THE RICHMOND INDEX TO THE GENERA AND SPECIES OF BIRDS



Charles Wallace Richmond, 1868-1932

G. K. Hall & Company Boston, Massachusetts 1992

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Guide to the Microfiche

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PREFACE

Scientific nomenclature lies at the very foundation of systematic ornithology. We must have names for the organisms we write about, and an elaborate set of formal rules (*The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*) exists for determining the proper scientific name to be applied to a given animal. But for numerous reasons many more names have appeared in the literature than there are actual taxa in existence. For example, early authors, often unaware of one another's works, would create different names for the same species. Keeping track of such synonyms is one of the necessary, if burdensome, tasks of the systematist.

Thus, over a century ago, Charles W. Richmond set out on the truly monumental task of compiling a card index of all the published scientific names of the genera, species, and subspecies of birds. Each card includes a scientific name, its author, bibliographic reference, and date of publication. Because priority of a given name over another is often determined by date of publication, this information assumes considerable nomenclatural significance. Richmond devoted a great deal of effort to determining publication dates of various ornithological works, a subject on which he kept a separate detailed card file.

The Richmond Index occupies more than 75 file drawers in the Division of Birds at the National Museum of Natural History, and has been an indispensable reference for those able to consult it. A great deal of ornithological history is reflected by the names on these aging cards. Richmond's annotations not infrequently provide unexpected nuggets to reward the diligent researcher. For example, we find that Capt. F. D. Bennett's narrative of a whaling voyage mentions that the original specimens of the Hawaiian goose (Branta sandvicensis), upon which the scientific name was based, were sent to England by the renowned botanical explorer David Douglas, this being the only connection between Douglas and Hawaiian ornithology (Olson, 1989).

The arrangement of the *Index* is alphabetical, with each species listed *in the genus in which it was originally described*. This can make certain information difficult to retrieve but is of great practical benefit in another respect. The rules of nomenclature proscribe the creation of new scientific names that are homonyms of

existing names. Thus, if one wished to describe a new species of duck in the genus Anas as Anas minuta, say, it is not sufficient to check in a modern checklist under the genus Anas to see if the name minuta has already been used. Many species of ducks were originally described in the broad Linnaean genus Anas but were subsequently transferred to other genera. Checking the Richmond Index we find that Anas minuta has already been used, by Linnaeus no less. It makes no difference that this name is now considered to be a synonym of Histrionicus histrionicus, the name minuta is nonetheless unavailable in the genus Anas.

The Richmond Index is thus an especially useful source to prevent the creation of homonyms. In fact, wider use of this source will probably reveal homonyms already in existence that need to be replaced. Richmond must have found many of these that he never had time to deal with. For instance, he indexed both the fossil rail Rallus dubius Portis, 1887, and its senior homonym Rallus dubius Piller and Mitterpacher, 1783, without ever publishing a replacement name for the former. This was subsequently renamed Rallus richmondi (Olson, 1977) in recognition of the importance of Richmond's Index.

Richmond died in 1932 but his contributions to the *Index* had probably diminished well prior to that. Stone (1933) relates that Richmond's health began to fail about the onset of the First World War, after which his work on the *Index* was only desultory. In the years since Richmond's death various staff of the Division of Birds and the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service were detailed to add overlooked or newly described taxa, but this was attended to with varying degrees of competence and dedication. More diligence has been applied in recent years, but there remains a period for which the *Index* is certain to be recognizably incomplete.

Nevertheless, it is for the older and more obscure literature that such a compilation is most needed in any case, and for this we can truly be grateful to Richmond for his tireless bibliographic efforts. Considerable credit must also reflect on Robert O'Hara, who conceived the idea of making the *Richmond Index* more generally available and who negotiated its publication.

Olson, Storrs L. 1977. A synopsis of the fossil Rallidae. Pages 339-373 in: S. D. Ripley, Rails of the World. Boston: David R. Godine.

_____. 1989. David Douglas and the original description of the Hawaiian Goose. Elepaio, 49: 49-51.

Stone, Witmer. 1933. In memoriam: Charles Wallace Richmond 1868-1932. Auk, 50: 1-22.

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INTRODUCTION

On the 29th of January in 1897, Charles Wallace Richmond, then Assistant Curator of Birds in the United States National Museum, wrote to his friend Witmer Stone telling him of a great task he had undertaken.

