

P R O C E E D I N G S
OF THE
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM.
1880.

REVISIONS OF NOMENCLATURE OF CERTAIN NORTH AMERICAN
BIRDS.

By **ROBERT RIDGWAY.**

The following emendations of nomenclature apply both to species enumerated in the latest published list of North American birds—Coues's "Check List,"* and others not contained therein. These two series are therefore included in separate categories, the former having, for convenience of reference, the corresponding number of the "Check List" prefixed to each name.

It is deemed inexpedient to give here a list of the species to be added to the Smithsonian Catalogue of 1859,† for the reason that they are sufficiently distinguished by the absence of the concordant number following each name, in the revised list following this paper.

a. SPECIES GIVEN IN COUES'S CHECK LIST.

4*b.* *Turdus AONALASCHKAE*, ‡ Gmel.—In my report on the ornithology of the fortieth parallel expedition I used the name "*guttata*, Pallas," as the earliest name certainly applicable to this species; but I now believe that Gmelin's name, *Turdus aonalaschkae*, based upon the *Unalaska Thrush* of Pennant (*Arctic Zoology*, II, p. 338) and *Aoonalashka Thrush* of Latham (*Synopsis*, II, i, p. 23), is the one which should be used. As in the case of *Muscicapa guttata*, Pall., there can be no doubt whatever that the western Dwarf Thrush (*Turdus nanus*, Auct., nec Aud.!) is the very species which these authors described under the above names. *Turdus aonalaschkae* being, therefore, the proper name for the Hermit Thrushes collectively, the Middle and Eastern Province forms should be called, respectively, *T. aonalaschkae auduboni* and *T. aonalaschkae pallasi*. With regard to the last, it is very evident that

* A Check List of North American Birds. By Elliot Coues. Salem. Naturalists' Agency. 1873. 8vo, pp. 137. (635 species.)

† Catalogue of North American Birds contained chiefly in the Museum of the Smithsonian Institution. By Spencer F. Baird. [First octavo edition.] Washington: Smithsonian Institution. 1859. ["Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, 103." Not paged; 733 species, including varieties, all consecutively numbered.]

‡ Small capitals indicate the name which is changed or emended.

Turdus nanus, Aud., was based upon a small specimen of the eastern Hermit Thrush, since Audubon distinctly says so in his account of the supposed species. The name *nanus* antedates *pallasi*; but the latter having been used, in a restricted sense, exclusively for the eastern race, while *nanus* has been almost wholly applied, of late years, to the small west-coast form now to be called *T. aonalaschkae*, it seems best to discard the name *nanus* altogether and adopt for the eastern birds that of *pallasi*, as next in order of date.

61. *HELONÆA swainsoni*, Aud.—According to Agassiz, the correct orthography of the generic name of this species (if to be separated from *Helmitherus*) is *Helonca* and not "*Helinacia*," as spelled by Audubon. (Cf. Newton, P. Z. S., 1879, p. 552.)

144a. *Leucosticte griseinucha* (Brandt) Bp.—The present indications are that this form does not intergrade with *L. tephrocotis*, but, on the contrary, is a well-defined species of very constant characters confined strictly to that portion of the Alaskan coast west of the one hundred and thirty-fifth degree of west longitude.

146a. *Ægiothus linaria*, "var. *fuscescens*."—No examples referable to the so-called *fuscescens* having ever been taken in winter, while the particular stage originally so named is represented by birds in highly intensified midsummer dress from various portions of subarctic America (the interior of the continent and coast of Alaska, as well as Labrador), the inference is natural that "*fuscescens*" represents simply the midsummer plumage of the common species. (Cf. Coues, Birds of the Northwest, 1874, p. 115.)

146b. *Ægiothus CANESCENS exilipes* (Coues) Ridgw.—There is every probability that *Æ. canescens* is a quite distinct species, since it occurs in almost every district inhabited by *Æ. linaria* (especially in the Neartic Region), and cannot therefore be a geographical race of the same species. *Æ. canescens* and *Æ. linaria holbölli* are the large boreal races breeding in Greenland; *Æ. canescens exilipes* and *Æ. linaria* proper are the smaller continental forms.

159a. *Passerculus ANTHINUS*, Bp.—This seems to be quite distinct from *P. sandwichensis*, and probably more nearly related to—

160a. *Passerculus GUTTATUS*, Lawr., which proves to be very distinct from *P. rostratus*.

165 a (Appendix). *Ammodromus nigrescens*, Ridgw.—As has already been insisted by Mr. Maynard (see Am. Sportsman, V. Jan. 16, 1875, p. 248), this bird is very probably distinct specifically from *A. maritimus*.

169. *Melospiza FASCIATA* (Gm.) Scott.—We can see no valid reason why Gmelin's name for this species should not be used instead of Wilson's, bestowed upon it nearly a quarter of a century later. (Cf. Scott,

Am. Nat., 1876, p. 17.) The recognizable forms of this species should therefore be known as (169*a*) *M. FASCIATA fallax*, (169*b*) *M. FASCIATA guttata*, (169*c*) *M. FASCIATA rufina*, (169*d*) *M. FASCIATA heermanni*, and (169*e*) *M. FASCIATA SAMUELIS (samuelis antedating gouldii)*.

