

BIRD NAMES IN LINNAEUS' 'CATALOGUE' OF
EDWARDS' NATURAL HISTORY

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IN March, 1949, Mr. W. L. McAtee circulated a privately printed sheet calling attention to an overlooked work by Linnaeus, namely "A / Catalogue / of the / Birds, Beasts, Fishes, Insects, Plants etc. / contained in / Edwards' Natural History / in seven Volumes, / with their Latin names /" By Sir C. Linnaeus / Medical and Botanical Professor of the Royal Academy / at Upsal, etc. / London / Printed for J. Robson, Bookseller / New Bond Street / MDCCLXXVI.

This 'Catalogue' together with "Some / Memoirs / of the / Life and Works / of / George Edwards / Fellow of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies /" was published by Robson in 1776, 12 years after the last (third) part of Edwards' 'Gleanings of Natural History' appeared.

Just why Robson, who was not the original publisher of Edwards' works, undertook this 'Memoir' and 'Catalogue' is not clear. Be that as it may, at the end of the 'Catalogue' is a suggestion that "it is recommended in binding the whole work, that the foregoing CATALOGUE be placed immediately after the LIFE AND ADDENDA, before the preface to the first Volume." It is highly probable that most subscribers to Edwards' works had had their sets bound long before the publication of the 'Memoir' and 'Catalogue' and, therefore, not all sets contain these supplements. However the 'Memoir' and 'Catalogue' are probably not very rare. McAtee examined a set in Chicago, Wetmore found one in Washington, there are two in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, and others doubtless exist elsewhere.

The 'Catalogue' was prepared by Linnaeus, probably from memory, or at least very hastily, judging from the numerous errors. Some of the birds figured by Edwards are identified to genus only, although they represented species named by Linnaeus himself either in the 10th edition of the 'Systema Naturae' (1758) or the 12th (1766). In some cases a plate contained two very different species, but Linnaeus used but a single generic name to cover the two. In a few cases he inadvertently used mammalian names, as for instance plate 265 which depicts a pair of sunbirds, is listed in the 'Catalogue' as *Mus avellarius*, or plate 230 which is referred to as *Rhinoceros unicornu* although a parrot is figured. On the whole the plates which appeared in time for Linnaeus to make use of them in 1758 appear to be correctly identified by him in 1776 in nearly all cases, and the bulk of the errors appear to be connected with the plates published subsequent to 1760.

Edwards' works appeared in seven volumes (or parts as they are called on the title pages). The first four parts are entitled "A Natural History of Birds," the last three, "Gleanings of Natural History." In the 'Natural History' each plate is accompanied by a page of text numbered the same as the plate; in the 'Gleanings' a new pagination is begun and page numbers do not correspond to plate numbers, but throughout the entire seven parts the plates are numbered consecutively from 1 to 362. It is, therefore, only necessary to list the plate numbers to refer to any species figured.

The dates of the several parts of Edwards' works and plate numbers contained in each are as follows:

NATURAL HISTORY OF BIRDS				GLEANINGS OF NATURAL HISTORY			
Pt. 1	1743	Plates	1-52	Pt. 1	1758	Plates	211-260
Pt. 2	1747	Plates	53-105	Pt. 2	1760	Plates	261-310
Pt. 3	1750	Plates	106-157	Pt. 3	1764	Plates	311-362
Pt. 4	1751	Plates	158-210				

In the list of species named for the first time in the 'Catalogue' I have omitted obvious typographical errors such as *arecticus* for *arcticus*; *Certhra* for *Certhia* etc. and only list either new names, or names 'emended' when the emendation places them in the category of a different name.

Parenthetically it may be noted that in several cases where Linnaeus listed a species only by a generic name, had he applied a specific name as well, such a name would have antedated the one given by Gmelin or even later authors. Such cases are plates 2, 3, 136, 227, 244, 250, 296, 300, 333, 346.

