomina nuda, but all can be cited from Forster's Catalogue of the next year, where Linnæan equivalents are given, unless some other work intervenes.

PAVONCELLA Leach, 1816, becomes MACHETES Cuvier, 1817, (*Règne Animal*, I, p. 490).—Cuvier's *Règne Animal* was prior to Forster's Catalogue. Type the same.

CALIDRIS Cuvier, 1800, becomes CALIDRIS Ill ger, 1811.—Most of the new generic names of the Tableau in *Leçons Anat. Comp.* are nomina nuda, as they are accompanied only by a vernacular. Where, however, the vernacular was used in the Tableau *Elément.*, 1798, in conjunction with an identifiable binomial name, Dr. J. A. Allen suggests that it should be accepted; the species mentioned becoming the type. Thus while *Calidris* is a nomen nudum, *Regulus* is tenable since it is called "Roitolet" in 1800, and in the Tableau *Elément.*, 1798, we find "Roitolet, *Motacilla regulus* L.," showing exactly what the genus was based upon.

In the same way, while most of Brehm's genera, in his paper in *Isis*, 1828, are nomina nuda, we can retain "*Archibuteo*, Rauchfussbuzard," since it is clearly identified in his earlier *Beiträge Vogelkunde*, 1820 — viz., "Der Rauchfussige Buzard, *Falco lagopus* L."

URUBITINGA Lesson, 1839, becomes URUBITINGA Lafr. 1843.—This name occurs only as a nomen nudum in *Rev. Zool.*, 1839, p. 132. Dr. Richmond gives me as the earliest citation known to

him Dict. Univ. Hist. Nat., II, 1843, p. 786, type "L' Aigle — Autour Urubitinga de Cuvier."

ANTROSTOMUS Gould, 1838, becomes ANTROSTOMUS Bonap. 1838.—The Gould reference is entirely erroneous. Dr. Richmond gives me Bonaparte, Geog. & Comp. List, 1838, p. 8, as the earliest citation, type (first species) *Caprimulgus carolinensis* Gm.

SAYORNIS Bonap. 1854, becomes SAYORNIS "Bp." Gray, 1855.—In Bonaparte's paper, Compte Rendus, XXXVIII, 1854, p. 657, this genus is introduced thus: "*Sayornis nigricans* Bp.," with no description and nothing to indicate what the "*nigricans*" is intended to refer to. It is a nomen nudum and must date from Gray, Cat. Gen. and Subgen. of Birds, 1855, p. 146, where *Tyrannula saya* Bp. is given as the type.

#### IV. CHANGES DUE TO THE RULE OF TAUTONOMY.

The enforcement of this rule, *i. e.*, "If the name of a genus is the same as the name or synonym of one of its included species, that species shall be the type," fixes absolutely the types of many genera upon species now recognized as such but entails a few changes where other species have been currently selected as types.

PHALAROPUS Briss. 1760, becomes LOBIPES Cuv. 1817.

CRYMOPHILUS Vieill. 1816, becomes PHALAROPUS Briss. 1760.

Tautonomy fixes the types of nearly all the Brissonian genera, as this author was accustomed to call one of his species by the same name that he applied to the genus. In only one instance has this action been ignored in selecting the types of his genera, namely in the case of *Phalaropus*, the usually accepted type of which is *Tringa lobata* L., while the species called *Phalaropus* by Brisson is *Tringa fulicaria* L. By accepting the latter as the type we shift *Phalaropus* to the "Red Phalarope" which thus replaces *Crymophilus* Vieill. For *Phalaropus* of the Check-List we must revive *Lobipes* Cuv. 1817, Règne Anim., I, p. 495, based solely upon *Tringa lobata* L.

CÆLIGENA Less. 1832, becomes CYANOLÆMUS nom. nov.—The species upon which *Cæligena* was originally based (Ind. & Synop. gén. Troch., 1832, p. XVIII), included *Ornismyia cæligena* Lesson, which by tautonomy is the type. Unfortunately *Lampropygia*



Reich. has been used for this bird and its allies and *Cæligena* for *O. clemenciæ*. Replacing Reichenbach's name with *Cæligena*, we leave *O. clemenciæ* without a generic appellation and I propose **Cyanolæmus**,<sup>1</sup> type *Ornismyia clemenciæ* Lesson.

#### V. ERROR IN SELECTING THE TYPE.

CEOPHLÆUS Cab. 1862, becomes PHLÆOTOMUS Cab. & Heine, 1863.—The Check-List cites *Picus pileatus* L. as the type of *Ceophlæus* Cab. but in the original publication, J. f. O., 1862, p. 176, *Picus lineatus* L. is explicitly given as the type. Therefore if we regard these two species as generically distinct, we must adopt a new name for *Picus pileatus* L. Hargitt, in the British Museum Catalogue, Vol. XVIII, adopts *Dryotomus* from Swainson, Class. Birds, II, p. 308, but, as Dr. J. A. Allen has pointed out to me, this name first appeared in the Fauna Bor. Amer., II, p. 301, where *Picus martius* L. is given as the type, so that it becomes a synonym of *Picus* L. *Phlæotomus* Cab. & Heine, Mus. Hein., IV, p. 102, 1863, based exclusively upon *Picus pileatus* L., is, however, available.