169*f*. *Melospiza CINEREA* (Gm.) Ridgw.—Through the explorations of Messrs. Dall, Turner, and Nelson, the fauna of Unalashka has of late years been very thoroughly investigated, and we are thus able to identify the "Cinereous Finch" of Pennant (Arct. Zoology, II, p. 68) upon which Gmelin based his *Fringilla cinerea* (S. N., I, ii, p. 922) with the species which Professor Baird afterward named *Melospiza insignis* (Trans. Chicago Acad., I, i, p. 319, pl. 29, fig. 2). Through the same means it becomes equally certain that the *Oonalaska Bunting* of Pennant and Latham (*Emberiza unalascensis*, Gm., S. N., I, ii, p. 875) is, as some authors have long maintained, the bird usually called *Passerella townsendi* (Aud.). The known forms of *Passerella* having been proven by Mr. Henshaw to intergrade, and therefore, to constitute mere geographical races of a single species, they should be known by the following names:—

188. *P. iliaca* (Merrem) Sw.

‘189’*a*. *P. ILIACA UNALASCHCENSIS* (Gm.) Ridgw.

189*a*. *P. ILIACA schistacea* (Baird) Hensh.

— *P. ILIACA megarhyncha* (Baird) Hensh.—

the latter—connecting *unalascensis* with *schistacea*, but peculiar in the extremely robust bill and other characters—not being given in the "Check List."

170*a* (Appendix). *Peucaea arizonæ*, Ridgw.—There is very strong probability of this being quite distinct, specifically, from *P. aestivalis*. (See Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., I, 1878, p. 127, foot-note.)

177. *Spizella MONTANA* (Forst.) Ridgw.—Forster's name of *montana* applied to this species in 1772 antedates Gmelin's name *monticola* (1788), and, there being no objection to it otherwise, should be substituted for it.

180*a*. *Spizella BREWERI*, Cass.—Thus far there appears not the slightest evidence that this bird should be referred to *S. pallida*. The respective habitats of the two overlap quite considerably, and they may always be easily distinguished by the markings of the head.

191. *SPIZA americana* (Gm.) Bp.—In 1858 Professor Baird rejected the generic name *Spiza* for this species, for the reason that, although it "was first used in connection with *Emberiza americana*," it was "so mixed up with types of several other modern genera as to render it uncertain whether to apply it to one rather than to another"—at the same time remarking that "if *Spiza* pointed more unmistakably to the *E. americana* it might, perhaps, be necessary to adopt it." ("Birds N. Am.," p. 494.) Upon referring to the "Specchio Comparativo," where Bonaparte next, after its institution, mentions his genus *Spiza*, I find, in the

foot-note on p. 47, that he distinctly names *E. americana* as the type of the genus ("Reconoscemmo inoltre, che quest' uccello [*E. melanocephala*] è il perfetto analogo della *Fringilla americana* TIPO DI QUEL SOTTOGENRE"). Four years later, however, Bonaparte proposed the name *Euspiza* for the same type ("Saggio," p. 141), but according to recognized rules this later name becomes simply a synonym of *Spiza*, as does also Cabanis's name *Euspina*, the latter substituted for *Euspiza* (Mus. Hein., I, p. 133), under the misapprehension that the type of the latter was the *Emberiza melanocephala* of Scopoli (see M. H., p. 130)—a species not only generically distinct from *E. americana*, Gmel., but moreover hardly a member of the same subfamily.

201. *Phonipara* ZENA (Linn.) Bryant.—"*Fringilla bicolor*," Linn., S. N., ed. 12 (1766)=*F. zena*, Linn., S. N., ed. 10 (1758).

206. *Pipilo fuscus* MESOLEUCUS (Baird) B. B. & R.—The Arizona form of this species is very easily distinguishable from the true *fuscus* of Mexico, the latter being without the rufous cap of *mesoleucus*, the colors in general darker, etc.

212*b*. *Agelæus* TRICOLOR (Nutt.) Bp.—Totally distinct from *A. phænicæus*.

233. *Pica* RUSTICA *hudsonica* (Sab.) Baird.—The earliest available name for the European Magpie appears to be *Corvus rusticus*, Scopoli (1769), which considerably antedates "*melanoleuca*, Vieill." (1818), and is now adopted by European authorities. (Cf. Dresser, Birds of Europe, pt. xxii.) The American bird, therefore, if to be separated subspecifically from the European (for which there certainly seems sufficient reason), should be named as above.

