

**Philippine Bird Names of Blasius.** Seven bird names proposed by Blasius on April 15, 1890, and republished in August, 1890, are cited incorrectly by most authors with consequent confusion, with regard to certain names proposed by Steere in July, 1890.

The original paper of Blasius is not available to me and apparently has not been examined by any subsequent author, for I have not seen the page reference cited. Dr. G. Diesselhorst, of Munich, has kindly checked it for me in Braunschweig.

He writes me that Blasius read a paper on birds from Mindanao, in the March 13, 1890, meeting of the Verein für Naturwissenschaft and that this paper was reported in two parts in the Braunschweig daily newspaper, *Braunschweigische Anzeigen*, of 1890. The paper is an anonymous report on the meeting with the title, "Verein für Naturwissenschaft, 12. Sitzung am 27 März 1890." The first part of Blasius' paper appeared in *Braunschw. Anz.*, 27 März 1890 (No. 73), in which he said that all the birds treated were collected by Dr. Platen in Davao, Mindanao, and the second part in *Braunschw. Anz.*, 15 April 1890, No. 87, p. 877. Dr. Diesselhorst sent me a typed copy of this second part of the paper. In it seven species are described in full. In the *Journ. für Ornith.*, 38, heft II, No. 190, April [= August 1?], 1890, pp. 146-149, these descriptions were reprinted in full with the addition of measurements and the location of the types. It should be noted that there is a bibliographic error in this reprinted paper (p. 146) in which it is stated that it is reprinted from the *Braunschw. Anz.*, 15 April 1889. The year should be 1890.

In the same year, 1890, Steere published, "A list of the birds and mammals collected by the Steere Expedition to the Philippines . . .," pp. 1-30, Ann Arbor, Mich., July 14, 1890. In this, in ignorance of Blasius' paper, he described as new several of the species already named by Blasius. Unfortunately Blasius' names are often quoted from the *Journ. für Ornith.* for April = August, rather than the earlier *Braunschw. Anz.* for April 15, so that in some cases Steere's names have been given priority.

The allocation of Blasius' names and the relevant names of Steere follow:

(1) *Ptilocichla mindanensis* (Blasius)

This is the oldest name for the species that in recent years has passed as *Ptilopyga* (or *Ptilocichla*) *basilanic*a Steere. The three subspecies are:

*Ptilocichla mindanensis mindanensis* (Blasius)

*Ptilopyga mindanensis* Blasius, *Braunschw. Anz.*, 15 April 1890, No. 87, p. 877 (type locality, Davao, Mindanao); *Journ. für Ornith.*, 38, Apr. [= Aug.?], 1890, p. 146 (reprint). (The year is not 1888 as sometimes quoted.)

*Ptilocichla*(?) *Mindanensis* Steere, "List bds. mamms. Steere Exped.," July, 1890, p. 18, no. 179 (type locality, Mindanao).

*Ptilocichla mindanensis basilanica* Steere

*Ptilocichla* [sic] (?) *Basilanica* Steere, "List bds. mamms. Steere Exped.," July, 1890, p. 18, no. 178 (type locality, Basilan).

*Ptilocichla mindanensis minuta* Bourns and Worcester

*Ptilocichla minuta* Bourns and Worcester, *Minnesota Acad. Nat. Sci. Occ. Papers*, 1, p. 24 (1894) (type locality, Samar).

(2) *Stachyris plateni plateni* (Blasius)

*Mixornis Plateni* Blasius, *Braunschw. Anz.*, 15 April 1890, No. 87, p. 877 (type locality, Davao, Mindanao); *Journ. für Ornith.*, 38, Apr. [= Aug.?], 1890, p. 147 (reprint).

- (3) *Parus semilarvatus nehrkorni* (Blasius)  
*Micropus nehrkorni* Blasius, *Braunschw. Anz.*, 15 April 1890, No. 87, p. 877 (type locality, Davao); *Journ. für Ornith.*, 38, Apr. [= Aug.?], 1890, p. 147 (reprint).
- (4) *Muscicapa (Ficedula) basilanica basilanica* Sharpe, 1877; has as a synonym:  
*Muscicapula mindanensis* Blasius, *Braunschw. Anz.*, 15 April 1890, No. 87, p. 877 (type locality, Davao, Mindanao); *Journ. für Ornith.*, 38, Apr. [= Aug.?], 1890, p. 147 (reprint).
- (5) *Arachnothera clarae* Blasius  
*Arachnothera clarae* Blasius, *Braunschw. Anz.*, April 15 1890, No. 87 p. 877, (type locality, Davao, Mindanao); *Journ. für Ornith.*, Apr. [= Aug.?], 1890, p. 148 (reprint).  
*Phelemon Philippinensis* Steere, "List bds. mamms. Steere Exped.," July, 1890, p. 21, no. 237 (type locality, Samar).  
Sometimes *A. clarae* is credited to Platen, *Journ. für Ornith.*, 38, 1890, p. 148, which is Blasius' reprinted article of August, 1890.
- (6) *Ceyx melanurus platenae* Blasius  
*Ceyx Platenae* Blasius, *Braunschw. Anz.*, April 15, 1890, no. 87, p. 877 (type locality, Davao, Mindanao); *Journ. für Ornith.*, 38, Apr. [=Aug. ?], 1890, p. 148 (reprint).  
*Ceyx Mindanensis* Steere, "List bds. mamms. Steere Exped.," July, 1890, p. 10, no. 66 (type locality, Mindanao).  
*Ceyx Basilanica* Steere, "List bds. mamms. Steere Exped.," July, 1890, p. 10, No. 67 (type locality, Basilan).
- (7) *Ceyx lepidus margarethae* Blasius  
*Ceyx Margarethae* Blasius, *Braunschw. Anz.*, 15 April [not May], 1890, No. 87, p. 877 (type locality, Davao, Mindanao); *Journ. für Ornith.*, 38, Apr. [= Aug.?] 1890, p. 141 (redescription), p. 148 (reprint).  
*Ceyx Bournsii* Steere, "List bds. mamms. Steere Exped.," July, 1890, p. 10, no. 72 (type locality, Basilan).  
*Ceyx Malamaui* Steere, "List bds. mamms. Steere Exped.," July, 1890, p. 11, no. 73 (type locality, Basilan).  
*Ceyx suluensis* Blasius, *Journ. für Ornith.*, 38, April [= Aug.?], 1890, p. 141 (type locality, Jolo, Sulu Islands).