The new or emended names are as follows. Page references are to the 'Catalogue'; plate numbers to Edwards; type localities *ex* Edwards:

- p. 6, pl. 61. STRIX NYCTELEA (Hudson Bay) = *Strix Nyctea* Linn., 1758, = *Strix scandiaca* Linn., 1758. Now *Nyctea scandiaca* (Linn.).
- p. 8, pl. 121. MOTACITTA [sic] CALIDRIS (Jamaica) = *Motacilla calidris* Linn., 1758. *Motacitta* is doubtless a typographical error for *Motacilla*. The species figured is not recognizable but by no stretch of the imagination can it represent a Black-whiskered Vireo.
- p. 8, pl. 127. LOXIA DOMINICA (Brazil) = *Loxia Dominicana* Linn., 1758. Now *Paroaria dominicana* (Linn.).
- p. 9, pl. 159. PSITTACUS ARARACINA (no locality) = *Psittacus ararauna* Linn., 1758. Now *Ara ararauna* (Linn.).
- p. 9, pl. 182. PICUS SENEGALLENSIS (Bengal) = *Picus benghalensis* Linn., 1758. Now *Dinopium benghalense benghalense* (Linn.).
- p. 11, pl. 246. TETRAO FALCOLINUS (Cyprus) = *Tetrao francolinus* Linn., 1766. Now *Francolinus francolinus francolinus* (Linn.).
- p. 11, pl. 248. TETRAO UMBELLATUS (Pennsylvania) = *Tetrao umbellus* Linn., 1766. Now *Bonasa umbellus umbellus* (Linn.).

- p. 11, pl. 255. MUSCICAPA LUTEA (Pennsylvania) antedates *Motacilla maculosa* Gmelin, 1789 (homonym, invalid), and *Sylvia magnolia* Wilson, 1811. Now *Dendroica lutea* (Linn.).
- p. 12, pl. 259. MOTACILLA VOARULA (Near London) = *Motacilla boarula* Linn., Mantissa Plantarum, 1771. Now *Motacilla cinerea cinerea* Tunstall.
- p. 12, pl. 262. TODOS [sic] CINEREUS (Surinam) = *Todus cinereus* Linn., 1766. Now *Todirostrum cinereum cinereum* (Linn.). It might be argued that *Todos* and *Todus* are different generic names and that the former should replace *Todirostrum* Lesson, 1831. However, in view of the numerous typographical errors in the 'Catalogue,' I should consider *Todos* as such.
- p. 13, pl. 295. CRAX GLOBIFERA (no locality) = *Crax globicera* Linn., 1766. Now *Crax rubra* Linn., 1758.
- p. 13, pl. 304. PASSER PENNSYLVANICA (Pennsylvania), antedates *Fringilla albicollis* Gmelin, 1789. Now *Zonotrichia pensylvanica* (Linn.).
- p. 13, pl. 305. VERMIVORA AMERIC (Pennsylvania), antedates *Motacilla vermivora* Gmelin, 1789. Now *Vermivora americ* Linn. *Vermivora* is also a new generic name at this point and antedates *Vermivora* Swainson, 1827.
- p. 13, pl. 315. PSITTACUS SPECTRUM (Surinam). This is the same as *Psittacus fuscus* P. L. S. Müller, Natursyst., Suppl., 1776: 78 (Cayenne, ex Daubenton, pl. 408). Since both *Ps. spectrum* and *Ps. fuscus* are of the same date, as first revisor under Article 28 of the International Code, I select *Psittacus fuscus* Müller, 1776, as the name of the species, thereby avoiding any change in nomenclature. Now *Pionus fuscus* (Müller).
- p. 13, pl. 316. PSITTACUS SPECTRUM (East Indies), antedates *Psittacus aterrimus* Gmelin, Syst. Nat., 1 (1), 1788: 330 (New Holland). Since both plates 315 and 316 representing two very different species are given the same name, it follows that one of them is a homonym of the other. As first revisor I select *Psittacus spectrum* based on plate 315 of Edwards as the prior name, and it follows that *Ps. spectrum* based on plate 316 becomes unavailable—therefore no change in nomenclature need ensue.
- p. 13, pl. 320. CORACIAS BICATOR (Ceylon; error = ?). The plate plainly depicts one of the African glossy starlings of the genus *Lamprocolius*, but cannot be exactly matched by any species. Dr. Chapin and Mr. Amadon believe that it might be an attempted representation of *L. nilens*; to my mind, the double row of large black spots on the wings looks more like the condition found in *L. splendidus*; other details however are not in agreement and I, therefore, believe the best course is to regard the plate as unidentifiable.
- p. 13, pl. 321. TURDUS ZEYLONICUS (Ceylon; error = Cape of Good Hope) = *Turdus zeylonus* Linn. 1766. Now *Telophorus zeylonus zeylonus* (Linn.).
- p. 14, pl. 337. MELEAGRIS HYBRIDA (Hanford, Dorset) = Hybrid, *Lyrurus tetricus* x *Phasianus colchicus*. I am indebted to Mr. Jean Delacour for assistance in identifying the bird figured on this plate. He informs me that there is a skin from Devonshire in the American Museum exactly like it.

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