239*a* (Appendix). *Perisoreus obscurus*, Ridgw.—Since the original description of this bird was published Mr. Henshaw has obtained additional specimens, and, by an examination of them, together with the types, has adopted Mr. Sharpe's conclusion (Cat. B. Brit. Mus., III, p. 105) that the form in question is a distinct species, an opinion in which I at present wholly agree. Not so, however, with *capitalis*, Baird, which Mr. Sharpe treats in the same manner; the latter unquestionably grades directly into *P. canadensis*, and consequently, notwithstanding it is a very strongly marked form, should be called *P. canadensis capitalis*.

The *Perisoreus obscurus* is of much more restricted range than was at first supposed, and probably does not extend much, if any, north of Sitka. The examples alluded to in Hist. N. Am. B. (Vol. II, p. 302), as coming from "north of Sitka and in the Yukon territory," and which were stated to "incline toward the var. *canadensis*," are in reality referable to *P. canadensis*, of which they constitute a separable race, distinguished by the less extent and dingy or smoky tinge of the frontal

white patch and generally darker colors. This new race may be characterized as follows:

PERISOREUS CANADENSIS FUMIFRONS, Ridgw.

CH.—Similar to *canadensis* proper, but colors darker and more dingy throughout, and the white of the forehead obscured, or even sometimes almost wholly obliterated, by a wash of smoky gray or brown.

Hab.—Coast of Alaska.

265. CAPRIMULGUS *vociferus*, Wils.—I can see no reason whatever for removing this bird from the genus *Caprimulgus*. The type of "*Antrostomus*" is the *C. carolinensis*, Gmel., which differs from all the other Caprimulgi (so far as I am aware) in possessing fine lateral filaments to the rictal bristles, so that, in case this character be deemed sufficient, the genus *Antrostomus* may stand, if restricted to the single species possessing this feature. (Cf. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., I, pp. 142, 143, pls. i, ii.)

266. PHALÆNOPTILUS *nuttalli* (Aud.) Ridgw.—This species is decidedly peculiar in the combination of its salient points of structure, having a lengthened, naked tarsus, like *Nyctidromus*, a characteristically velvety plumage, short, even tail, and unique wing-formula; features which, taken together, render it a very well-marked genus, which may be characterized as follows:—

PHALÆNOPTILUS, gen. nov.

CH.—Differing from *Caprimulgus* and "*Antrostomus*" in the short, even tail (much shorter than the wing), and lengthened, perfectly naked tarsus (longer than the middle toe), the first quill shorter than the fourth, and the plumage with a peculiar, velvety, moth-like surface.

Type, *Caprimulgus nuttalli*, Aud.

As stated on pages 142, 143, Proceedings of the United States National Museum, Vol. I (1878), the characters supposed to separate the American *Antrostomi* from the Old World species of *Caprimulgus*, particularly the type of the latter genus (*C. europæus*, L.), are wholly intangible, with the exception of *A. carolinensis*, which has minute lateral filaments to the rictal bristles, these being in all other species perfectly smooth, or simple. On the other hand, the *Caprimulgus nuttalli* of Audubon has so many decided peculiarities of structure that it is somewhat a matter of surprise that its place in the genus "*Antrostomus*" has not been questioned ere this. In fact, *P. nuttalli* is quite as distinct in its external structure from "*A.*" *vociferus* and its allies as is the *Nyctidromus albicollis*. The more prominent differences of structure in these forms may readily be seen by comparison of the birds themselves, or by examination of the outline drawings of plates I and II of the volume of the "Proceedings" referred to above.

268. *Chordeiles ACUTIPENNIS texensis* (Lawr.) B. B. & R.—The *Chordeiles texensis* of Lawrence is merely a slightly different northern form

of *C. acutipennis* (Bodd.) Cass., of South America. (See Selater, P. Z. S. 1866, p. 134, and Hist. N. Am. B., II, pp. 400, 407.)

267. *Chordeiles* POPETUE (Vieill.) Baird.—Brisson's name *virginianus* was not restricted to this species until many years after the institution of Vieillot's name *popetue*; the latter, therefore, notwithstanding its barbarous character, is, by all the rules, entitled to retention.

269. *CYPSELUS saxatilis* (Woodh.) Ridgw.—This species agrees so very closely in details of structure with *C. melba*, Linn., that there seems to be no good reason for separating it generically from the genus *Cypselus*, unless *C. melba* also is removed to another genus. The type of *Panyptila* being the *Cypselus cayannensis*, Gmel., the elimination of *C. saxatilis* does not, of course, affect the validity of the latter genus, as properly restricted; still, there is not much more difference of form between "*Panyptila*" *cayannensis* and *C. saxatilis* than between *C. melba* and *C. apus*, the latter being the type of *Cypselus*. *C. apus* has the feet much weaker and the tarsus much more densely feathered than *C. melba*; *C. saxatilis* is nearly intermediate in this respect, though coming much nearer to *C. melba*.

273. *BASILINNA xantusi* (Lawr.) Elliot.—See Elliot's "Synopsis of the Trochilidæ*," p. 227.

