## GENERAL NOTES

**First Townsend's Solitaire Collected in Ontario.**—On 3 March 1962 a Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) was reported from Point Pelee, Essex County, Ontario, by Robert E. Mara and Helen Blanchet. On 8 March 1962 James L. Baillie and the writers visited Point Pelee, and the senior writer succeeded in collecting the bird.

The specimen, No. 92458 in the collection of the Royal Ontario Museum, is an adult ♀: length—216 mm; wing cord—117 mm; and weight—40 g.

There are three previous unpublished sight records for Ontario, two at Hamilton, Wentworth County, and one at Toronto, York County. The A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds* (5th ed., 1957) gives winter occurrences for Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio, New York, and New Brunswick. The Ohio record was an individual seen 26 December 1938 to 14 January 1939, in Sylvania Township, Lucas County (Campbell, L. W., *Birds of Lucas County, Toledo Mus. of Sci. Bull.,* 1(1): 127–128, 1940). Zimmerman and Van Tyne (*A Distributional Check-list of the Birds of Michigan,* U.M.M.Z. Occ. Pap. No. 608: 42, 1959) list an adult ♀ collected in Waterloo Township, Jackson County, on 4 January 1957.—D. H. BALDWIN, and JAMES WOODFORD, *Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto 5, Ontario.*

**Scratching the "Rear" by Budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*).**—The various ways in which birds head-scratch are well-known and species-typical criteria in avian systematics (for example, passerines scratch the head by bringing a leg over a wing). Species-typical forms of head-scratching and their implications are most recently discussed by Simmons (*Ibis,* 1961). In addition to over-the-wing head-scratching, similar to other closely related parrot species, Budgerigars also regularly perform scratching of the lateral crissal regions. The tarso-metatarsal-phalangial joint, together with the anterior toe surfaces of the ipsilateral foot, is rubbed over this area in a fairly rapid back and forth manner. The foot does not at any time approach either the cloacal or oil gland regions. This motor pattern has, to my knowledge, never been reported for any other avian species. Bouts of such scratching are common, with both sides being repeatedly scratched. They occur in conjunction with bouts of other maintenance activities (especially preening of these regions), and most frequently after an extended period of other groups of activities. The importance of a hitherto unreported type of scratching cannot be understated; however, no evolutionary or taxonomic significance can be discussed until observations of its absence or presence in other and especially closely related species have been reported. I would be happy to receive communications regarding such scratching in other species.—BARBARA F. BROCKWAY, *Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

**The Systematic Position of Two Oligocene Birds from Belgium.**—During study of a fossil teal from the Pliocene of Kansas, it became necessary to investigate the status of the supposed earliest member of this group, *Anas benedeni* Sharpe (1899: 217). This name was proposed as a substitute for the preoccupied *Anas creccoides* Van Beneden (1871: 260, Figures 3–6), from the Middle Oligocene Rupelian sand of Belgium. It is apparent from the illustrations that this bird and at least one other of the four Oligocene species named in Van Beneden's paper are wrongly allocated to order.

*Anas creccoides* was based on the figures of several elements, without any diagnosis. The type series consists of a left humerus lacking the proximal end (Figure 3), the shaft of a right humerus (Figure 4), the proximal portion of a right ulna and the distal portion of a left ulna, said to represent the same bone but obviously from opposite sides of the body (Figure 5), and the proximal portion of a tibiotarsus (Figure 6). As lectotype I designate the humerus illustrated in Van Beneden's Figure 3. The locality is not precisely stated, but Rupelmonde in East Flanders is inferred, and this is accepted by Dollo (1909: 113).

Van Beneden implied relationship to the living teals, but Lambrecht (1933: 361) remarked that the reference of this species to the Anatidae was not convincing, and study of Van Beneden's figures makes it clear that it must be removed from that family. In the figure of the lectotype the entepicondyle is very long and wide and extends far distad from the internal condyle (the entepicondyle is shorter than the internal condyle in the Anatidae). The external condyle is bent in the middle and lies at an angle of 60° to the shaft (in the Anatidae it is straight and lies at about 20°). The ectepicondylar process is prominent and strongly curved (obsolete and nearly straight in the Anatidae). The shaft is sigmoid (nearly straight in Anatidae). The deltoid crest is very long and curved (straight and extending little beyond the level of the bicipital crest in the Anatidae). The other elements, although less diagnostic, also differ from those of the Anatidae, but they do not necessarily belong in the same taxon with the lectotype. Removal of *Anas benedeni* from the Anatidae, and from the order Anseriformes, is thus necessary, but since its correct position is not readily apparent from the illustrations, it must be relegated to the category of Incertae Sedis.

The other incorrectly assigned species is *Larus raemdonckii* Van Beneden (1871: 258, Figure 1). This was based on the figured and poorly described distal portion of a left humerus from Rupelmonde (now designated as lectotype), and on a second specimen from Édeghem, the latter undescribed and unfigured. The shape of the ectepicondylar process, the straight shaft, and the strongly rotated distal end agree with the condition in the shearwaters of the genus *Puffinus* and are quite different from the conformation in the Laridae. The species is therefore transferred to the Procellariidae as *Puffinus raemdonckii* (Van Beneden).

This study was aided by the National Science Foundation through grant number G19595.

LITERATURE CITED

DOLLO, L. 1909. The fossil vertebrates of Belgium. Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci., **19** (4, pt. 1): 99–119, pl. 4–10.

LAMBRECHT, K. 1933. Handbuch der Palaeornithologie. Gebrüder Borntraeger, Berlin. xx + 1,024 pp., 209 figs.

SHARPE, R. B. 1899. A hand-list of the genera and species of birds. British Museum (Natural History), London. Vol. 1, xxi + 303 pp.

VAN BENEDEN, P. J. 1871. Les oiseaux de l'argile rupélienne. Bull. Acad. Roy. Belg., ser. 2, **32**(11): 256–261, plate.

—PIERCE BRODKORB, *Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.*

**Recent Census and Observations of the Giant Pied-billed Grebe of Guatemala.**—The Giant Pied-billed Grebe, *Podilymbus gigas,* occurs only on volcano-rimmed Lake Atitlán, 1,750 meters in the Guatemalan highlands. This species is nearly twice as large as the North American Pied-billed Grebe, *Podilymbus podiceps,* and ap-