

NINTH ANNUAL LIST OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE
A. O. U. 'CHECK-LIST' OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.

BY HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

THIS is the Ninth Annual List of proposed A. O. U. 'Check-List' additions and changes in the names of North American birds. Like the eight already published,¹ the present list comprises only ornithological cases—*i. e.*, such as require specimens or the identification of descriptions for their determination—and consists of additions, eliminations, rejections, and changes of names due to various causes. However, only changes known to be the result of revisionary work are included; therefore no mention is here made of changes involved in names in local lists or elsewhere, used without sufficient explanation or not known to be based on original research, of changes or additions queried or but tentatively made, or of the elimination of subspecies by authors who, on general principles, recognize no subspecies.

Since the compiler of these annual lists has been sometimes credited with opinions therein expressed, it may be well to emphasize anew the fact that these lists are intended to reflect only the opinions of the original proposers of additions or changes, and that in no case is there to be construed any comment by the compiler or action by the A. O. U. Committee.

This list is intended to include everything pertinent up to December 31, 1923, and nothing after that date has been taken. In view of the volume and widely scattered character of current ornithological literature, it is not at all unlikely that some names or changes have been overlooked, and the writer would be very thankful for reference to any omissions, in order that such may be duly given a place in next year's list.

¹ For these previous lists, see 'The Auk,' XXXIII, October, 1916, pp. 425-431; XXXIV, April, 1917, pp. 198-205; XXXV, April, 1918, pp. 200-217; XXXVI, April, 1919, pp. 266-273; XXXVII, April, 1920, pp. 274-285; XXXVIII, April, 1921, pp. 264-269; XXXIX, April, 1922, pp. 243-249; XL, October, 1923, pp. 677-682.

ADDITIONS AND CHANGES IN NAMES.¹

Uria trolle (Linnaeus) becomes **Uria aalge** (Pontoppidan) (*Colymbus aalge* Pontoppidan, Danske Atlas, I, 1763, p. 621, pl. XXVI [Iceland]), since the former name proves to be based on *Uria lomvia* and is therefore unavailable for the common Guillemot. (Cf. Mathews and Iredale, Austral Avian Record, V, 1923, pp. 49-50; Jourdain, British Birds, XVI, 1923, p. 322; Ibis, 1923, pp. 436-438.) The North American forms of the Murre will therefore stand as follows:

Uria aalge aalge (Pontoppidan).

Uria aalge californica (Bryant).

Larus argentatus Pontoppidan becomes **Larus varius** Pontoppidan (Danske Atlas, I, chap. 10, 1763, after March, p. 622 (Denmark)), because the latter name is of identical application and has anteriority. (Cf. Mathews and Iredale, Austral Avian Record, V, No. 2-3, February 21, 1923, p. 51.)

Sterna paradisaea Brünnich becomes **Sterna macrura** Naumann, Isis (von Oken), III, Heft. 12, December, 1819, col. 1847 (coast of Schleswig-Holstein), because *Sterna paradisaea* Brünnich is pre-occupied by *Sterna paradisaea* Pontoppidan (Danske Atlas, I, chap. 10, 1763, after March, p. 622), which is unidentifiable; and the next available name is *Sterna macrura* Naumann. (Cf. Mathews and Iredale, Austral Avian Record, V, No. 2-3, February 21, 1923, p. 52.)

Calonectris kuhlii kuhlii (Boie) becomes **Calonectris diomedea diomedea** (Scopoli) (*Procellaria diomedea* Scopoli, Annus I, Historico Naturalis, 1769, p. 74), because the latter name applies to the same species and has priority. (Cf. Mathews and Iredale, Austral Avian Record, V, No. 2-3, February 21, 1923, pp. 57-58.)

Anas novimexicana Huber becomes **Anas diazi novimexicana** Huber, because considered to be a subspecies of *Anas diazi* Ridgway. (Cf. Conover, 'The Auk,' XXXIX, No. 3, July, 1922, p. 412.)