284. *Trogon* AMBIGUUS, Gould.—The species described in "Birds of North America," and figured in the atlas to that work, is the present one, and not *T. mexicanus*. The latter is chiefly distinguished by the absence of white bars on the tail-feathers, which are uniform black underneath, except the broad white tip.

295. *XENOPICUS albolarvatus* (Cass.) Bd.—In addition to the very tangible external characters pointed out by Professor Baird in his characterization of a subgenus *Xenopicus* (B. N. Am., p. 83), may be mentioned the fact that the tongue is scarcely extensile, its tip, when fully protruded, reaching only $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch beyond the tip of the bill, or just the same as in *Sphyrapicus thyroideus*, while in *Picus villosus harrisi* the protrusion amounts to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, or $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches more! (See Orn. 40th Parallel, pp. 546, 548, and 552, under lists of specimens of the above species.)

301. *Picoïdes* TRIDACTYLUS *americanus* (Brehm) B. B. & R.—As pointed out in "History of North American Birds" (Vol. II, pp. 529–534), the differences between the American and European white-backed species of this genus are very slight, and by no means sufficient to warrant specific separation. The common form should therefore be known as above, and the Rocky Mountain race, if deemed sufficiently distinct, as—

* A Classification and Synopsis of the Trochilidæ. By Daniel Giraud Elliot, F. R. S. E., etc. Washington City: Published by the Smithsonian Institution ["Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge," No. 317.] [March, 1879.]

301a. *Picooides TRIDACTYLUS dorsalis* (Baird) B. B. & R.

314. *Colaptes AURATUS mexicanus* (Sw.).

The above combination becomes absolutely necessary in view of the indisputable and wholesale intergradation of the *auratus* and *mexicanus* types of this species. In the present case is afforded an excellent example of the difficulties in the way of consistent nomenclature, whether binomial or trinomial.

316. *ALUCO flammeus PRATINCOLA* (Bonap.) Ridgw.—Professor Newton has, we think, clearly demonstrated* that the proper type of the Linnæan genus *Strix* is not *S. flammea*, but *S. stridula*, subsequently made the type of Savigny's genus *Syrnium*; and that *Aluco*, Fleming (1828), should stand as the generic name of the Barn Owls. Audubon's name, "*americana*" (1839), for the American Barn Owl is antedated by *pratincola*, Bonap. (1838), which should, in consequence, stand as the subspecific name for this form.

318b. *Scops asio MACCALLI* (Cass.) Cones.—In the "Proceedings of the U. S. Nat. Mus." for 1878 (Vol. I, pp. 109–111), I formally referred the "*Scops asio* var. *enano*" of Lawrence to *S. maccalli*, Cassin, and in a foot-note on p. 111 refer Mr. Sennett's specimens to the latter. This fact, however, seems to have been overlooked by both Dr. Cones and Mr. Sennett, who, in their last paper, continue to call the variety "*S. asio enano*."†

320. *ASIO wilsonianus* (Less.).—Brisson's genus *Asio* appears to be unquestionably that which should be applied to the long-eared owls, and has long since been adopted by some authorities. Admitting that the short-eared species (*Strix accipitrina*, Pall.) cannot be separated generically, it would have to be called—

321. *ASIO accipitrinus* (Pall.) Newton.

323. *STRIX nebulosa*, Forst.—Professor Newton's very correct conclusion that the proper type of the Linnæan genus *Strix* is the *S. stridula*, necessitates the above change in the generic name of this American congener of that species.

The Floridan birds of *S. nebulosa* I find to be so different from northern examples as to well merit subspecific separation. In his memorable work on the birds of East Florida (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., I, p. 340) Mr. Allen refers to the much darker color of Floridan specimens, but apparently overlooks the naked toes. It is with pleasure that I dedicate this race to one who has done such eminent service not only to the ornithology of Florida, but to the science in general.

* Cf. Yarrell's Brit. Birds, ed. 4, vol. i, p. 150, and The Ibis, ser. iii, vol. vi, pp. 94–105.

† Since these pages were put in type, I have discovered that the name stands as above given in the "Check List." The notice of the species here was therefore an oversight.

STRIX NEBULOSA ALLENI, Ridgw.

CH.—Similar to typical *nebulosa*, but toes wholly destitute of feathers or bristles, being perfectly bare to the extreme base; colors darker than in *nebulosa*, with less ochraceous, the tail scarcely barred on the basal half, and the bars on the breast much more distinct, as well as narrower and more continuous.

Hab.—Florida (Clearwater).

The above characters I find to be constant in a series of three specimens (two ♂ and one ♀) sent to the National Museum by Col. S. T. Walker, of Clearwater, Florida. Not only are the toes perfectly bare, but the feathers clothing the tarsi are much shorter than in northern *nebulosa*, thus causing the legs to appear much more slender. The only feathering on the toes consists of a small pointed strip on the outer side of the first phalanx of the middle toe, reaching about to the second joint.

324. *STRIX occidentalis* (Xant.) Ridgw.

