

TWENTY-FIFTH SUPPLEMENT TO THE AMERICAN
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION CHECK-LIST
OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS¹

THE supplement presented herewith covers proposals for change in name or status, or for addition, that have been accepted by the Committee to the end of the year 1949. The complete revision for the fifth edition of the Check-List, under which all ranges are being completely rewritten, continues, the work at the moment being well along in the Order Passeriformes.

The untimely death of Adriaan J. van Rossem, member of the present Committee since its formation and active in the prosecution of its work, is recorded here by his fellow members in tribute to his memory, and to his ability in our science of ornithology.

Committee	{	ALEXANDER WETMORE, Chairman HERBERT FRIEDMANN, Vice-Chairman FREDERICK C. LINCOLN ALDEN H. MILLER JAMES L. PETERS JOSSELYN VAN TYNE JOHN T. ZIMMER
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Page

8. *Puffinus opisthomelas* becomes *Puffinus puffinus opisthomelas*, as it is considered a geographic race of the Manx Shearwater. See Hellmayr and Conover, Cat. Birds Amer., Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser., vol. 13, pt. 1, no. 2, 1948, pp. 70-71.
41. *Chen rossi* becomes *Chen rossii* to conform with the original spelling.
47. *Anas crecca* becomes *Anas crecca crecca* because of the additional subspecies *Anas crecca nimia*, added to the Check-List in the Twenty-fourth Supplement, Auk, vol. 66, no. 3, July, 1949, p. 282.
51. The GREATER SCAUP DUCK, listed in the Twentieth Supplement, Auk, vol. 62, no. 3, July, 1945, p. 438, as *Aythya marila* (Linnaeus), should be *Aythya marila nearctica* Stejneger. See Nineteenth Supplement, Auk, vol. 61, no. 3, July, 1944, p. 444.
52. *Aythya baeri* (Radde). BAER'S POCHARD. [149.2.] *Anas (Fuligula) Baeri* Radde, Reise Süd von Ost-Sibirien, vol. 2, 1863, p. 376, pl. 15. (Upper Salbatch Plains, middle Amur River.) Additional species. Recorded from "Oregon" by Friedmann, Condor, vol. 51, no. 1, February 2, 1949, pp. 43-44.
66. *Buteo jamaicensis krideri* becomes *Buteo jamaicensis kriderii* to conform with the original spelling.
70. *Buteo nitida maxima* listed in the Nineteenth Supplement, Auk, vol. 61, no. 3, July, 1944, p. 445, becomes *Buteo nitidus maximus*, to agree in gender with the generic name.

¹The Twenty-fourth Supplement was published in The Auk, vol. 66, no. 3, July, 1949, pp. 281-285.