I am employing my spare time (what little I get) in making a card catalogue of described species of birds, both living and extinct, and genera, giving the names, as originally spelled, complete reference and date of publication, type locality; also data for the type specimen when given. During the past year I have compiled about 1500 of these cards, going through works where the date of publication was more or less certain. [Stone, 1933:10]

Begun in 1889, when Richmond was 21, the card catalog of birds became his life's work. Every evening at his apartment on 9th Street N. W., across from where the National Portrait Gallery now stands in Washington, Richmond would edit and extend the list of names, and print the blank forms he used for the common journals on his own small printing press. Stone visited this nomenclatural laboratory on many occasions, and described its arrangement and the working style of its director:

The printing press and type cases stood in one corner of the room and his book case in another. After the table had been cleared and a reading lamp adjusted, he removed his coat, for he, like many another man who has accomplished great things, could not satisfactorily carry on his work either at home or at the museum unless he were in his shirt sleeves; then he would get out his box of cards and the volume upon which he happened to be working, light a cigar, wind up an early variety of phonograph in which he took great delight, and begin the compilation. [Stone, 1933:11-12]

By 1912 Richmond considered the catalog three-fifths complete, with 30,000 finished cards and 10,000 more containing fragmentary information. At this time he devised a publication plan, under which individuals or institutions could subscribe and receive printed copies of all the new cards as they were completed, much in the same way as libraries could subscribe to the catalog cards of the Library of Congress. This plan was described in an editorial in the Auk (Stone, 1912), and Richmond printed several sets of sample cards, but for whatever reason the plan was not carried through. Another publication plan, to print a new list of all the generic names of birds as a replacement for the earlier work of Waterhouse (1889), had the misfortune of being sponsored by a German zoological society on the eve of the First World

War, and it fell through as well (Stone, 1933:14). The card catalog continued to serve as the basis for some important nomenclatural publications of the National Museum (Richmond, 1902, 1908, 1917, 1927), but its overall usefulness remained restricted to those few specialists who could consult it in Washington, or who were on close enough terms with Richmond — his friends C. Davies Sherborn and Gregory M. Mathews (1925, 1932), for example — to ask Richmond to consult it for them. Now at last the fruits of Richmond's labor are available to the whole ornithological community, just as he had always wished.

To those who have never known bibliographic compulsions of the kind that fired Richmond, the compilation of a catalog such as this must appear inexpressibly tedious. But the true bibliographer knows otherwise. The thrill of pursuing obscure and fragmentary references, the satisfaction of correcting ancient errors, the delightful encounters with the all-too-human enterprise of publishing that make one laugh out loud while all alone in the library — these are the joys of the bibliographer. Witmer Stone recalled one such encounter to which Richmond himself had been a party.

A set of corrections [by Richmond] to a paper published in the Proceedings of the North China Branch of the Asiatic Society arrived too late for inclusion in the main text and the authors decided to publish it as an appendix but, through some misunderstanding on the part of the printer, only the title and author's name appeared. Richmond in writing to me about it said: "The 'appendix' as it appeared is a perfect blank, and therefore, constitutes the shortest paper in my bibliography." [Stone, 1933:14]

If Charles Wallace Richmond once held the record for the shortest publication in systematic ornithology, he now without doubt holds the record for the longest. *The Richmond Index to the Genera and Species of Birds*, 70,000 cards long and the product of forty years' labor, will, as Witmer Stone declared (1932:392), "ever be a monument to his knowledge and industry."

- Mathews, Gregory M. 1925. The Birds of Australia. Supplement No. 4. Bibliography of the Birds of Australia. Part 1. London: H. F. & G. Witherby.
- -----. 1932. Charles Wallace Richmond. Ibis, 13th series, 2: 691-693.
- Richmond, Charles W. 1902. List of generic terms proposed for birds during the years 1890 to 1900, inclusive, to which are added names omitted by Waterhouse in his "Index Generum Avium." Proceeding of the United States National Museum, 24: 663-729.
- ——. 1908. Generic names applied to birds during the years 1901 to 1905, inclusive, with further additions to Waterhouse's "Index Generum Avium." Proceedings of the United States National Museum, 35: 583-655.
- ——. 1917. Generic names applied to birds during the years 1906 to 1915, inclusive, with additions and corrections to Waterhouse's "Index Generum Avium." Proceedings of the United States National Museum, 53: 565-636.
- ——. 1927. Generic names applied to birds during the years 1916 to 1922, inclusive, with additions to Waterhouse's "Index Generum Avium." Proceedings of the United States National Museum, 70: 144.

Stone, Witmer. 1912. [Publication plan for the Richmond Index.] Auk, 29: 279.

