

Avian Record, III, No. 5, 1917, p. 119.) Change rejected, because the authors of *Regulus* Bartram 1791 and *Regulus* Zimmermann 1793, which supposedly preoccupy *Regulus* Cuvier are neither binomial nor acceptedly binary.

**Sialia** Swainson versus **Rubecula** Zimmermann. (Cf. Mathews, 'The Auk,' XXXI, No. 1, Jan., 1914, pp. 89-90.) Change rejected, because Zimmermann is not binomial in the publication in question (Bartram, Reisen Nord- und Süd-Karolina, 1793, p. 287), nor is he a binary author accepted by the International Zoological Commission. Furthermore, *Rubecula* is not actually adopted as a generic name by Zimmermann, but simply cited as a polynomial synonym. The list of "Nomina Conservanda" proposed by the Committee of the British Ornithologists' Union (List Brit. Birds, ed. 2, 1915, p. 355) contains the following five names that affect the present status of the A. O. U. Check-List:

**Turdus musicus** Linnaeus versus **Turdus iliacus** Linnaeus.

**Asio flammeus** (Pontoppidan) versus **Asio accipitrinus** (Pallas).

**Cryptoglaux** Richmond versus **Nyctala** Brehm.

**Anas platyrhyncha** Linnaeus versus **Anas boschas** Linnaeus.

**Pterodroma** Bonaparte versus **Oestrelata** Bonaparte.

These changes are not acceptable under the law of priority.

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## GENERAL NOTES.

### Notes on the Black-crowned Night Heron in Western New York.

According to all published accounts the Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax n. naevius*) seems to be rare in western New York. The 'Auburn List' 1874 records but a single specimen taken on Seneca River, no date given. Eaton, 'Birds of New York,' records it as a transient visitant, uncommon in the counties of Cayuga, Monroe and Ontario, occasional in Seneca, fairly common in Onondaga and with no record for Yates. And the only breeding record is for Erie County.

My first record for this bird was May 7, 1911, when I saw a single individual perched in a tree along the inlet of Keuka Lake at Branchport.

June 17, 1914, in company with Dr. G. S. Britten and Dr. George D. Lynch, of Syracuse, I visited a breeding colony of Black-crowned Night Herons in a small swamp at Lakeside, Onandaga Lake. There were about 75 nests in the herony, about 50 of the Night Heron and 25 of the Green Heron. They were all intermingled, with sometimes nests of both species in the same tree, and some nests were as low as six or eight feet from the water. At this time a few of the nests contained eggs and the others held young of various sizes from newly hatched to about one-half grown. This

herony was discovered May 15, 1914, by Miss Nettie M. Sadler, of Syracuse, a teacher of biology and an enthusiastic bird student.

In 1915 Miss Sadler saw the Night Herons several times but they did not nest at Lakeside. In 1916, however, she found them nesting in a swampy wood across the outlet of Onondaga Lake and east of the Oswego canal.

July 21, 1914, 10 P. M., I heard Night Herons "quawking" as they flew around over the streets of Branchport. They seemed to be flying in circles and working to the west, then again in the evening of July 25 a single Night Heron was seen at Branchport by Miss Sadler. April 23, 1916, two Night Herons were seen by Mr. C. F. Stone and myself. They were perched in a tree along the inlet.

My last record for these birds was in the evening of June 18, 1919, when I saw and heard one flying over the streets of Branchport.—VERDI BURTON, *Branchport, N. Y.*

**Bittern Displaying Its White Nuptial Plumes.**—On May 21, 1920, when motoring with my friend, Dr. Lyman F. Bigelow, of Norwood, Mass., we visited a swamp of moderate extent within the town of Westwood, set as a bowl in the midst of woodland and surrounded on three sides by the wooded land on slopes rising well above the level of the swamp, which for the most part was bush-grown and not much open to view. But on the fourth side, where a town road runs beside it, it lay fully open. We had made the circuit of this swamp on foot, observing and enjoying the singing land birds, and were returning on the road to our car when our eyes, turned toward the swamp lying unobstructed before us, observed two pure white patches, not stationary, but moving slowly along among the bushes at the edge of the swamp. Our glasses at once revealed the form of a Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) carrying these most conspicuous patches of white at each shoulder, as large as a man's hand but not as long perhaps, being essentially round in form. Occasionally during our observation of the bird, which was continued for twenty minutes or more, these white feathers were raised as a ruff standing out from the natural contour of the bird; at other times they appeared to be more nearly even with the other feathers. These ruffs almost met across the back, but a narrow strip of brown feathers of the back was seen to separate them. To our eyes these ruffs were *pure white*. This conspicuous display of these large white patches was maintained without variation while we remained—different positions which the bird assumed did not materially change them. This Bittern occasionally 'pumped' and occasionally moved at a more rapid pace than the usual slow dignified walk, and at times strutted with the head carried forward. The erect stakelike position was also at times assumed, more especially when we first viewed the bird and it appeared that he was taking notice of our forms on the highway. If he did discern us, it had no effect to dissuade him from