

***Toxostoma crissalis* versus *Toxostoma dorsalis*.**—The current technical name of the Crissal Thrasher is *Toxostoma crissalis*, but this apparently must be changed. The species was originally described under the name *Toxostoma dorsalis* by Dr. T. Charlton Henry from a specimen obtained by him at Fort Thorn, New Mexico. This description appeared in the number of the 'Proceedings' of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia for May, 1858, on page 117. In the June number of the same publication, pages 117–118 of the May number were reprinted with some typographical changes. Among them the name of *Toxostoma dorsalis*, was altered to *Toxostoma crissalis*, under which name the species has since been known. In "Directions to Binder" for Volume 10 (1858) of the above mentioned 'Proceedings' there appears the following statement: "Pages 117 and 118 in the April and May numbers to be cancelled, and pages 117 and 118 at the close of the June number substituted for them." This name, *Toxostoma dorsalis*, evidently was intended to appear originally as *Toxostoma crissalis*, but the former has priority of publication. It is merely a mistake involving the use of another and entirely different word, not a typographical error, and was not corrected in the original publication, but at least a month later. Therefore, since mistakes in the original publication of scientific names can not be altered, this name, *Toxostoma dorsalis*, can not for this reason be rejected in favor of *Toxostoma crissalis*, as *Toxostoma dorsalis* is apparently not preoccupied or otherwise untenable. We must therefore call the Crissal Thrasher *Toxostoma dorsalis*.

In connection with the use of the generic name *Toxostoma*, it might be well to note that this word is not of neuter gender as currently used, but feminine, since its terminal element is an appellative noun, and, therefore, must be either masculine or feminine, whichever the original employer of the name may determine—in this case, feminine.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

**The Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa*) in Eastern Pennsylvania.**—On October 6, 1919, Mr. James R. Gillen saw a strange bird on the ground, near Lansdale, Pa., which in a general way reminded him of a Horned Lark, although he recognized it as something different. Procuring a gun, he shot it and presented it to his father, Mr. Thomas S. Gillen, who mounted it and added it to his collection. Being anxious to ascertain what sort of bird he had found, Mr. Gillen described it to me, and I at once suspected that it might be a Wheatear. Showing him a tray of skins containing some of this species he immediately picked out a female in winter plumage as the exact counterpart of the bird he had shot.

Thanks to Mr. Thomas S. Gillen, the specimen was later exhibited at a meeting of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, and its identity confirmed. This is the first record of the occurrence of the Wheatear

in the State.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

**Additional Notes on the Birds of Red Deer, Alberta.**—In Mr. Taverner's article on the Birds of Red Deer (*The Auk*, 1919) he invites further information on that region, and the following notes are offered as perhaps worthy of record. They are from my own investigations on June 2 to 6, 1903, at Innisfail; June 19 to 26, 1906, at Red Deer and Innisfail; and May 30 to June 9, 1911, at Camrose and the Miquelon Lakes, fifteen miles north. The numbers are those of Mr. Taverner's list:

2, HOLLBOELL'S GREBE. In nearly every medium-sized lake, this species was found to outnumber the Western by several to one. Though in spots, the latter was the more abundant. Lakes would be frequently found with a population of Holboell's exclusively.

4, EARED GREBE. Abundant in many of the smaller lakes.

5, PIED-BILLED GREBE. Rare.

10, TERN. A species thought to be the Common, was in hundreds on the Miquelons in 1911. None were taken for identification.

HOODED MERGANSER. One seen on June 3, another on June 6, 1911, at Miquelon.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER. One at Miquelon, June 2, 1911.

RING-NECKED DUCK. Ten seen on Wavy Lake, June 3, 1903.

35, GREAT BLUE HERON. The only spruce tree on the Pelican Island at Miquelon, June, 1911, had so many Cormorants' nests that one's clothes got very dirty in forcing through them to reach the top of the tree, where there were five nests of the Great Blue Heron. There were thirty or forty nests of the Cormorant.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER. Three.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT. One.

MARbled GODWIT, three.

All these at a little lake ten miles northeast of Camrose on June 6, 1911, also two more of the last named on May 30, 1911, near Camrose. The Hudsonian was in the spectacular cinnamon plumage which, with his long bill, made identification extremely easy.

51, BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER. One at the same place as the three above. I have also a skin taken near Edmonton on September 23, 1896.

53, HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE. Mr. Farley informs me that this species is approaching nearer to Camrose, and it is now affording fair shooting south of Calgary, appearing to be well suited by the prairie conditions.

73, OSPREY. A nest was found at Pine Lake (a name that is of abundant occurrence in the west) twenty miles S. E. of Red Deer on June 2, 1906. The birds were feeding young, but were too wary to approach the nest while we were near. It was on a broken topped tree near the lake, about fifty feet up, and immediately below it, within six feet, a Red-breasted Nuthatch was incessantly going to feed her young.