Branta canadensis minima Ridgway becomes **Branta minima** Ridgway, because regarded as specifically distinct from *Branta canadensis canadensis*. (Cf. Figgins, Proc. Colorado Mus. Nat. Hist., IV, No. III, 1923, pp. 2-19.)

† **Mesophoyx intermedia** (Wagler). *Ardea intermedia* Wagler (Hasselt MS.), Isis (von Oken), XXII, Heft. 6, June, 1829, col. 659 ("Java").

¹ Additions to the A. O. U. Check-List, the Sixteenth, Seventeenth, and Eighteenth Supplements, and the First to Eighth Annual Lists are marked with a dagger (†). Generic (and subgeneric) names so indicated do not now stand in these lists in either generic or subgeneric sense.

Recorded as North American from a specimen taken in British Columbia. (Cf. Kermode, *Canadian Field-Naturalist*, XXXVII, No. 4, April 21, 1923, pp. 64-65.)

† **Rallus yumanensis** Dickey. New species. Dickey, 'The Auk,' XL, No. 1, January, 1923, p. 90 ("Bard, Imperial County, California"). Range: Lower Colorado River Valley.

Creciscus jamaicensis jamaicensis (Gmelin) becomes **Creciscus jamaicensis stoddardi** Coale ('The Auk,' XL, No. 1, January, 1923, p. 89; "Hyde Lake, Illinois"), by subspecific separation of the North American bird from that of Jamaica. (Cf. Coale, 'The Auk,' XL, No. 1, January, 1923, pp. 88-90.)

Limnocryptes gallinula (Linnaeus) becomes **Limnocryptes minimus** (Brünnich) (*Scolopax minima* Brünnich, *Ornith. Borealis*, 1764, after February 20, p. 49, Christiansoe Island, Denmark), since the latter name has priority and is of identical application. (Cf. Hartert, *Practical Handb. Brit. Birds*, part XVI, (vol. II), March 7, 1923, p. 679.)

† **Perdix perdix perdix** (Linnaeus). *Tetrao perdix* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat.*, ed. 10, I, January 1, 1758, p. 160 ("Europae agris:" type locality. Sweden). Successfully introduced and acclimatized in Saskatchewan, Canada. (Cf. Bradshaw, *Canadian Field-Naturalist*, XXXVI, No. 5, May 22, 1922, pp. 91-92); and in the State of Washington (Oldys, *Yearbook U. S. Dept. Agric.*, for 1909 (1910), p. 257; Holland, *Bull. Amer. Game Protective Association*, XI, No. 4, October, 1922, p. 4.)

Oreortyx picta picta (Douglas) becomes **Oreortyx picta palmeri** Oberholser, nom. nov. ('The Auk,' XL, No. 1, January, 1923, p. 84, "Yaquina, Oregon"), because the name *Oreortyx picta picta* applies to the Plumed Quail, *Oreortyx picta plumifera*. (Cf. Oberholser, 'The Auk,' XL, No. 1, January, 1923, pp. 80-84.)

Oreortyx picta plumifera (Gould) becomes **Oreortyx picta picta** (Douglas), since the latter name is based on the same race as is *Oreortyx picta plumifera*, and is of earlier date. (Cf. Oberholser, 'The Auk,' XL, No. 1, January, 1923, pp. 80-84.)

† **Lophortyx californica achrustera** Peters. New subspecies. Peters, *Proc. New England Zool. Club*, VIII, May 16, 1923, p. 79 (*La Paz*, Lower California). Range: Southern Lower California.

† **Dendragapus obscurus howardi** Dickey and van Rossem. New subspecies. Dickey and van Rossem, *Condor*, XXV, No. 5, October 3, 1923, p. 168 (Mount Pinos, Kern County, California). Range: Southern Sierra Nevada, California.

† **Dendragapus obscurus munroi** Griscom. New subspecies. Griscom, American Museum Novitates, No. 71, April 30, 1923, p. 1 (Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia). Range: Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia.