——. 1933. In memoriam: Charles Wallace Richmond 1868-1932. Auk, 50: 1-22.

Waterhouse, Frederick H. 1889. Index Generum Avium. A List of the Genera and Subgenera of Birds. London: R. H. Porter.

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LIST OF FICHE HEADINGS

Note: Richmond commonly interfiled orthographic variants of the same name, and this practice accounts for occasional departures from strict alphabetical order among the cards. For example, *Odontophorus* Vieillot, 1816, was emended by Bonaparte in 1831 to *Odonthophorus*, but because Richmond considered these orthographic variants of the same name *Odonthophorus*, 1831, is filed after *Odontophorus*, 1816 (Fiche Nos. 12-13). Similarly, the variant *Vulcur jota* appears between *Vultur isabellinus* and *Vultur kernensis* (Fiche Nos. 105-106).

Genus Catalog

Fiche No. 1

Aaptus — Apatelosia

Fiche No. 2

Apatema — Blacipus

Fiche No. 3

Blacops — Catherpes

Fiche No. 4

Catherpes — Cittocichla

Fiche No. 5

Cittocincla — Cyanosylvia

Fiche No. 6

Cyanothrus — Endomychura

Fiche No. 7

Endomychura — Gelastes

Fiche No. 8

Gelastes — Heterococcyx

Heterocorax — Lagonosticta

Fiche No. 10

Lagophus — Maculocantor

Fiche No. 11

Madanga — Monarchanax

Fiche No. 12

Monarcharses — Odontophorus

Fiche No. 13

Odonthophorus — Parvifregata

Fiche No. 14

Parvipsitta — Pipis

Fiche No. 15

Pipiscus — Psilopus

Fiche No. 16

Psilopus — Richmondia

Fiche No. 17

Richmondica — Stachyrhis

Fiche No. 18

Stachyris — Thryorchilus

Fiche No. 19

Thryospiza — Zanthornis

Fiche No. 20

Zapornia — Zygodactylus

Species Catalog

Fiche No. 21

[----] Cafer — Aegithalus castaneus

Fiche No. 22

Aegithalus caucasicus — Alauda melanocephala

Fiche No. 23

Alauda migratoria — Amazilius cerviniventris

Fiche No. 24

Amazilius cerviniventris — Anas muscaria

Anas mulleri — Anthus maximus

Fiche No. 26

Anthus medius — Aquila occidentalis

Fiche No. 27

Aquila orientalis — Arremon aurantiirostris

Fiche No. 28

Arremon aurantiirostris occidentalis — Bambusicola fytchii

Fiche No. 29

Bambusicola fytchii rincheni — Bradypterus ruficoccyx

Fiche No. 30

Bradypterus rufoflavidus — Buteo circoides

Fiche No. 31

Buteo communis — Callocorydon fimbriatus superior

Fiche No. 32

Callolophus miniatus dayak — Caprimulgus vociferans

Fiche No. 33

Caprimulgus vociferans — Centropus lignator

Fiche No. 34

Centropus medius — Certhiola caboti

Fiche No. 35

Certhiola chloropyga — Charmosynopsis pulchella rothschildi

Fiche No. 36

Chasiempis dolei — Chrysotis prisca

Fiche No. 37

Chrysotis rhodocorytha — Circus umbrinus

Fiche No. 38

Circus umbrinus — Colinus ridgwayi

Fiche No. 39

Colinus salvini — Columba rodericana

Fiche No. 40

Columba rodericana — Corvus afer

Fiche No. 41

Corvus affinis — Cotinga simoni

Cotinga speciosa — Crypturus occidentalis

Fiche No. 43

Crypturus parvirostris — Cyanomitra olivacea chyulu

Fiche No. 44

Cyanomitra olivacea granti — Dendrocincla lafresnayei

Fiche No. 45

Dendrocincla lafresnayei christiani — Dicruropsis guillemardi

Fiche No. 46

Dicruropsis montana — Dryobates major beicki

Fiche No. 47

Dryobates major bulgarensis — Emberiza citriniventris

Fiche No. 48

Emberiza citriniventris — Erionotus cearensis

Fiche No. 49 [See also Errata Fiche below.]