Assuming that the Great Grey Owls are sufficiently distinct generically from the foregoing, they should be known as—

322. *SCOTIAPTEX cinereum* (Gmel.) Swains., and

[322 a.] *SCOTIAPTEX cinereum lapponicum* (Retz.) Ridgw.

236. *Surnia ulula* FUNEREA (Linn.) Rich. & Sw.—In the 10th edition of "*Systema Naturæ*" Linnæus describes on the same page (93) *Strix funerea* and *S. ulula*, in the order here given; the former being based on "Fn. succ. 51," the "*ulula flammeata*, Frisch. av. t. 9" being doubtfully quoted; "Habitat in Europa." *S. ulula* is based upon "Fn. succ. 52—*Ulula*, Gesn. av. 773, Aldr. ornith, l. 8, c. 6; Will. ornith. 68, t. 13, Ray. av. 26, n. 4;" the habitat also "in Europa." In neither case would the diagnoses given determine the species independent of the references. In the 12th edition, however, *S. ulula* is mentioned first, with the same diagnosis and habitat, but with additional or more explicit references. *S. funerea* follows, with an additional diagnosis which renders the species unmistakable, and a reference to "*Strix canadensis*," Briss. av. I, p. 518, t. 37, f. 2, which we know to be the American Hawk Owl. Furthermore, there is added to the habitat "*America septentrionali*." It is therefore difficult to decide which of the two names has priority as the specific designation. If the *S. funerea* is to be regarded the same in both editions, then this name, as occurring first on the page, would be entitled to that claim; but there is nothing whatever in the account of *Strix funerea* of edition 10 to show that it is anything more than the European Hawk Owl; or, in other words, the same as the species called on the same page *S. ulula*. As the matter stands, we prefer to take *funerea* of 1766 as the earliest date of the name as applied to the American bird, and to call the species *S. ulula*, the latter name being of certain application in the 10th edition, while it precedes *funerea* in the 12th.

347. *Falco FUSCO-CÆRULESCENS*, Vieill.—See Sharpe, "Catalogue of the Accipitres in the British Museum," I, p. 400.

353. *Buteo* ABBREVIATUS, Caban.—See Sharpe, as above, p. 163, who, however, refers it to the genus "*Tachytriorchis*." See, also, Selater & Salvin's "Nomenclator Avium Neotropicalium," p. 118.

363. *Polyborus* CHERIWAY (Jacq.) Caban.—See Sharpe, t. c., p. 33. This species appears to be quite distinct from *P. tharus*.

364. PSEUDOGRYPHUS *californianus* (Shaw) Ridgw.—Concerning the validity of this genus, see Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club., April, 1880, p. —.

366. CATHARISTA (*atrata*, Bartr.).—If the name *atrata*, as now almost universally applied to this species, is to be accredited to Bartram, it has priority over all the synonyms; but if we are to reject Bartram's names on account of his frequent "lapses" from binomialism, or his equally bad practice of omitting descriptions (which, however, is not the case with regard to his mention of the present species), then *urubu* of Vieillot (1809) takes precedence over *atrata* of Wilson (1812), which comes next in order of date.

368. *Columba* ERYTHRINA, Licht.—Although there is no law compelling the adoption of a museum name, I prefer to do so in this case rather than propose a new one, since Lichtenstein's name *erythrina* is a very appropriate one. The name by which this species has usually been known—*C. "flavirostris*, Wagler"—is "glaringly false," and, therefore, to be rejected, according to the rules of the British Association.* It is true that the bill sometimes appears yellowish in the dried skin, but in life it is always some shade of purple or pink, whitish at the extremity. Whatever it may be, it is impossible to identify McCall's *C. solitarius* with this species. If his description was really penned from a specimen, his bird has not yet been rediscovered, no known North American Pigeon corresponding at all closely with his description. In any event it cannot be the present species, which never has "brilliant reflections" on either neck or breast, nor the back or under wing-coverts "light-red color."

378. ORTALIS *vetula macalli* (Baird) Ridgw.—In regard to this emendation of the generic name, see Wharton, "The Ibis," Oct., 1879, p. 450. I find the Texan birds easily distinguishable from Mexican examples (true *vetula*).

380. CANACE *canadensis* (Linn.) Reich.—None of the American grouse usually referred to *Tetrao* resemble at all closely the type of the latter genus, *T. urogallus*, Linn. They appear, in fact, nearly as distinct from *Tetrao* proper as are *Bonasa* or *Pediæcetes*, or other recognized American genera. It seems scarcely advisable, however, to admit a genus "*Dendragapus*" for the special accommodation of *C. obscura* in its various forms.

396. *Charadrius* DOMINICUS, Müll.—Müller's name for the American Golden Plover, dating 1776, should take precedence over *fulvus*, Gmel., bestowed twelve years later (1788), as the name of the *species*. The Asiatic form should therefore be called *C. dominicus fulvus* (Gmel.)

* Cf. Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Jan., 1880, p. 37.

