

Tree Swallows were seen flying over Crooked Lake on September 5, 1911. In 1912 Tree Swallows were again observed upon several occasions, but never more than a few individuals were seen at one time.

94. **Riparia riparia.** BANK SWALLOW.— Although I knew that these birds occurred in this region because of the numerous nesting holes I had seen in several sand banks, it was not until the summer of 1912 that I actually saw the bird. Two pair nested in a small bank at the camp which had been formed by digging out sand for building purposes. The actual nesting bank was not over four feet high or eight feet long and it was interesting to note that the birds had started 22 different holes before they had succeeded in completing two that were satisfactory for nesting purposes. Some of these holes were only a few inches deep, others nearly a foot. In each case the birds had been discouraged because a large stone or a root obstructed further progress.

95. **Compsothlypis americana usneæ.** NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER.— I was shown the skin of an adult male that was found dead about the last of June, 1911.

96. **Dendroica coronata.** MYRTLE WARBLER.— Observed on August 18 and 26, 1911. In both cases only one bird was seen and that at a short distance from the camp.

97. **Certhia familiaris americana.** BROWN CREEPER.— This bird was inadvertently omitted from the original list. It was seen on August 28, 1908, and again on August 3 and 9, 1911.

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## SOME BINARY GENERIC NAMES.

BY GREGORY M. MATHEWS, F. R. S. E.

In the *Nov. Zool.*, Vol. XVII, 1910, pp. 492-503, I wrote: "On some necessary alterations in the nomenclature of birds," and there drew attention to the illegality of the "Brissonian genera" according to my interpretation of the International Code.

The second part, published six months later (Vol. XVIII, pp. 1-22, 1911), commented on the 20th Opinion rendered by the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature which, dealing with the Gronovian genera, ruled that these were admissible though Gronow was not a binomialist. This ruling was based on the interpretation of the word "binary": the Commission concluded

that this was a word with a meaning not previously utilised to my knowledge, the actual wording being: "It is clear that Gronow's nomenclature is binary — that is, he names two units or things, genera and species." I clearly showed that this was quite a novel acceptance of the word "binary" and concluded "I therefore submit that the meaning given to the word 'binary' must be governed by the context, and that in view of Article 26 it can have none other than that used by me, i. e., absolutely equivalent to binomial."

Without any consideration of my arguments, however, Opinion No. 37 decided that the Brissonian genera were available *under the Code*. I made my last protest in this matter in the *Nov. Zool.*, Vol. XVIII, pp. 452-5, 1912. At the Monaco Congress in March, 1913, the Opinions as a whole were approved by the Congress and consequently now rank equally with the Coded Laws. I therefore now utilise the Brissonian Genera in accordance with my oft-expressed desire for the attainment of uniformity, notwithstanding my personal disapproval of the action of the International Commission in concluding that the word binary was intended to admit the genera of non-binomial writers.

It seems impossible to think that the Commission could not have seen that the consequence would be the further admission of generic names commonly neglected. As far as I was able to judge the whole basis of our present nomenclatural system was binomiality and to undermine this system was a grievous fault.

In my nomenclatorial researches I examined as many books as possible and I noted some which though not binomial were certainly binary. These I ignored but it is no longer possible to do so. In this paper I will show the insecurity of some of our most common generic names through the admission of "binary" authors. I would here note an interesting confirmation of my meaning of the word binary as opposed to that of the International Commission. In the *Essais de Zoologie Générale*, published as long ago as 1841, Is. Geoffroy Saint Hilaire discussing the Linnean system of nomenclature, wrote p. 112 "La nomenclature binaire, appliquée à la désignation de tous les animaux et de toutes les plantes, est, de tous les progrès accomplis par Linné, celui dont l'importance a été le mieux comprise, et celui aussi dont l'invention lui a été le plus exclusivement attribuée. Ces deux expressions, *Nomenclature bi-*

*naire et Nomenclature linnéenne*, sont même devenues aujourd'hui des synonymes si parfaits qu'on les prend indifféremment l'une pour l'autre."