*Ceyx suluensis* was not published in *Braunschw. Anz.*, May, 1890, No. 87, as sometimes cited.

A similar confusion has existed over five names proposed by Blasius in February and March issues of the *Braunschweigische Anzeigen* of 1888; later republished in *Ornis*, for 1888 (after April), and five for the same birds by Sharpe in the April 1888 *Ibis*. Blasius himself (*Ibis*, 1888, pp. 372-375) in a letter to the editor resolved this confusion. But this paper usually has been overlooked. It is not quoted in standard works on Philippine birds, and erroneous names were used for years. One still is being used. It is advisable to call attention to this paper again and to summarize the nomenclatural points from it:

*Strix selo-puto wiepkeni* (Blasius), 1 March 1888; takes precedence over *S. s. white-headi* (Sharpe), April, 1888.

*Muscicapa (Ficedula) platenae* (Blasius), 1 March 1888; over *M. erithacus* (Sharpe), April 1888.

*Pachycephala platani platani* (Blasius), 1 March 1888; over *P. whiteheadi* (Sharpe), April 1888.

*Anaimos platani platani* (Blasius), 12 February 1888; over *A. johannae* (Sharpe), April 1888.

*Prioniturus discurus platenae* Blasius, 12 February 1888; over *P. cyaneiceps* Sharpe, April 1888.—A. L. RAND, *Chicago Natural History Museum, Chicago 5, Illinois*.

**Is the Starling Moving into Southern Florida?**—The spread of *Sturnus vulgaris* in the United States has, of course, been widely commented on. Its rather recent appearance in the far western states of California and Oregon is known now to be apparently conclusive of further increase. The following comments concern one of the very few localities in the East which, hitherto, has seemed free of the species. This is southern Florida from about a line drawn from Tampa through Orlando to Titusville. Though having been established north of this line for years, any occurrence south of it, and particularly much south of it, was abnormal.

I have kept a close watch on this matter, for my work with the National Audubon Society has necessitated my presence in southern Florida through most of every winter, as well as other months, since 1936. I have been more particularly concerned with the regions known as the Kissimmee Prairie, the Everglades, and the Keys. The conduction of the Audubon Wildlife Tours, out of Okeechobee, began in 1940, and from early January to April each year, I am in the field four days each week in the prairie counties of Okeechobee, Highlands, Osceola, and Glades. One of the outstanding features of birdlife in this region has been the practically complete absence of the Starling.

In the very first season of these Tours (1940) and in highly unseasonal cold weather, a single Starling was noted near Brighton, Highlands County, near the Seminole Indian Reservation. This was in January of that year. Not another bird was seen in the entire area for the next thirteen years! On February 8, 1953, two Starlings were seen on telephone wires on the outskirts of Okeechobee, and on the tenth of that month, two more in another part of town, though these may possibly have been the same birds.

In the 1954 season, Starlings were more numerous in southern Florida. On January 22, 1954, a flock of between 25 and 30 birds was seen near Brighton (17 miles west of Okeechobee) by William Wylie, my assistant on the Audubon Tours. On February 11, 1954, four Starlings were seen at the southern city limits of Okeechobee, apparently investigating a cavity at the top of a dead Cabbage Palm (*Sabal palmetto*). They were watched by William Wylie, John Henry Dick, the writer, and his wife. On February 14, 1954, two small flocks were seen near the Indian Prairie Canal, Glades County, 17 miles SW of Okeechobee, by Louis A. Stimson of Miami.

While all of these observations surely indicate a penetration of unprecedented proportions, despite small numbers thus far, it does not cover extreme south Florida. Lake Okeechobee is, roughly, some two hundred miles north of Cape Sable. However, the Starling has now been observed as far south in Florida as it can possibly get, the Dry Tortugas! On November 21 and 22, 1952, one was watched by Douglas Ford and Lauri and John DeWeese, the latter Superintendent of the Fort Jefferson National Monument. The observation was made on Garden Key. In late October of 1953, another single Starling was watched "for several days" on Garden Key by the DeWeeses. Therefore this species has now been observed as far south in the United States as is possible and is moving into one of the last sections of the eastern part of the country.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *National Audubon Society, Charleston 50, S. C.*