400 *bis* (Appendix). *Ægialitis* CURONICA (Gm.) Gray.*—This supposed new species proves to be the Lesser Ringed Plover of the Old World, *Æ. curonica* (Gm.) Gray, the principal synonyms of which are the following. It may be considered doubtful whether the specimen really was obtained near San Francisco, as stated on the label.

Charadrius curonicus, GMEL., S. N., I, 1788, 692.

Ægialitis curonicus, GRAY, Cat. Brit. B, 1863, 141.—HARTING, Handb. Brit. B. 1872, 134.

Charadrius philippinus, LATHL., Ind. Orn., II, 1790, 745.

Charadrius fluviatilis, BECHST., Naturg. Vög. Deutschl., 1809, 422.

Charadrius minor, MEYER & WOLF, Taschen. Vög. Deutschl., 1810, 324.

Charadrius intermedius, MÉNÉTR., Catal. —, 53.

Charadrius zonatus, SWAINS., B. W. Afr., II, —, 235, pl. 25.

Ægialitis microrhynchus, RIDGW., Am. Nat., VIII, Feb. 1874, 109 ("San Francisco, Cal.").

408. *Himantopus MEXICANUS* (Müller) Ord.—Müller's name dates 1776; thirty-one years earlier than *nigricollis*, Vieill.

413. *Scolopax RUSTICULA* (Linn.) Wharton.—See "The Ibis," Oct., 1879, p. 453.

442 *bis* (Appendix). *Numenius TAHITIENSIS* (Gm.).—The earliest name for the bird afterwards named *Numenius femoralis* by Mr. Peale is *Scolopax tahitiensis*, Gmel. (S. N., I, ii, 1788, p. 656, n. 22).

448. *AJAJA ROSEA* (Briss.) Ridgw.—The American Spoonbill being a very distinct generic type, for which Reichenbach proposed (in 1853) the name *Ajaja*, it becomes necessary to change the specific name also. There is not, unfortunately, any post-Linnaean synonym for this species, with the exception of "*Platea mexicana*, Willoughby," as used by Gambel in 1849 (Jour. of Philad. Acad., I, p. 222). Gambel, however, gives no description; and, moreover, since the name "*mexicana*" is simply quoted from Willoughby, it seems best to adopt Brisson's very appropriate name of *rosea*, in justice to the accurate and complete description of the species in the work of that author.

454. *HYDRANASSA TRICOLOR* (Müll.) Ridgw.—If the Herons are to be subdivided at all, it seems quite necessary to recognize the generic name which, in 1858, Professor Baird proposed for this species (B. N. Am., p. 669), the earliest designation of which is *Ardea tricolor*, Müller (1776).

455. *DICHROMANASSA rufa* (Bodd.) Ridgw.—See Bull. U. S. Geol. and Geog. Survey Terr., vol. iv, no. 1, p. 246.

460. *Botaurus LENTIGINOSUS* (Montag.) Stephens.—This appears to be the earliest designation of the species.

*Am. Nat., VIII, Feb., 1874, p. 109.

466 a (Appendix). *Rallus obsoletus*, Ridgw.—This proves to be quite distinct from *R. elegans*, being, in fact, more nearly related to *R. longirostris* (sive “*crepitans*”).

472. *Gallinula galeata* (Licht.) Bp.—Quite distinct specifically from *G. chloropus*, Lath.

473. *IONORNIS martinica* (Linn.).—This species has usually been referred to either *Porphyrio*, Briss., or *Porphyryula*, Blyth, but it is exceedingly distinct generically from both these types, particularly the former. The generic name *Ionornis*, instituted for its special reception, by Reichenbach in 1853 (Nat. Syst., p. xxi), seems to be the earliest one available.

488. *Anas BOSCAS*, Linn.—See Wharton, “The Ibis,” Oct., 1879, p. 453).

489 a (Appendix). *Anas fulvigula*, Ridgw.—This bird proves very distinct from *A. obscura*.

526. *Pelecanus ERYTHORHYNCHUS*, Gmel.—This name antedates “*trachyrhynchus*, Lath.,” by two years, and, being no less appropriate, there is no valid reason why it should not be retained. (Cf. Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Jan., 1880, p. 36.)

525. *Sula LEUCOGASTRA* (Bodd.) Salvin.—See Salvin, Trans. Zool. Soc. Lond., IX, ix, 1875, 496.

529. *PHALACROCORAX DILOPHUS cincinnatus* (Brandt) Ridgw.—This is simply the large northwestern form of *P. dilophus*, no more entitled to specific separation than var. *floridanus*, which represents the opposite extreme of size.

In regard to the generic name of the Cormorants, it appears that we will have to use *Phalacrocorax*, Briss., instead of *Graculus*, the latter, properly applied, having for its type the *Corvus graculus*, Linn., = *Gracula pyrrhocorax*, Scop. (Conf. Sharpe, Cat. Passerif. Brit. Mus., p. 146, foot-note.)

547 b. *Larus OCCIDENTALIS*, Aud.

548 a. *Larus CALIFORNICUS*, Lawr.