Anyone conversant with the literature surrounding the production of the present International Code must concede that my protests were well-founded. C. Davies Sherborn, when compiling his *Index Animalium*, the indispensable aid to the systematist, gave a Bibliography of all the books examined, carefully noting all those he rejected as non-binomial. Included in this List must be many that will call for acceptance as being binary and I herewith put on record one such that will interest American Ornithologists.

In 1791 a book was published at Philadelphia dealing with *Travels in Carolina of W. Bartram*. Numerous notes on the bird-life occur and a long list of birds occurring in Carolina and Florida is given. All the names have been rejected on account of the non-binomiality of the author. I do not intend to go into any detail regarding this work as Americans must be much more familiar with it than I am and I should probably make many mistakes. New generic names occur which would come under the category of binary though the author was not binomial. All I have noted in this edition, however, seem to come under the class "*nomina nuda*."

In 1793 however a German translation was published in Berlin: this was edited by E. A. W. Zimmermann, who made explanatory notes. There is little doubt that the editor was a binomialist, but that does not much concern us.

The fact remains that in many cases the Bartramian names are accompanied by Zimmermann's identification and some quaint complications occur.

On p. 151 a footnote by Z. identifies a bird as *Linaria ciris*.

On pp. 276-301 notes and the Bartramian list of birds occur.

*Regulus atrofuscus minor* appears in the text as a Bartramian name, followed however on p. 277 by "den Blauvogel (*Motacilla sialis*. *Rubecula americana*.)"

On p. 284 appears:

"*Merula marilandica*. The summer red bird. Die Maryländische Amsel. (Seligm. Cat. III. T. 12.)" and

*Lucar* (dies Wort ist mir unbekannt, vielleicht ein Druckfehler) *lividus*. The cat bird or chicken bird. (*Muscicapa carolinensis* Linn. Der Fliengensänger aus Karolina.)"

On p. 286 is written:

"*Linaria ciris*. The painted finch or nonpareil. Der gemahlte Fink (*Emberiza ciris* L. Seligm. Cat 7).

*Linaria cyanea* L. The blue linnet. Der blaue Hänfling. (Seligm. Cat. II. Tab. 90.)"

"*Calandra pratensis*. The May bird. (Kaum darf ich diesen Vogel für die Calandra halten, da die Lerchen schon oben vorgekommen sind; doch ist freilich die Calandra ein Nordamerikanischer Vogel.)"

We have on p. 287:

"*Motacilla sialis* Linn. The blue bird. Der Blauvogel. (Seligm. Cat. *Rubecula americana caerulea*. II. T. 94.)

*Motacilla domestica* (*regulus rufus*.) The house wren. Der Zaunkönig. (*Motacilla regulus* Linn.)

*Motacilla palustris* (*regulus minor*). The marsh wren. Der Sumpfzaunkönig.

*Motacilla Caroliniana* (*regulus magnus*). The great wren of Carolina. Der grosse Zaunkönig. (Der Leib dunkelbraun, Brust und Kehle falb. *Regulus major, subtus ex rufescente flavus* Gmel. Linn. Der grossere Zaunkönig von Louisiana. Buffon.)

*Regulus griseus*. The little bluish wren. Der kleine bläuliche Zaunkönig.

*Regulus cristatus*. The golden crown wren. Der Zaunkönig mit goldener Kappe. (*Troglodytes* Linn.)

*Regulus cristatus alter*. The golden crown wren. Der Zaunkönig mit rother Haube. (The ruby crowned wren Edwards. Seligm. Cat. III. T. 90. *Motacilla calendula* Linn.)

*Regulus peregrinus, gutture flavo*. The olive-coloured yellow-throated wren. Der Zaunkönig mit gelber Kehle. (Vielleicht der *Figuier de la Caroline* Buffon).

*Ruticilla americana*. The redstart. Der Amerikanische Rothschwanz. (*Mot. phœnicurus?*)

*Luscinia seu philomela americana*. The yellow-hooded titmouse. Die Amerikanische Nachtigall. Catesby."

No more new generic names occur until p. 291:

*Morinella americana*. The turnstone or dotrel. Der Morinell oder Strandreihher (*Tringa morinella* Linn. Seligm. Catesby V. T. 36.)