† **Zenaidura macroura peninsulari** Bailey. New subspecies. H. H. Bailey, Wilson Bulletin, XXXV, No. 2, June, 1923, p. 100 (Miami Beach, Florida). Range: Peninsula of Florida.

Cymindes sociabilis (Vieillot) becomes **Cymindes sociabilis plumbeus** (Ridgway) (*Rostrhamus sociabilis* var. *plumbeus* Ridgway, in Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway, Hist. North Amer. Birds, Land Birds, III, 1874, p. 209; Everglades, Florida), because the bird from Florida and Central America proves to be subspecifically separable from *Cymindes sociabilis sociabilis* of South America. (Cf. Swann, Synopsis Accipitres, III, February 16, 1922, p. 156.)

Hierofalco rusticolus alascanus (Swann) becomes **Hierofalco rusticolus sacer** (J. R. Forster) (*Falco sacer* Forster, Philos. Trans. Lond., LXII, 1772, pp. 383, 423 ("Severn River, Hudson's Bay," Ontario, Canada), because the latter name is of far earlier date and apparently identical application. (Cf. Preble, North American Fauna, No. 46, June 20, 1923, p. 83.)

Dryobates pubescens homorus Cabanis becomes **Dryobates pubescens leucurus** (Hartlaub) (*Picus leucurus* Hartlaub, Naumannia, II, No. 2, 1852, p. 55), because the latter name is of earlier date and identical application. (Cf. Grinnell, Condor, XXV, No. 1, January 17, 1923, pp. 30-31.)

Calypte Gould becomes **Zephyritis** Mulsant and Verreaux (Mém. Soc. Impér. Sci. Nat. Cherbourg, XII, 1866, p. 231) by the separation of the North American species as generically distinct from the genus *Calypte*. (Cf. Simon, Hist. Nat. Trochilidae, 1921, p. 401.) The two North American species are:

Zephyritis costae (Bourcier).

Zephyritis anna (Lesson).

† **Spinus pinus macropterus** (Bonaparte). [*hrysomitris*] *macroptera* Bonaparte (Du Bus, MS.) Consp. Avium, I, January, 1851, p. 515 (Guatemala; Mexico). Recorded as North American from specimens taken in Lower California. (Cf. Todd, 'The Auk,' XL, No. 2, April, 1923, p. 330.)

† **Aimophila obscura** Dickey and van Rossem. New species. Dickey and van Rossem, Condor, XXV, No. 4, July 28, 1923, p. 128 (Prisoner's Harbor, Santa Cruz Island, California). Range: Santa Cruz and Santa Catalina Islands, California.

