

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

GENERAL NOTES.

THE EARLIEST TECHNICAL NAME FOR THE PORTUGUESE IBEX

Recent authors have cited the name *Capra lusitanica* from França, 1909 (Bull. Soc. Portugaise Sci. Nat., vol. 2, p. 144), based on the description of the "Cabra-Montez da Serra do Gerez" of Bocage, 1857 (Mem. Acad. Sci. Lisboa, ser. 2, vol. 2, pt. 1, p. 1, pls. 1, 2). It is worthy of record that the Portuguese Ibex was given a valid technical name in 1872, thirty-seven years earlier than the generally accepted date. The correct reference is *Capra lusitanica* Schlegel, De Dierentuin van het Koninklijk Zoölogisch Genootschap Natura Artis Magistra te Amsterdam, Zoogdieren, p. 96, 1872. The animal there described as differing from *Capra pyrenaica* is the ibex of the mountains of southern Spain and of Portugal; a composite of the modern *Capra pyrenaica lusitanica* França, *C. p. victorie* Cabrera, and *C. p. hispanica* Schimper. The name may now be restricted to the ibex of Serra do Gerez, northern Portugal—the same form recently named *Capra lusitanica* by França; especially as Schlegel in an earlier paper (Jaarboekje Koninklijk Zoologisch Genootschap Natura Artis Magistra, 1857, p. 161), where the name is a *nomen nudum*, says that it has been applied to the Portuguese ibex ("Men heeft intusschen aan voorwerpen, uit Portugal afkomstig, den naam van *Capra lusitanica* gegeven"). This suggests a still earlier publication of the name which I have been unable to find.

—N. Hollister.

THE YELLOW RAIL IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

When Prof. W. W. Cooke prepared his list of birds of the District of Columbia, published in these Proceedings, vol. 21, pp. 107-118, April 11, 1908, he had only three records of the Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) in the District—one for 1879 and two for 1893. A fourth specimen should now be recorded. On May 20, 1917, Mrs. E. Caminetti sent to the National Zoological Park a live Yellow Rail just found in the yard at 307 C St. N. W., Washington, D. C. The bird, a female, was apparently in good condition but lived only four days. It was placed in the National Museum collection.

—N. Hollister.