On p. 293 we have

“*Petrella pintada*. The pintado bird. Der weiss und schwarz gefleckte Petrel (oder Sturmvogel). (Seligm. Cat. IV. T. 77. *Procellaria capensis* Linn. Pintado des Dampier.)”

A consideration of the preceding extracts suggests the discussion of the generic names, *Linaria*, *Regulus*, *Rubecula*, *Merula*, *Lucar*, *Calandra*, *Ruticilla*, *Luscinia* seu *Philomela*, *Morinella* and *Petrella*.

Before proceeding further reference to Sherborn's Index Animalium given prior introductions of some of these names, as,

*Linaria*, G. Edwards in M. Catesby, Carol. I 1771, 45.

*Rubicula* vel *Rubecula*. id ib 47.

*Merula* Moehring Geslach Vogel (Nozem & Vosm ed.) 1758, 8 & 27.

*Luscinia* id ib 2 & 27.

The other names are given, when at all, as of a later introduction, as:

*Regulus* Bartram in Barton 1799 & *Lucar* Barton 1799.

The quotations ex Moehring (Nozem. & Vosm. ed.) are now ruled out so that probably the names there noted may still appear earlier than the present instance. There can however be little doubt that these binary generic names will replace more familiar binomially introduced ones, commonly in use.

Thus *Linaria* in the present case is earlier and equivalent to *Passerina* Vieillot 1816 as now used in the A. O. U. Check-List 3rd Ed. p. 285, 1910. The introduction of the same generic name given by Sherborn as above refers to the same. Of course the acceptance of binary generic names necessitates the re-examination of the editions of Catesby's Carolina, in addition to the Edwards one above noted, and the Seligmann edition quoted by Zimmermann in the extracts here given. What the result will be I cannot foretell.

*Regulus* would seem to preserve the traditional use whenever its introduction may date from.

*Rubecula* would replace *Sialia* Swainson 1827 of the A. O. U. Check-List, 3rd Edition, p. 366, 1910, whether it dates from Zimmermann or from Edwards 1771.

*Merula* must be dealt with as it is based on Selig. Cat. III. T. 12. and is thereby recognisable.

*Lucar* must again come into use in place of *Dumetella* S. D. W. 1837, as that name is used in the A. O. U. Check-List, 3rd. Ed., p. 1910.

*Calandra* at this place I consider a nomen nudum.

*Ruticilla* might be also thus construed but I believe it comes into consideration from another binary source at somewhere near this date.

*Luscinia* might be again classed as a nomen nudum but the reference to "Die Amerikanische Nachtigall Catesby" suggested its introduction in some of the editions of Catesby's work.

*Morinella* of course falls as a synonym of *Arenaria* Brisson 1760.

*Petrella*, however, appears to displace *Daption*, Stephens 1826 as used in the A. O. U. Check-List, 3rd Ed., p. 51, 1910.

This last name is the only one that directly concerns my own studies in ornithology, namely that of Australia, and in order to make sure of this matter I forwarded the book here noted to Dr. C. W. Richmond, Secretary of the Ornithological Committee on Nomenclature, desiring his opinion upon my conclusions. He has written me, that, after conferring with Dr. L. Stejneger, one of the members of the International Commission on Nomenclature, the only conclusion possible was that these generic names were duly proposed and regularly introduced by a writer who was binary though not binomial. He also desired me to note that this edition of Bartram's Travels also appeared as Vol. X of the Magazin von merkwürdigen neuen Reisebeschreibungen.

I would here state that the above notes are merely fragmentary in order to draw attention to the work mentioned and that further detailed investigation of this work by one familiar with American Ornithology might reveal some name I have overlooked.

My own researches lead me to suggest that the apparently ill-advised admission of "binary" generic names will lead to such an upsetting of names that the only means of escape will be the recognition of a List of Nomina Conservanda: such a result has been recently scoffed at by good workers, but these were undoubtedly unaware of the many binary writers to be taken into consideration, the present instance being only one out of many.

The rejection of "binary" writers, as opposed to binomial ones, would have obviated discussion and made more stable our present nomenclature.