

Vernon Bailey. It has already been recorded incidentally (Cooke, Bull. U. S. Dept. Agric., No. 292, October 25, 1915, p. 47), but owing to its importance it seems worthy of special notice in a place more accessible to ornithologists generally. It represents the easternmost record of *Larus canus brachyrhynchus*, and the only really interior occurrence of the species in the United States. For the change of the name of this bird from *Larus brachyrhynchus* to *Larus canus brachyrhynchus* see 'The Auk,' XXXVI, No. 1, January, 1919, p. 83.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

***Polysticta Eyton* versus *Stelleria Bonaparte*.**—Mr. G. M. Mathews has recently (Austral Avian Record, III, No. 5, December 28, 1917, p. 123) advocated the use of the generic name *Stelleria* Bonaparte for the species now known as *Polysticta stelleri* (Pallas). The term *Stelleria* is, of course, as he shows, not debarred from employment in zoölogy by the previous use of *Stellaria* in botany; but he has apparently overlooked the fact that *Polysticta* is not preoccupied, since *Polysticta* Smith (Illust. South Afr. Zoöl.), June [or later], 1836, does not invalidate *Polysticta* Eyton (Catal. Brit. Birds), April, 1836, a fact to which Dr. C. W. Richmond long ago (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. XVI, September 30, 1903, p. 128) called attention. It is evident, therefore, that the name of Steller's Eider should remain *Polysticta stelleri* (Pallas).—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

Further Record of the European Widgeon at Madison, Wis.—On April 14, 1918, in the wide-water at the head of Lake Waubesa, four miles south of Madison, I was able to identify unmistakably a typical specimen of the European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) that was in the company of seventeen Baldpates (*Mareca americana*). The bird was drawn so close by my 40-power telescope that it covered one-third of the field and allowed close study.

It may be of further interest to restate the substance of a note submitted by Mr. A. W. Schorger to the January, 1918 issue of 'The Auk' in regard to the recent appearance of the European Widgeon in the vicinity of Madison. On April 22, 1917, a specimen was discovered by Mr. Schorger on the Hammersley Marsh in company with about thirty Baldpates and a few other ducks. It remained at least four days and was seen by me at close range on three occasions, the last being on the 26th. On the 28th Mr. George H. Jenkins observed a specimen, perhaps the same, among a flock of Baldpates on the Yahara Marshes ten miles distant.—WARNER TAYLOR, *Madison, Wisconsin*.

A Late Record for *Rallus elegans* for Maine.—November 22, 1909, Mr. A. G. Dorr, Bucksport, Me., collected and sent me in the flesh a fine male specimen of the King Rail. It measured as follows: length, 16.30; wing, 6.75; tail, 2.10; tarsus, 2.34 and bill, 2.40 inches. It was marked above with brownish-black and olive-brown feather edging; light throat and rufous-cinnamon, breast and flanks fuscous, distinctly barred with

white. It was in good physical condition and apparently well able to join the majority of its species in the South had it so chosen.

Mr. Dorr considered this a rare bird for Maine, especially so in the fall. There are a number of fall and winter records for Massachusetts and Maine, but I consider the occurrence sufficiently unusual to be worth recording.—
C. L. PHILLIPS, *Taunton, Mass.*

The Proper Generic Name of the Ruff.—The generic name now used for the European Ruff is *Machetes* Cuvier (Regne Animal, I, 1817, p. 490; type by monotypy, *Tringa pugnax* Linnæus). This name has been preferred over *Pavoncella* Leach (Syst. Cat. Indig. Mamm. and Birds Brit. Mus., 1816, p. 29), because the latter was supposed to be a nomen nudum. It was introduced by Leach, however, in combination with the specific term *pugnax*, which is, of course, readily identifiable and of undoubted application to the Ruff. The name is on exactly the same basis as *Spatula* Boie (Isis, X, 1822, col. 564) and several other names proposed by him and by other authors at various times. All these names have hitherto been accepted without question as entirely warranted by both the International and A. O. U. Codes of Nomenclature; and there is no more reason for rejecting *Pavoncella* than any of the other names.

The name *Pavoncella*, however, will not become the generic name of the Ruff, as Dr. C. W. Richmond has already shown (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., LIII, August 16, 1917, p. 581), and Mr. G. M. Mathews emphasized (Austral Avian Record, III, No. 5, Dec. 28, 1917, p. 117). There is an earlier name, *Philomachus*, proposed by an anonymous reviewer of Bechstein's Ornithologische Taschenbuch (Allgem. Lit.-Zeitung, 1804, Vol. II, No. 168, June 8, 1804, col. 542), the type of which is, by monotypy, *Tringa pugnax* Linnæus. This name is proposed in a perfectly legitimate way with a diagnosis and citation of species, and is, of course, not to be rejected because anonymous. The name of the Ruff will, therefore, become *Philomachus pugnax* (Linnæus).—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

Heteractitis versus Heteroscelus.—The generic name now in use for the Wandering Tattler is *Heteractitis* Stejneger.¹ This term was proposed as a substitute for *Heteroscelus* Baird,² because the latter was considered invalid on account of the prior *Heteroscelis* Latreille, instituted in 1829 for a genus of Coleoptera. According to our present rules of nomenclature, however, *Heteroscelis* does not preoccupy *Heteroscelus*, since the two words differ not merely in grammatical termination, but have different classical endings. Mr. G. M. Mathews a few years ago called attention³ to the desirability of using *Heteroscelus*, but other authors seem generally

¹ 'The Auk,' I, No. 3, July, 1884, p. 236.

² Rep. Expl. and Surv. R. R. Pac., IX, 1858, p. 734 (type by monotypy, *Totanus brevipes* Vieillot).

³ Birds of Australia, III, part 3, 1913, p. 206.