



PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
NEW ENGLAND ZOÖLOGICAL CLUB

THE GENERIC NAME OF THE TINAMOUS
FORMERLY INCLUDED IN THE
GENUS CRYPTURUS ILLIGER

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IN the *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, Eighth Series, volume 14, 1914, pp. 319-322, Lord Brabourne and Mr. Charles Chubb published a key to the then recognized species and subspecies of the genus *Crypturus*, at the same time removing *Tinamus tataupa* Temm., and *Crypturus parvirostris* Wagl. from *Crypturus*, where they were currently placed, creating for them a new genus *Crypturellus* (*op. cit.*, p. 322), designating the former species as the type. In 1917 Chubb proposed (*Bull. B. O. C.*, XXXVIII, p. 30) *Microcrypturus* as a substitute name for *Crypturellus*, which, to use his own expression, was "unfortunately preoccupied," but he gave no details. As a matter of fact, the name that Chubb thought preoccupied *Crypturellus* was *Crypturella*, a name proposed by Silvestri in Escherich's 'Termitenleben auf Ceylon,' 1910, p. 243, (type by monotypy, *Crypturella termitaria* Silv.) for a thysanurous insect. Under the International Code these are different names, so *Crypturellus* stands and *Microcrypturus* falls as its direct synonym.

The next development came in 1922, when Oberholser (*Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington*, XXXV, pp. 73-74) showed *Crypturus*

Illiger to be a synonym of *Tinamus* Latham, and in the absence of any apparently available synonym to replace *Crypturus*, (*Microcrypturus* being regarded as generically different), proposed the name *Crypturornis* (p. 74), with *Tetrao cinereus* Gmelin as the type.

There seems to have been a rather natural reluctance on the part of ornithologists to give up Illiger's name that had stood unchallenged for over a hundred years, but if we ever are to establish nomenclature on a firm basis, we must all subordinate our preference for "pet names" and subscribe to changes that are shown to be necessary when based on correct premises. There is no doubt that Oberholser is correct in the case just stated, and that *Crypturus* must become a synonym of *Tinamus*.

And now comes Ernest Holt, who, in his carefully prepared paper on the birds of the Serra do Itatiaya, Brazil, (*Bull. American Mus. Nat. Hist.*, LVII, 1928, pp. 251-326), shows (p. 278, note 2) that there are no trenchant characters separating *Crypturornis* on the one hand and *Crypturellus* on the other, and that *tataupa* and *parvirostris* are really congeneric with the species included by Oberholser in *Crypturornis*.

Since *Crypturellus* is not preoccupied by *Crypturella*, and since the former has been shown to be congeneric with *Crypturornis* and has nearly eight years priority, it must replace that name, and the tinamous formerly placed in the genus *Crypturus* Illiger must now be grouped under the genus *Crypturellus* Brabourne and Chubb.