71. The genus *Thalassoaëtus* is united with *Haliaeetus*, so that the former *Thalassoaëtus pelagicus* (Pallas) becomes *Haliaeetus pelagicus* (Pallas). See Hellmayr and Conover, Cat. Birds Amer., Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser., vol. 13, pt. 1, no. 4, 1949, pp. 215, 218.
73. *Polyborus* Vieillot, 1816, is found to be a synonym of *Circus* Lacépède, 1799. The next available name is *Caracara* Merrem, in Ersch and Gruber, Allg. Encycl. Wiss. Künste, vol. 15, 1826, p. 159. Type, by subsequent designation, *Falco plancus* Miller (Hellmayr and Conover, 1949). The forms will stand as follows (the subspecific name *audubonii* being corrected from *auduboni* to conform with the original spelling):
Caracara cheriway audubonii (Cassin).
Caracara lutosus (Ridgway).
The subfamily *Polyborinae* becomes *Caracarinae*.
90. *Lophortyx californica decolorata* included in the Twenty-second Supplement, Auk, vol. 64, no. 3, July, 1947, p. 447, should be numbered 294 f instead of 294 g. Through an oversight *Lophortyx californica plumbea*, already in the Check-List with the number 294 c, was listed in the same supplement again as an additional subspecies with the number 294 f.
201. *Platypsaris aglaiae gravis* van Rossem. NORTHEASTERN ROSE-THROATED BECARD. [441.1a.] *Platypsaris aglaiae gravis* van Rossem, Condor, vol. 40, no. 6, November 15, 1938, p. 262. (Alta Mira, Tamaulipas.) Additional subspecies. Northeastern México, north to Hidalgo County, Texas. See Sutton, Auk, vol. 66, no. 4, Oct., 1949, pp. 365-366.
216. The number for the KAMCHATKA BANK SWALLOW, *Riparia riparia ijimae* (Lönnerberg), added in the Twentieth Supplement, Auk, vol. 61, no. 3, July, 1945, p. 444, should read 616 a, not 166 a.
242. The number for *Troglodytes aedon baldwini*, added in the Nineteenth Supplement, Auk, vol. 61, no. 3, July, 1944, p. 455, should read 721 b, not 722 b.
242. *Troglodytes brunneicollis vorhiesi* Brandt. APACHE BROWN-THROATED WREN. [721.1.] *Troglodytes brunneicollis vorhiesi* Brandt, Auk, vol. 62, no. 4, October, 1945, p. 576. (Pat Scott Canyon, altitude 7200 feet, Huachuca Mountains, Cochise County, Arizona.) Additional species and subspecies. Chiricahua, Huachuca, and Rincon Mountains in southern Arizona.
256. The number for *Turdus migratorius nigriceps*, added in the Nineteenth Supplement, Auk, vol. 61, no. 3, July, 1944, p. 457, should read 761 d, not 716 d.
261. The number for *Sialia sialis grata*, added in the Nineteenth Supplement, Auk, vol. 61, no. 3, July, 1944, p. 457, should read 766 b, not 766 d.
- 262-263. The names *Cyanosylvia* Brehm, 1828, and *Calliope* Gould, 1836, are replaced by *Luscinia* Forster 1817, as these three groups are considered congeneric. See Hartert, Vög. pal. Fauna, vol. 1, pt. 6, 1910, pp. 732-733, and Witherby, Jourdain, Ticehurst and Tucker, Handb. Brit. Birds, vol. 2, 1938, pp. 187, 193, 199.
Luscinia Forster, Syn. Cat. Brit. Birds, 1817, p. 14. Type, by monotypy, "*Sylvia luscinia*" = *Luscinia megarhynchos* Brehm.
The forms included under *Luscinia* therefore will stand as follows:
Luscinia svecica robusta (Buturlin).
Luscinia calliope camtschatkensis (Gmelin).
264. The genus *Acanthopneuste* Blasius, 1858, is replaced by *Phylloscopus* Boie, 1826, since these two are considered inseparable. See Steinbacher, Vög. pal. Fauna, Ergänzungs., heft. 3, 1934, p. 239.

Phylloscopus Boie, *Isis von Oken*, vol. 19, pt. 10, 1826, col. 972. Type by monotypy, "*Syl. trochilus* Lath." = *Sylvia trochilus* Linnaeus.

The included forms will stand as follows:

Phylloscopus borealis kennicotti (Baird).

Phylloscopus trochilus acredula (Linnaeus).

FOSSIL LIST

433. The genus *Urubitinga* Lafresnaye becomes *Hypomorphnus* Cabanis, *Arch. für Naturg.*, vol. 10, pt. 1, 1844, p. 263. Type, by original designation, *Falco urubitinga* Linnaeus. See Peters, *Check-list Birds World*, vol. 1, 1931, p. 244. The species listed in the A. O. U. *Check-List*, p. 433, becomes *Hypomorphnus enecta* (Wetmore).

STABILITY IN ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

BY FRANCIS HEMMING*

IN his recent paper 'Birds collected during Captain James Cook's Last Expedition (1776-1780)' (*Auk*, 67: 66-88, 1950) Dr. Erwin Stresemann identified a number of previously unrecognized species of birds described and named by Gmelin in 1788 and pointed out that under a strict application of the Law of Priority these identifications would involve the substitution of unknown Gmelin names for nine species and six subspecies of birds, the currently accepted names for which have been in use, "mostly unchallenged" for, in many cases, over 100 years. In submitting these conclusions, Dr. Stresemann expressed the view (p. 87) that some determined step should be taken to prevent well-known and long-established names of this kind from being overthrown for purely technical nomenclatorial reasons. Dr. Stresemann stated that he would be only too glad if some legal way could be found to lock up what he terms his "excavated antiques" in a museum's drawer. He accordingly suggested that these 15 cases should be examined by some International Committee of nomenclature.

Dr. Stresemann's suggestion prompts me, as Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, to recall that for many years there has existed precisely the kind of international machinery that he has in mind, for as long ago as 1913 the International Congress of Zoology conferred upon the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature plenary powers to suspend the normal operation of the rules in the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature in cases where the Commission is satisfied that the strict application of the Code would lead to greater confusion than uniformity. At the same time the Congress also established an 'Official List of Generic Names in Zoology' for the purpose of stabilizing the position of well-known generic names. In a number of important cases use

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