549. *Larus BRACHYRHYNCHUS*, Rich.

The above appear to be quite well-defined and distinct species; the first more nearly related to *L. affinis*, Reinh., than to *argentatus*; the second much nearer to *L. cachinnans*, Pall., than to *delawarensis*.

581. *OSSIFRAGA gigantea* (Gmel.) Homb. & Jacq.—A very distinct genus from *Fulmarus*.

580. *PILEBETRIA fuliginosa* (Gmel.) Coues.—Appears to be sufficiently distinct generically from *Diomedea*.

583. *PRIOCELLA tenuirostris* (Aud.)——. —This bird seems sufficiently distinct generically from *Fulmarus*, and has been made the type of *Priocella*, by Hombron & Jacquinot (Compt. Rend., XVIII, 1844, p. 357.)

595. *PRIOFINUS melanurus* (Bonn.) ——. —This species is the type of the genus *Priofinus*, Homb. & Jacq. (t. c. p. 355).

600. *Puffinus AUDUBONI*, Finsch.—The *Procellaria obscura* of Gmel. has been determined by Dr. Finsch (see P. Z. S. 1872, p. 111) to be a Pacific Ocean species, distinguished from the *Puffinus obscurus* of recent authors by its white underwing-coverts and other characters. Dr. Finsch therefore proposed for the Atlantic species the name *auduboni*, as above.

601. *Puffinis GAVIA* (Forst.) Finsch.—See Giglioli & Salvadori, Ibis, 1869, p. 63; Finsch, Jour. für Orn., 1872, p. 256.

603. *Puffinus GRISEUS* (Gmel.) Finsch.—*Cf.* Finsch, Jour. für Orn., 1874, p. 209; Salvin, Rowley's Orn. Misc., iv, 1876, p. 236.

619. *LUNDA cirrhata*, Pall.—Sufficiently distinct generically from the species of *Fratercula*.

623. *Simorhynchus PYGMÆUS* (Gmel.) Ridgw.—The *Alca pygmaea* of Gmelin is unquestionably the young of this species, afterward named "*S. cassini*" by Dr. Coues. *Alca kamtschatica*, Lepechin, is the same species in adult (winter?) plumage.

b. SPECIES AND SUBSPECIES NOT IN COUES'S CHECK LIST.

SIURUS NÆVIUS NOTABILIS, Grinnell, MS.

CH.—Similar to *S. navius*, but much larger. Wing, 3.25; tail, 2.50; bill, from nostril, .50; depth at base, .25; tarsus, .83; middle toe, .56. Above dark grayish brown, the feathers of the pileum with indistinctly darker centres. Beneath yellowish white, the throat thickly spotted, and the breast and sides heavily streaked with blackish dusky; a superciliary stripe of pale fulvous, hardly extending back to the end of the auriculars. Lores crossed by a distinct streak of black. Centre of the abdomen immaculate; lower tail-coverts with central streaks of grayish dusky; lining of the wing smoky gray. Bill brownish black, the mandible growing lighter brown basally. Feet horn-color.

Hab.—Black Hills, Wyoming (Mus. G. B. Grinnell).

The plumage of this bird is in all respects, so far as I can see, quite identical with that of ordinary darker plumaged specimens of *S. navius*, except that the superciliary stripe does not extend so far back and the streaks on the breast are broader; the former character may be merely apparent, however, and owing to the manner of skinning.

Parus CINCTUS, Bodd.—In accrediting this species to the North American fauna, on the strength of specimens collected in Alaska by Mr. Lucien M. Turner*, I inadvertently called it "*P. sibiricus*, Gmel.," at the time overlooking the priority of the name *cinctus*.

MYIARCHUS MEXICANUS (Kaup) Lawr.

Tyrannula mexicana, KAUP, P. Z. S., Feb. 11, 1851, 51.†

Myiarchus mexicanus, LAWR., Ann. Lye. N. Y., IX., 1869, 202 (nec Baird, B. N. Am., 1858, p. 179).

??? *Tyrannula cooperi*, KAUP, l. c. (Mexico).‡

Myiarchus cooperi, BAIRD, B. N. Am., 1858, 180 (based on the above).

Myiarchus erythrocerus, SCL. & SALV., P. Z. S. 1868, 631, 632 (Tobago & Venezuela).

Myiarchus yucatanensis, LAWR., Pr. Philad. Acad. 1871, 235.

Myiarchus oberi, LAWR., Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci., I, 1877, 48 (Dominica, W. I.).

Disclaiming any desire to prolong the discussion inaugurated by me in Vol. I of these Proceedings (p. 139), I however feel called upon, by Mr. Sennett's comments in his "Further Notes on the Ornithology of the Rio Grande" (Bull. U. S. Geol. & Geog. Survey, Vol. V, No. 3, pp. 402-404), to offer a few additional remarks on the subject.

