

posing it (Monogr. Phaëthon: 270, 1840), but ignoring that, his description is merely a translation of Catesby's, including the sentence, "Color generalis albus, dorso transversim nigro fasciolato."

In view of the record as here reviewed, it seems necessary to revert to the usage of the third edition of the A. O. U. Check-List (1910, p. 59) and use Ogilvie-Grant's name *Phaëthon americanus* (*Phaëthon americanus*, Bull. British Orn. Club, 49: xxiv, Dec., 1897) for the white-backed bird. As this form is considered a subspecies in the *lepturus* complex (Oberholser, Auk, 36: 556, 1919; Peters, Birds of the World, 1: 79, 1931), the name should be *Phaëthon lepturus americanus* Ogilvie-Grant. This author, in his revision (Cat. Birds British Mus., 26: 456, 1898), while correctly citing *Phaëthon catesbyi* Brandt as a synonym of *P. aethereus*, makes the first reference under *P. americanus*, the Tropic Bird of Catesby, thus giving further evidence of the strange confusion that has prevailed with respect to the names of the western Atlantic tropic birds. Despite this slip, Ogilvie-Grant described the white-backed species (by comparing it with *flavirostris* = *lepturus*) and gave it its only unshared name.—W. L. McATEE, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois.*

**The type of *Telespiza ultima* Bryan.**—In 'The Auk,' 34: 70-72, 1917, the late William A. Bryan named and described *Telespiza ultima* from Nihoa Island, Hawaii. The type series consisted of five specimens collected by Lieut. W. H. Munter, February 12, 1916. The holotype and three paratypes were skins made from formalin specimens; the fifth was left in formalin.

Among a number of Mr. Bryan's birdskins recently donated by Mrs. Bryan to the Los Angeles County Museum are the four above mentioned. The holotype is now no. 20243 and the three paratypes are nos. 20244-5-6 in our collection.—G. WILLETT, *Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles, California.*

**The correct name of the Fijian Mountain Lorikeet.**—Flights of this little lory appeared in the summer of 1875 in different parts of the Fiji Islands and specimens collected by C. Pearce, A. Boyd, Th. Kleinschmidt, and A. L. Layard came into the possession of three bird taxonomists. All three described the species as new, but Finsch, learning of an earlier name for the species, withdrew his own name at the last minute (Journ. Mus. Godeffroy, 12: 3-4, 1876). The species is now known under the name *Vini aureicinctus* (Layard) [Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., (4) 16: 344, Nov., 1875]. Actually the species had already been described four months earlier by Ramsay under the name *Trichoglossus amabilis*. Ramsay read a description of this species at a meeting of the Linnaean Society of New South Wales on July 26, 1875. However, the Proceedings of the Society, which contain the report of this meeting, were not published until February, 1876. Knowing the tardiness of this publication, Ramsay took steps to insure the priority of his description. Since at that date no frequently issued scientific journal was available in Australia, he published a complete, detailed, technical description of *amabilis* in a daily newspaper, the Sydney Morning Herald of July 28, 1875. Furthermore, in order to make sure that this publication would not be overlooked, he called attention to it in the Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W., 1: 74. Mr. K. A. Hindwood had the great kindness to look up the files of the Sydney Morning Herald and report to me that no. 11604 (of July 28, 1875) of this paper contains on p. 9 "a very complete technical description of both male and female [of *amabilis*], together with measurements and some general remarks. The actual descriptions of both male and female take up about 50 lines single column in the newspaper."

There is no doubt that a newspaper is not the best medium for the publication of new names. However, Ramsay had apparently no available channel for publication and Peters and other authors have accepted other newspaper names of Ramsay. The International Rules contain nothing that would invalidate Ramsay's name. We must therefore accept *amabilis* Ramsay as an earlier name for *aureicinctus* Layard.—E. MAYR, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.*

**Unusual "pigeonries" of the domestic pigeon.**—While collecting data for a life history study of *Falco mexicanus* Schlegel, "street" pigeons or hybrids of *Columba livia*, *C. affinis* and possibly other species of the genus *Columba*, were found in an apparent reversion to a wild state.

A number of colonies have been observed in recent years in the bluff and cliff formations in southeastern Wyoming and eastern Colorado; these "pigeonries" often are situated on the open plain, many miles from the nearest human habitation, and the birds to all appearances subsist independent of man.

One of the largest colonies located was on Bear Mountain, Goshen County, Wyoming, where eighteen adults were counted. Two nests were found containing two eggs each. These nests were composed of small sticks and twigs placed well back in small potholes in the cliff. These potholes had openings of about six to eight inches and were slightly over a foot in depth. The accumulations of fecal matter indicated that similar potholes were used as roosts.

In northeastern Colorado a pair of blue checker pigeons with white primary feathers was observed in the company of a male *Falco sparverius sparverius*. All three landed on a ledge and relationships were on an apparently harmonious basis. The cock pigeon was driving the hen to nest and the Sparrow Hawk followed them from ledge to ledge. The eyries of *Buteo regalis*, *Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*, *Falco mexicanus*, and *Falco sparverius sparverius* have been located within the immediate vicinity of these colonies.

The observations have been confirmed by Harold M. Webster (personal communication), Tucson, Arizona. "I have found wild pigeons in several sections of cliff living right along with nesting falcons and an eagle in one case. They are especially common in the Garden of the Gods, the Larkspur area, the Park of the Red Rocks, and in South Boulder Canyon (Colorado). It is not unusual to see one taken by a falcon, but as you know the falcons prefer to eat ground mammals instead. The pigeons I have seen in the cliffs adjacent to falcon eyries were all well blooded birds and showed remarkable ability in keeping ahead of the falcons. In flying, these pigeons came in like comets, not giving the falcons much opportunity to stoop at them."

There is yet, however, little available information as to the habits of these pigeons, or even as to whether the colonies are permanently established.—RALPH B. WILLIAMS, *Wyoming Public Health Laboratory, Cheyenne, Wyoming.*

**Aircraft collision with a goldfinch.**—At about 4:30 on August 11, 1944, while in the vicinity of Dayton, Ohio, the ship that I was flying, a Douglas transport weighing twelve and a half tons, struck a bird with the windshield which was cracked badly. We were descending at the time and our speed through the air was between 170 and 180 miles per hour after corrections for temperature and altitude errors. The indicated altitude at the time of the impact was between 1,000 and 1,200 feet above the surface of the ground. The surface elevation in that area is about 1,000 feet above sea level.

Upon arrival at the airport, examination revealed that some of the bird was