

Kittlitz, and *Pteroptochos megapodius* Kittlitz, the last now known as *Hylactes megapodius*. It has been used for the group including *Pteroptochos rubecula* Kittlitz, which has been considered the type, evidently from Gray (List Gen. Birds, 1841, p. 25). The latter author, however, one year earlier (List Gen. Birds, 1840, p. 19) designated *Pteroptochos megapodius* Kittlitz as the type. Since this is apparently the earliest designation, the generic name *Pteroptochos* becomes a synonym of *Hylactes* King, and the group including *Pteroptochos rubecula* is without a name. It may, therefore, be called *Scelorchilus* (σκελόρος, crus ὄρχιλος, regulus), with *Pteroptochos rubecula* Kittlitz as type. Its two species will consequently stand as *Scelorchilus rubecula* (Kittlitz), and *Scelorchilus albicollis* Kittlitz.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

The Generic Name *Euscarthmus* Wied.—In looking up the status of some South American genera of birds a year or two ago, the writer noticed that the generic name *Euscarthmus* Wied (Beiträge Naturg. Bras., III, Abt. 2, 1831, p. 945) was apparently misapplied. Further investigation confirmed this impression, and it seems now worth while to put the facts into print. The genus *Euscarthmus* was originally instituted for the following five species:

Euscarthmus meloryphus Wied=*Hapalocercus meloryphus* (Wied).

Euscarthmus nidipendulus Wied.

Euscarthmus superciliaris Wied=*Habrura pectoralis* (Vieillot).

Euscarthmus cinereicollis Wied—*Notorchilus auricularis* (Vieillot).

Euscarthmus orbitatus Wied.

The name has commonly been used for the group of which *Euscarthmus nidipendulus* Wied is the type; but Gray (List Gen. Birds, 1840, p. 32), who seems to have been the first author to designate its type, selected *Euscarthmus meloryphus* Wied, which is the currently accepted type of *Hapalocercus* Cabanis (Archiv. f. Naturg., XIII, pt. 1, Heft 2, 1847, p. 254). According to this the generic name *Euscarthmus* must be transferred to the group now called *Hapalocercus*, to displace the latter term as it is many years prior, and its type species known as *Euscarthmus meloryphus* Wied; while the group that has heretofore passed as *Euscarthmus*, being thus bereft of its only name, may be known as *Euscarthmornis* (εὐσκαρθμός, celeriter saliens; ὄρνις; avis), and the type species, *Euscarthmus nidipendulus* Wied, as *Euscarthmornis nidipendulus* (Wied).—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Crows Building in Low Willows.—We found a Crow's nest in a willow thicket about ten feet from the ground, on May 28, 1922. The situation surprised us, as the Crow usually builds very high, and there were high trees within a few hundred yards. We thought that the presence of an abundant food supply, in the shape of a dead cow, within twenty-

five yards may have been the reason for the choice of nesting site. We cut down the nest, which contained three eggs, newly laid, and photographed it, leaving it at not more than two feet from the ground, and inclined at an angle of about 55 degrees. We removed the eggs, as we had been urged to do by neighboring farmers and the Secretary of the Game Protective League. Judge of our surprise, on re-visiting the nest on June 1 to find four new eggs! These we also removed, and the Crows finally abandoned the nest. It seemed to us very unusual for the Crows to re-occupy the nest especially when so close to the ground and at such an angle.—JAMES E. HORNING, *Luscar, Alberta.*

The Mynah.—A Study in Adaptation.—One of the most interesting and, at the same time, abundant birds found in Fiji is the common or Indian Mynah (*Acridotheres tristis*) a member of the passerine family Sturnidae. This bird is a native throughout the entire Indian region and has been introduced into various parts of the world; the Hawaiian Islands, New Zealand and Fiji included, in all of which it breeds and thrives to an amazing degree.

While acting in the capacity of entomologist and ornithologist on the University of Iowa expedition to certain South Sea islands during the past summer opportunity was given me to see, study and collect examples of this fine appearing bird and the following paragraphs contain an account of my own observations.

The Mynah was introduced into Fiji several years ago in an attempt to control noxious insects. However, the results have been somewhat disappointing for it has not done the good which had been hoped for. Other food than noxious insects has been more easily secured; native birds are to some extent molested and their numbers more or less held in check by this thrifty, pugnacious bird; and the habitations of the people are made unsightly by it. Its habit of building nests in spoutings, chimneys and protected places of houses has not made many friends for the bird among the human population of the islands. So adaptive, resourceful, hardy and successful in maintaining its existence in the new country has the Mynah proved to be that now it, in turn, is considered a pest and is no longer lawfully protected.

Indeed, an interesting analogy prevails between the Asiatic people and the Fijians on the one hand and the Mynah and the native Fijian birds on the other. The hardier and more aggressive Chinese and Indians, the later introduced in great numbers into Fiji largely under the indenture plan of labor, are slowly but surely forcing down the Fijians who, though seemingly powerless to help the situation, hate the newcomers most heartily; the more so as they see business and property along with wealth and all that goes with it gradually coming into the power of the invaders. So it is with the hardy and aggressive Mynah as compared with the native birds. This crafty and quarrelsome introduced species stands back for no native bird and is gradually outstripping the native species in the