REJECTIONS AND ELIMINATIONS.¹

- Sterna paradisaea** Brünnich vs. **Sterna macrura** Naumann. Proposed change (cf. Mathews and Iredale, Austral Avian Record, V, 1923, p. 52) rejected, because *Sterna paradisaea* Pontoppidan (Danske Atlas, I, 1763, p. 622), which antedates *Sterna paradisaea* Brünnich, is identifiable from Brünnich's later description. (Cf. Hartert, Vögel paläarkt. Fauna, Nachtrag, I, 1923, p. 85.)
- * **Pterodroma** Bonaparte = **Bulweria** Bonaparte; because anatomical differences are not considered valid generic characters! (Cf. Loomis, 'The Auk,' XL, No. 4, October, 1923, pp. 601-602.)
- * **Anas fulvigula maculosa** Sennett. Considered inseparable from *Anas fulvigula fulvigula* Ridgway. (Cf. Phillips, Nat. Hist. Ducks, II, 1923, p. 61.)
- * **Branta canadensis hutchinsii** (Richardson). Eliminated as a hybrid. (Cf. Figgins, Proc. Colorado Mus. Nat. Hist., IV, No. III, 1923, pp. 2-19.)
- * **Branta canadensis occidentalis** (Baird). Eliminated as a hybrid. (Cf. Figgins, Proc. Colorado Mus. Nat. Hist., IV, No. III, 1923, pp. 2-19.)
- Creciscus jamaicensis stoddardi** Coale = **Creciscus jamaicensis jamaicensis** (Gmelin). (Cf. Wayne, 'The Auk,' XL, No. 2, April, 1923, p. 319.)
- * **Dendragapus obscurus munroi** Griscom. Regarded as identical with *Dendragapus obscurus sikkensis* Swarth. (Cf. Grinnell, Condor, XXV, No. 51, October 3, 1923, pp. 185-186.)
- * **Coccyzus americanus occidentalis** Ridgway. Eliminated because considered not satisfactorily distinguishable from *Coccyzus americanus americanus*. (Cf. Todd, Annals Carnegie Museum, XIV, October, 1922, p. 213.)
- * **Corvus brachyrhynchos pascuus** Coues. Eliminated as not distinguishable from *Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos* Brehm. (Cf. Bailey, Wilson Bulletin, XXXV, No. 3, September, 1923, pp. 148-149.)
- * **Melospiza melodia phaea** Fisher. Eliminated, because considered not separable from *Melospiza melodia morphna*. (Cf. Swarth, Condor, XXV, No. 6, December 20, 1923, p. 218.)

¹ Eliminations from the A. O. U. Check-List, the Sixteenth, Seventeenth, and Eighteenth Supplements and the First to Ninth Annual Lists, are designated by an asterisk (*).

- * *Melospiza melodia inexpectata* Riley. Eliminated, because considered not separable from *Melospiza melodia morphna*. (Cf. Swarth, Condor, XXV, No. 6, December 20, 1923, p. 218.)

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW FLYCATCHER FROM ARGENTINA.

BY ALEXANDER WETMORE.

CONTINUED work on collections made in Argentina during 1920 and 1921 has shown a species of Tyrannidae not previously recognized by science. It may be known as

Suiriri improvisa, sp. nov.

Characters.—Similar to *Suiriri affinis* (Burmeister)¹ but smaller; feet decidedly smaller; a distinct grayish band across chest; much darker above, and on sides of head; rectrices without yellowish at base.

Description.—Type, U. S. National Museum Cat. no. 284,899, female, taken at Tapia, Province of Tucumán, Argentina, April 9, 1921, by Alexander Wetmore (original number, 6435). Crown, hind neck, and sides of neck deep mouse gray, with a very faint wash of olive; back, scapulars, and upper tail-coverts deep grayish olive, rump faintly brighter; wings and tail dull black; lesser wing coverts tipped with deep grayish olive; median wing coverts tipped heavily, greater coverts more narrowly with olive-buff, forming two pronounced wing-bars; secondaries margined widely, primaries edged narrowly with pale olive-buff; primary coverts tipped slightly with same; outer web of outer rectrix pale olive-buff except at tip, other rectrices edged narrowly with deep grayish olive basally, lightening to olive-buff near tips; rectrices without distinct paler color at base; a faint whitish line at base of bill; lores blackish; a few white feathers on upper and lower eyelids; space below eye and auricular region deep mouse gray, with very narrow shaft streaks of white; chin and throat white, shading to light mouse gray on center of breast, this becoming mouse gray laterally; lower breast, abdomen and under tail-coverts primrose yellow; sides and flanks dull vetiver green; axillars, under wing coverts and edge of wing naphthalene yellow; outer under wing coverts clouded with grayish. Bill, feet, and tarsus black (in dried skin).

Measurements.—(In millimeters, of type): Wing, 68.5; tail, 61.7; culmen from base, 13.0; tarsus, 18.7.

Range.—Known only from Tapia, Tucumán.

¹ *Elaeena affinis* Burmeister, Syst. Uebers. Thiere Brasiliens, 1856, p. 477. (Lagoa Santa, Brazil.)