

## GENERAL NOTES

**Vieillot's names for the Wild Turkey.**—Louis Jean Pierre Vieillot gave two different technical specific names to the Wild Turkey in a single year. Both are based on William Bartram's description as it appeared in a French translation, 'Voyage dans les parties suds de l'Amérique septentrionale' (1: 46, 1799), but Bartram's name for the bird is not cited as implied in the 1931 A. O. U. Check-List. Vieillot's names, to which we refer, appeared in the 'Nouveau Dictionnaire d'Histoire Naturelle,' nouv. éd., vol. 9, 1817. So far as title page of the volume is concerned, there is no clue to the different namings of the turkey that occur in the work. In the original form of the volume, we find on p. 447 the wording: "Le Dindon Sauvage, *Meleagris silvestris* Vieill." According to the notes of the lamented Charles W. Richmond (kindly sent to me by Alexander Wetmore), this version was published in March, 1817. In June, 1817, according to the same authority, appeared copies of this volume with a revised sheet (pp. 447-448) tipped in. In such copies the insert and stub are plainly evident, but to make identification easy and positive, the first lines of the two printings of page 447 may well be quoted. They are: March printing—"dans le front. Lorsque l'oiseau mâle est tranquille, cette ca . . ."; June printing—"de petites plumes encore plus rares sur le cou. Une caroncle . . .". In the reprint, the reference to the turkey is "Le Dindon Sauvage, *Meleagris fera* Vieill." Why Vieillot made the change seems to be unknown, but under current nomenclatorial practice, the action is of no effect, emendations being ignored. There have been misunderstandings and controversy as to priority of *silvestris* and *fera*, renewal of which may be obviated by the hints here given as to recognition of the two versions. It would be helpful also if bibliographical citations of these names would distinguish the March, and June, 1817, printings of the pertinent pages in the Dictionnaire.—W. L. McATEE, Chicago, Illinois.

**Pterylography of the drongo (*Dicrurus modestus coracinus*).**—While cataloguing the anatomical collection of the Department of Birds of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, the author had opportunity to study the pterylographical characters of the African drongo, *Dicrurus modestus coracinus*. The specimen, collected by Dr. James Chapin on the Chapin-Mathews Expedition, was not clipped, since the thorough wetting of the plumage by alcohol allowed the feathers to be easily manipulated.

Pteryla ventralis simple on neck and very narrow, furcating at base of neck to form the pterylae ventrales trunci; pteryla ventralis trunci moderate in width anteriorly, narrowing posteriorly, and uniting with its fellow to surround the cloaca; an isolated pteryla of one row on side of pectoralis major muscle, lateral to pteryla ventralis trunci; humeral tract connected to ventral tract by a partly uniserial, partly biserial row of feathers running from anterior extremity of pteryla humeralis to pteryla ventralis trunci just anterior to insertion of humerus; femoral tracts isolated; pteryla dorsalis simple, broadened into a rhomboidal area in middle of back, between posterior extremities of scapulae, narrowing posteriorly, its posterior extremity forked to enclose the nude oil-gland; one row of upper tail-coverts; rectrices ten..

The pterylosis seems somewhat unusual for a Passeriform bird in the posterior point of furcation of the pteryla ventralis and in the isolated outer pectoral tract. The pterylae are narrow, the feathers with aftershafts of the passerine type.—SAM McDOWELL, 3066 Federal St., Camden, N. J.