

3150 miles in 12 days, averaging 262.5 miles each day. The mistakes apparently occurred because Dr. Murphy copied the item from a newspaper clipping attached to the "goney" he found in the Brown University collection. The original message hung on the bird had long since disappeared (*in litt.*, David A. Jonah, Librarian, Brown University).—DOROTHY E. SNYDER, *The Peabody Museum, Salem, Mass., April 28, 1958.*

The Specific Name of the Bohemian Waxwing.—In the fifth edition (1957) of the A.O.U. "Check-list of North American Birds," the scientific name of the Bohemian Waxwing is given as *Bombycilla garrula* (Linnaeus), as it was in the fourth (1931) and third (1910) editions. Earlier editions placed the waxwings in the genus *Ampelis*, and the Bohemian Waxwing was listed as *Ampelis garrulus* (Linnaeus), although *Ampelis* is of feminine gender (Brown, "Composition of Scientific Words," p. 145, 1956). Current European literature is unanimous in giving the specific name a masculine termination, *Bombycilla garrulus* (*cf.* B.O.U. "Check-list of the Birds of Great Britain and Ireland," p. 87, 1952). The use of the feminine spelling "*garrula*" by the A.O.U. Committee in 1910 seems to have been derived from an erroneous impression that the specific name was intended by Linnaeus as an adjective, and must therefore conform in gender with the generic name (in this case, the feminine *Bombycilla*). Linnaeus described the Bohemian Waxwing in the 10th edition of the "Systema Naturae" (vol. 1, p. 95, 1758) as *Lanius Garrulus*, as correctly cited in the new A.O.U. "Check-list" (p. 460). In this edition of the "Systema" Linnaeus used a capital initial letter for his specific names which were intended as substantives in the nominative case, in apposition with the generic name. For adjectival specific names he used a lower-case initial letter. Thus, even when placed in a feminine genus, the name would continue to be spelled *garrulus*; the usage in the first two editions of the A.O.U. "Check-list" (*Ampelis garrulus*) was grammatically correct.

Few birds would be less appropriately called "garrulous" than a waxwing. Linnaeus, however, was not describing an attribute of the bird, but referring to the fact that some earlier writers had placed this species in the jay genus *Garrulus*. This whole question was thoroughly discussed many years ago by A. E. Newton, in his revision of William Yarrell's "History of British Birds" (p. 535-536, London, 1871), as follows:

"The name *Ampelis* was that under which Aldrovandus described the bird in 1599, complaining of Gesner, who had, in 1555, called it *Garrulus Bohemicus*—the Bohemian Jay or Chatterer, and justly remarking that it had nothing to do with birds of the Pie-kind, that it did not chatter nor was it known to be peculiar to Bohemia. Linnaeus, with whom all scientific nomenclature begins, kept what seemed good to him in both these names, using that of Aldrovandus for the genus [in the 12th edition of the 'Systema Naturae'] and Gesner's first word for the species—the general likeness between a Jay and a Waxwing being sufficiently obvious. . . .

"The liberty which many writers have taken with the Linnaean specific name, writing '*garrula*' for '*Garrulus*,' and thus turning a substantive which is in some degree appropriate into an adjective which is not, is also to be condemned."

American usage should thus conform to the correct spelling *Bombycilla garrulus* (Linnaeus) as used abroad, rather than the present spelling of the A.O.U. "Check-list." I am supported in this opinion by Dr. Alexander Wetmore, to whom I am grateful for help in clearing up this nomenclatorial discrepancy.—KENNETH C. PARKES, *Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa.*