#### VI. CHANGES DUE TO THE FIRST SPECIES RULE.

In order to definitely fix the types of various composite genera of older authors, the revised Code of Nomenclature of the A. O. U., which has been adopted but not yet published, provides that where no type is indicated in the original publication and where none is implied by the rule of tautonomy, the first species mentioned by the original author shall be taken as the type, except in the case of Linnæan genera where the commonly accepted species shall remain the type. After the changes above indicated have been made we find that there are in the Check-List 121 composite genera with no indication of type species. In 93 of these the commonly accepted type is the first species, and of the others 16 are Linnæan genera. Selecting the first species in each of the remaining twelve genera as the type we shall have to make the following changes.

CYCLORRHYNCHUS Kaup, 1829, becomes PHALERIS Temm. 1820.

PHALERIS Temm. 1820, becomes ALCELLA nom. nov.

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<sup>1</sup> κυανέος blue, λαιμός throat.

The first species mentioned in the description of *Phaleris* Temm., Man. Ornith., 1820, p. cxii, is *Alca psittacula* Pallas, and this name replaces the later *Cyclorrhynchus* based upon the same species.

Subgenus *Phaleris* of the Check-List may be replaced by **Alcella**,<sup>1</sup> type *Alca pygmæa* Gm.

MELANITTA Boie, 1822, becomes PHÆONETTA nom. nov.—The first species under *Melanitta* Boie, Isis, 1822, p. 564, in the original diagnosis is *Anas nigra* L. so that this genus becomes a synonym of *Oidemia* which has the same type. For *Melanitta* of the Check-List I propose **Phæonetta**<sup>2</sup> type *Anas fusca* L.

ACTITIS Ill. 1811, becomes TRINGOIDES Bp. 1831.—The first species in the original diagnosis of *Actitis* (Ill., Prodrumus, 1811, p. 262) is *Scolopax limosa* Linn. so that it becomes a synonym of *Limosa* and we revive *Tringoides* Bp., Saggio, p. 58 (1831), for the Spotted Sandpiper.

TYMPANUCHUS Glog. 1842, becomes BONASA Steph. 1819.—BONASA Steph. 1819, becomes HYLOBRONTES nom. nov.

*Bonasa* was originally based upon the "Heath-hens," *Tetrao cupido* and *T. umbellus*, Stephens, Gen. Zool., XI (1819), p. 298, and the Prairie Chicken being the first species must be taken as the type. This name having priority will replace *Tympanuchus*, while for *Bonasa* of the Check-List I propose **Hylobrontes**,<sup>3</sup> type *Tetrao umbellus* L.

CATHARTES Ill. 1811, becomes RHINOGRYPHUS Ridgw. 1874.—GYPAGUS Vieill. 1816, becomes CATHARTES Ill. 1811.

The first species mentioned in the original description of *Cathartes* Ill. (Prodrumus, 1811, p. 236), is the King Vulture, *V. papa* L., for which the name must be used in place of the later *Gypagus*, while for the Turkey Vulture *Rhinogryphus* Ridgway will be revived.

CONURUS Kuhl, 1820, becomes CONUROPSIS Salvadori, 1891.—The type of *Conurus* by the first species rule is *C. guianensis*, not *C. carolinensis* L. Therefore if we regard the Carolina Parakeet as generically different from the other species of *Conurus*, as

<sup>1</sup> *Alca*, Auk; -ella diminutive.

<sup>2</sup> φαίος brown, νηττα a duck.

<sup>3</sup> ὕλη wood woodland, βροντης, a thunderer.

is done by Salvadori in the British Museum Catalogue, XX, p. 203, we must adopt *Conuropsis*, the name he proposed for it.

CYANOSPIZA Bd. 1858, becomes PASSERINA Vieill. 1816.—PAS-SERINA Vieill. 1816, becomes PLECTROPHENAX Stejn. 1882.

The type of *Passerina* Vieill., Analyse, 1816, p. 30, by the first species rule is the Indigo Bird, *Tanagra cyanea* L., and using the name in this sense, as was done in the original Check-List, we must also revert to *Plectrophenax* Stejn. (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., V, p. 33) for the Snow-flake.

ACANTHIS Bechst. 1802 (not 1803), becomes LINARIA Bechst., 1802.—The type of *Acanthis* Borkhausen, Deutschl. Fauna, I, p. 248, 1797, where the name first appeared, is, by the first species rule, the European Goldfinch, *Fringilla carduelis* L.; so that this name becomes a synonym of *Carduelis*. For the Redpolls we must adopt *Linaria* Bechstein, 1802, Ornith. Taschb., type (first species) *Fringilla cannabina* Linn. which is generally regarded as congeneric with *F. linaria*.

The types of several other genera change by this rule but fall upon congeneric species.

The type of ANTHUS is *A. arboreus* Bechst. (*Alda trivialis* L.).

The type of CARPODACUS is *Pyrrhula rosea* [= *Fringilla rosea* Pallas].

The type of AIX is *Anas galericulata* L.

A reservation of the new code exempts Linnæan genera from the operation of the first species rule, their types being as indicated by Linnæus himself, the best known species. There is general consensus of opinion on all but two of these genera, namely *Tetrao* and *Colymbus*. The type of the former is *T. tetrix* by tautonomy.

With regard to *Colymbus*, Americans take *C. cristatus* as the type and use the term for the Grebes, British and most European authors take *C. arcticus* and fix the name on the Loons. Both species are common Scandinavian birds so that there is no indication of a type by following Linnæus's instructions. Other methods failing we must accept the first species, *C. arcticus*, as the type and use *Colymbus* for the Loons, reviving *Podiceps* Latham, 1797 (*cf. antea*) for the Grebes.