warbler had been questioned. Thus Ridgway (*op. cit.*, 426, 1902) wrote "however unlike other North American Mniotiltidae [= Parulidae] *Icteria* may seem, the extralimital genera *Chamaethlypis* and *Granatellus* distinctly connect it with the more typical forms, the former being, indeed, a very close relative. . . ." Yet aside from having rather thick bills with curved culmen, a comparison of the generic diagnoses supplied by Ridgway himself (*op. cit.*, 653, 686, 691, 1902) shows that *Chamaethlypis* differs from *Icteria* in every external structural character in which *Geothlypis* differs from *Icteria*: *i.e.*, subterminal notch on bill (on maxillary tomium), long tarsus (distinctly more than one third of wing), tail graduated or strongly rounded with subacuminate tips to rectrices, obsolete rictal bristles, longitudinally oval nostrils—not to mention plumage pattern.

Recent anatomical studies strongly suggest that *Icteria* is probably out of place in the wood-warblers. Dr. W. J. Beecher has informed me (*in litt.*) that, although he listed *Icteria* as a Parulid in his phylogenetic review of oscinine jaw musculature (*Auk*, 70: 307, 1953), reexamination of his notes shows that, unlike the other wood-warblers listed in that paper, *Icteria* lacks the pinnate M7b (*M. adductor mandibulae externus medialis*), and on this criterion "could be a tanager," although definite family allocation would require further investigation. Dr. William George, who has examined the hyoidean structures of all continental genera traditionally included in the Parulidae, as well as of numerous genera of tanagers and other Oscines, informs me (*in litt.*) that most genera of the New World nine-primaried assemblage (including *Geothlypis, Chamaethlypis* and *Granatellus*) are alike in these structures. In contrast, *Icteria,* although its basihyale bone is laterally compressed as in almost all genera of this assemblage, differs markedly from all other genera studied in certain aspects of the hyoidean musculature. *M. stylohyoideus,* instead of attaching to the basihyale as an undivided band, gives off a conspicuous ventral slip that inserts in the connective tissue beneath the tip of the paraglossale. *M. thyreohyoideus* and *M. trachaeohyoideus,* instead of being closely contiguous undivided bands inserting on the basihyale, are widely separated in their origins, and *M. thyreohyoideus* does not insert on the basihyale but divides into two components inserting on the head and on the lateral surface of the ceratobranchiale.

Dr. C. G. Sibley has recently advised me (*in litt.*) that the electrophoretic patterns of egg-white proteins of *Chamaethlypis* are, on present techniques, indistinguishable from those of *Geothlypis* (as well as from other "typical" warblers and tanagers examined); while the patterns of *Icteria* are strikingly different.

All this confirms, what external morphological and behavioral evidence indicated, that the genus *Chamaethlypis* cannot be maintained on the theory that it is a connecting link towards the aberrant *Icteria*. The only "structural" difference between *poliocephala* and the species currently included in *Geothlypis* is the stouter bill. Considering the close resemblance in pattern, color, and habits, and the intermediate bill shape of the *G. aequatorialis* group, generic separation seems unwarranted. I suggest that "*Chamaethlypis*" be merged in *Geothlypis*, and the species be designated *Geothlypis poliocephala.*

To Drs. Beecher, George, and Sibley I am greatly indebted for the information respectively supplied by them.—E. Eisenmann, *American Museum of Natural History, New York 24, New York.*

Nomenclature of Quaternary Coots from Oceanic Islands.—Forbes (1892) described *Fulica chathamensis* from Quaternary deposits on the Chatham Islands, but later (1893) synonymized this species with *Fulica newtoni* Milne-Edwards (1868) from the Quaternary of Mauritius. At that time he separated these birds from *Fulica*

under the designation "*Palaeolimnas* (gen. nov.) *newtoni,* Milne-Edwards." By monotypy the type of the genus *Palaeolimnas* is its only included species, *Fulica newtoni* Milne-Edwards, and Forbes' description of skulls of the Chatham coot in this connection has no bearing on the nomenclature of the case (Dawson, 1958). *Paludiphilus* Hachisuka (1953) has the same type and is thus a junior synonym of *Palaeolimnas* Forbes.

Andrews (1896) demonstrated that the Chatham coot differs from *Palaeolimnas newtoni,* and from *Fulica,* in every major element of the skeleton, even to the ribs. We therefore propose **Nesophalaris,** new genus, with *Fulica chathamensis* Forbes as type. The generic name is derived from Greek *nesos,* island, and *phalaris,* feminine, coot.