Erionotus punctatus magnirostris — Eurylaimus cuculatus

Fiche No. 50

Eurylaimus cucullatus — Falco micrurus

Fiche No. 51

Falco micrurus "Hodgson" — Francolinus squamatus usambarae

Fiche No. 52

Francolinus squamatus uzungwensis — Fulica pisana

Fiche No. 53

Fulica platyuros — Garrulus japonicus hiugaensis

Fiche No. 54

Garrulus japonicus kakes — Glyciphila albifrons lavertoni

Fiche No. 55

. Glyciphila fasciata — Habropyga oenochroa

Fiche No. 56

Habropyga oenochroa — Henicorhina pittieri

Fiche No. 57

Henicorhina prostheleuca albilateralis — Hydrochelidon meridionalis

Fiche No. 58

Hydrochelidon nigricans — Icterus pectoralis espinachi

Icterus pectoralis espinachi — Lalage maculosa vanikorensis

Fiche No. 60

Lalage maculosa vauana — Lanius passerinus

Fiche No. 61

Lanius peli — Leptosomus discolor var. gracilis

Fiche No. 62

Leptosomus discolor intermedius — Loxia bicolor

Fiche No. 63

Loxia bicolor — Malaconotus manningi

Fiche No. 64

Malaconotus manningi — Meleagris celer

Fiche No. 65 [See also Errata Fiche below.]

Meleagris crassipes — Merula simensis

Fiche No. 66

Merula subalaris — Mitrephorus ochraceiventris

Fiche No. 67

Momotus brasiliensis — Motacilla melanopa

Fiche No. 68

Motacilla melanotis — Muscicapa muscipeta

Fiche No. 69

Muscicapa muscipeta — Myiobius villosus peruvianus

Fiche No. 70

Myiobius villosus peruvianus — Nectarinia concolor

Fiche No. 71

Nectarinia congensis — Nucifraga caryocatactes pachyrhynchus

Fiche No. 72

Nucifraga caryocatactes rothschildi — Oreotrochilus leucopterus

Fiche No. 73

Oreotrochilus melanogaster — Oryzoborus nuttingi

Fiche No. 74

Oryzoborus occidentalis — Pachyramphus cinnamomeus fulvidior

Fiche No. 75

Pachyrhamphus costaricensis — Parus caudatus

Parus cela — Pelargonis sedgwicki

Fiche No. 77

Pelargopsis burmanica — Peristera intercedens

Fiche No. 78

Peristeria lugubris — Phasianus pumilus

Fiche No. 79

Phasianus purpureus — Phylloscopus proregulus yunnanensis

Fiche No. 80

Phylloscopus pseudes — Picus leucomelanus

Fiche No. 81

Picus leucomelas "mihi" — Pipra superciliosa

Fiche No. 82

Pipra torquata — Ploceus dubius

Fiche No. 83

Ploceus duboisi — Poliospiza crocopygia

Fiche No. 84

Poliospiza dimidiata — Pristorhamphus versteri meeki

Fiche No. 85

Pristorhamphus versteri meeki — Psittacus aterrimus

Fiche No. 86

Psittacus aterrimus — Pterocles [Eremialector] burchelli

Fiche No. 87

Pterocles canatus — Puffinus parvus

Fiche No. 88

Puffinus persicus — Rallus aquaticus

Fiche No. 89

Rallus aquaticus arjanicus — Rhinoptynx clamator forbesi

Fiche No. 90

Rhinoptynx clamator oberi — Saltator striatipectus peruvianus

Fiche No. 91

Saltator striatipictus speratus — Scolopax erythropus

Fiche No. 92

Scolopax esquimea — Sitta caesia

Sitta caesia caucasica — Spizella monticola ochracea

Fiche No. 94

Spizella monticola ochracea — Streptopelia risoria alba

Fiche No. 95

Streptopelia roseogrisea bornuensis — Suthora gularis pallida

Fiche No. 96

Suthora humii — Symmorphus leucopygus

Fiche No. 97

Symmorphus nigripectus — Tanagra olivi-cyanea

Fiche No. 98

Tanagra olivina — Tetrao tetrix baikalensis

Fiche No. 99

Tetrao tetrix pinetorum — Thryothorus felix pallidus

Fiche No. 100

Thryothorus galbraithii — Trichas luteoviridis

Fiche No. 101

Trichas nigro-cristatus — Trochilus lamprocephalus

Fiche No. 102

Trochilus lamprus — Turacus donaldsoni

Fiche No. 103

Turacus emini — Turdus obsoletus parambanus

Fiche No. 104

Turdus occipitalis — Tyto pollens

Fiche No. 105

Tyto tenebricosa magna — Vulcur jota

Fiche No. 106

Vultur kernensis — Zosterops flavissima

Fiche No. 107

Zosterops flavogularis — Zygodactylus ignotus

Errata

Errata Fiche

Eudromia elegans wetmorei — Eudromus variegatus; Merula politaria