

able to Pennant (Arctic Zoology, 2: 496, 1785). As the last author cites the term from Carolina, it is apparent that he derived it from Lawson's 'History of Carolina.' There were various editions of this work, the first of which, in 1709, was entitled "A New Voyage to Carolina." Gurdon Trumbull (Names and Portraits of Birds: 119, 1888) states that "Lawson nowhere mentions the term 'flusterers' alone" and quotes Lawson's account as follows: "Black Flusterers; some call these Old Wives; they are as black as ink, the cocks have white faces, they always remain in the midst of rivers, and feed upon drift grass, carnels or sea-nettles; they are the fattest fowl I ever saw, and sometimes so heavy with flesh that they cannot rise out of the water; they make an odd sort of noise when they fly. What meat they are, I could never learn. Some call these the great bald Coot."

Making only slight allowance, it is obvious that these birds were Surf Scoters (*Melanitta perspicillata*), and it is probable that of the three vernacular names given, "old wives" involves confusion of the Old-squaw, well known under that term. It may be added that the names "ball coot" (Jefferson, Notes on the State of Virginia: 118, 1782) and "bald coot" (Morse, American Geography: 59, 1789) probably were merely abbreviated from Lawson's work. Not all of Lawson's birds are recognizable, but the accounts of all that are identifiable should be properly incorporated in modern works.—W. L. McAREE, *Chicago, Illinois.*

**Dates for Volume 1 of Bonaparte's 'Conspectus Generum Avium.'**—In the lists of "Donations to Library" given in Volume 5 (1850-1851) of the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, I find that certain parts of Volume 1 of the 'Conspectus Generum Avium' are acknowledged as received from the author on dates somewhat in advance of those currently accepted. Dates which are tentatively accepted by Zimmer (Catalogue of the Ayer Library, 1926) for Volume 1 are as follows:

"Part 1," pp. 1-272, before June 24, 1850

"Part 2," pp. 273-543, before February 3, 1851

The Proceedings dates are:

pp. 1-160, June 18, 1850

pp. 161-"234" [232], July 16, 1850

pp. 233-344, October 15, 1850

pp. 353-400 October 15, 1850

Concordance of the earliest "noticed" dates as cited by the Proceedings and Zimmer result as follows:

"Part 1," pp. 1-160, before June 18, 1850; pp. 161-272, before June 24, 1850

"Part 2," pp. 273-400, before October 15, 1850; pp. 401-543, before February 3, 1851

Considering the slowness of transportation in 1850, the actual dates of issue must have been some weeks earlier, although possibly somewhat later than those which appear on the various signatures. At any rate, Zimmer's supposition that "Part 2" actually was published before the end of 1850 is thus verified in part. This is certainly true for pages 273 to 400, inclusive.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Los Angeles, California.*

**Corrections and additions to the published records of Siamese Birds.**—Riley (U. S. Nat. Mus., Bull. 172: 73, 1938) lists a specimen of *Polyplectron germaini* Elliot from "Huey Yang, Kao Luang, Nakon Sritamarat." Despite the assertions of Beebe (Monograph of the Pheasants, 4: 74, 1922) and Delacour and Jabouille (Oiseaux de l'Indochine Française, 1: 242, 1931) that the species inhabits southern