Another name, *Fulica prisca* Hamilton (1893), from the Quaternary at Castle Rocks, South Island, New Zealand, requires comment here. Remains of this form are now known from 15 localities in the South Island. This bird is undoubtedly allied, and perhaps ancestral, to the Chatham coot, from which the undocumented claim has been made that it is inseparable (Oliver, 1955; Scarlett, 1955). However, published measurements of the South Island bird run smaller, and the differences would probably be more pronounced if allowance were made for sexual dimorphism. Moreover, the South Island bird is said to have retained the power of flight, while the Chatham bird is said to have been flightless (Rothschild, 1907). In the absence of a more critical comparison, it thus appears advisable to treat the South Island bird as a discrete taxonomic unit.

According to our views, then, the systematic status of the subfossil oceanic coots may be summarized below.

Genus *Palaeolimnas* Forbes (synonym *Paludiphilus* Hachisuka)

1. *Palaeolimnas newtoni* (Milne-Edwards). Quaternary: Mauritius Island.

Genus *Nesophalaris* Brodkorb and Dawson

1. *Nesophalaris chathamensis* (Forbes). Quaternary: Chatham Islands.
2. *Nesophalaris prisca* (Hamilton). Quaternary: South Island, New Zealand.

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Precocious Sexual Competence in the Ground Dove.—On Middle Torch Key, Monroe County, Florida, on 5 June 1961, I shot a female Ground Dove (*Columbina passerina passerina*). The bird had been foraging in a large clearing in the hardwood scrub forest typical of the larger Keys. The time was late afternoon, and the bird was not accompanied by another dove. When the bird was prepared as a skin specimen (KU 38875, 46.5 g, body in alcohol), it was found to be undergoing the postjuvenal molt, to be markedly immature in bony characters, and to be reproductively active.

The age of the bird could be judged fairly well by degree of ossification of the skull and by extent of the postjuvenal molt. In the skull, only the squamosals and the interorbital parts of the frontal bones showed double-layering with supporting trabeculae; doves about five months old ordinarily show more double-layering, with only the posterior part of the frontals and much of the parietals remaining single-layered. The first four remiges of each wing were freshly grown, the fifth remex of each was ensheathed, and the distal five were those of the juvenal plumage; on the body perhaps half the feathers were still of the juvenal plumage although certain areas (for example, the crown) had all fresh feathers. Individuals about five months old commonly show this stage of the postjuvenal molt. It is reasonable to consider this bird as less than or about six months old. The amount of full ossification of the skull indicates a somewhat lesser age, but it is entirely possible that the rate of ossification had been slowed, owing to the metabolic commitments of reproduction. Ground Doves about six months old in southern Florida in June must be fairly common, because the populational breeding activity of the doves is on a 12-month schedule in subtropical latitudes (Dickey and van Rossem, *Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser.*, 23: 1–609, 1938).

Reproductive activity was clearly evident. The ovary contained two ruptured follicles, and a shelled egg was in the terminal part of the oviduct (accounting partly for the heaviness of the bird). It may be questioned whether or not the bird was mated, but on two counts it seems likely that it was. First, and most important, doves ordinarily do not ovulate without the psychophysiologic stimulation resulting from the presence of a mate, provided that the environment is otherwise favorable for breeding (Lehrman, Brody, and Wortis, *Endocrinology*, 68: 507–516, 1961). Second, the bird was foraging alone, completely without reference to other Ground Doves, pairs of which were feeding within 30 to 50 meters of this female. A mated Ground Dove either restricts its social activity to its mate, or travels alone in its absence (Nicholson, *Wils. Bull.*, 49: 101–114, 1937); an unmated bird tends to form a series of exceedingly transitory liaisons with pairs or singles, and these temporary associations are the only social activities of a bird until it forms a pair bond (Johnston, ms). The fact that the female was alone could therefore be interpreted as fair evidence that it was mated. This would presume that the male was sitting on the one egg laid previously, which is plausible, for incubation in the Ground Dove begins with the presence of the first egg, and the male usually sits from midmorning to late afternoon.

This seems to be the first recorded instance of precocious reproductive activity by Ground Doves. Moreover, for any species of dove, functional sexual behavior is unusual prior to six months of age. The Ring Dove (*Streptopelia risoria*), a species