The synonymy of *Myiarchus mexicanus* (Kaup) Lawr., as given above, includes all the binomial synonyms of the species in question, so far as I am aware; and in view of Mr. Selater's positive declaration (P. Z. S. 1871, p. 84) that "*Tyrannula mexicana* of Kaup is identical with *Myiarchus cooperi* of Baird," I do not see how we can avoid using Kaup's name for the species. Mr. Selater's opinion certainly cannot be set aside, for he made actual comparison of Kaup's type specimen with the very examples which Professor Baird called *M. cooperi*, and found them "identical."

The name *erythrocerus*, Scl., was proposed three years before Mr. Selater made this discovery, and was, moreover, based on examples from Tobago, Venezuela, and Bahía, and was described as "similar to *M. cooperi* [i. e., *mexicanus*, Kaup], but much smaller," etc.

In 1871, Mr. Lawrence, being apparently unaware of Dr. Selater's identification of *T. mexicanus*, Kaup, with Professor Baird's *M. cooperi*, and accepting the latter's identification of *mexicanus* with his (L.'s) *cinerascens* of later date, redescribed the Mexican bird as *M. yucatanensis*; and in 1877, on the ground of certain differences of plumage and size, separated (from *M. "erythrocerus"*) the specimens from the Lesser Antilles (Dominica) by naming them *M. oberi*.

* Cf. Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Jan., 1878, p. 37.

† "I do not . . . hesitate to decide that *Tyrannula mexicana* of Kaup is identical with *Myiarchus cooperi* of Baird."—SCL., P. Z. S. 1871, p. 84."

‡ "What *Tyrannula cooperi*, Kaup, is . . . does not now much signify. . . But it is not to be supposed that Professor Kaup would make two species of the same bird in the same paper. Therefore, *Tyrannula cooperi* of Kaup is probably not *Myiarchus cooperi* of Baird."—SCL., l. c.

Such is, in brief, the history of the case. The point at issue, however, is whether specimens of this species from the Rio Grande Valley in Texas are to be referred to *mexicanus* proper or to an assumed race, "*erythrocerus*." The species was originally introduced to the United States fauna under the name "*M. erinitus erythrocerus* (Sel. & Salv.) Coues" (Bull. U. S. Geol. & Geog. Surv. Ter., Vol. IV, No. 1, p. 32), and was subsequently mentioned by the present writer as "*M. erythrocerus* var. *cooperi*" (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., I, 1878, p. 138), both of which I believe to be incorrect—the former on account of the reference of the species to *M. erinitus*, and, probably, in the use of the name *erythrocerus* instead of *mexicanus*; the latter, because *erythrocerus* is the subsequent name, and cannot, therefore, be used for the specific designation, while *cooperi* is also very doubtfully referable to this species. In order, however, to present the case as briefly and clearly as possible it will be necessary to discuss the several points separately.

First, as to the reference of this species to *erinitus*: I do not see how this can possibly be done without bringing in also *M. cinerascens* and *M. stolidus* (see Hist. N. Am. B., Vol. II, p. 331); and even then I much doubt whether *erinitus* and *mexicanus* ever intergrade, since I have examined many scores of specimens, but have yet to find a specimen that is truly intermediate.* There is, however, in Southwestern Mexico a very small race of *mexicanus*, which can be distinguished from *cinerascens* only by the extension of the rufous of the retrices to the extreme tip of the inner web, they being in every other respect apparently quite identical. There are several such examples in the national collection, obtained in Tehuantepec by Professor F. Sumichrast.

Second: It is much to be regretted that neither Dr. Kaup nor Dr. Selater give measurements of the type specimens of *T. mexicanus*, since we might then readily determine whether this name belongs to the large or the small race of the species as occurring in Mexico. Since, however, Dr. Selater remarks that "it (the said type) is certainly rather smaller in dimensions than two of my skins of this species (*i. e.*, "*M. cooperi*," Baird), and has the bill smaller"; and that "a third specimen in my collection, which I also refer to the (so-called) *M. cooperi* of Baird, agrees very well with it in general dimensions, and has the bill even slightly smaller," it appears very evident that Kaup's *T. mexicana* was not based on one of the very large individuals of this species, but one of medium size, corresponding to the Rio Grande specimens. Further than this, the individual variations among Mexican specimens of this species affect only the size and proportions, not colors—at least not to any especially noticeable extent.

Third: I find upon re-examination of all the material in the national

* In Hist. N. Am. Birds, Vol. II, p. 331, we predicated the intergradation of these two species on the characters of an individual from Nicaragua, which, however, Dr. Coues (Pr. Philad. Acad. 1872, p. 68) says, and which I also now believe, is not distinguishable from *M. erinitus*.

collection (embracing numerous specimens received since my last paper was written), that specimens from the *patria* of *erythrocerus* proper (Venezuela, Tobago, Bahia, and other parts of South America) are uniformly darker colored than the smaller Mexican examples, though they may fully equal them in size. This darkness of color is carried to an extreme degree in Antillean specimens, and constitutes, so far as I am able to see, the sole distinguishing character of Mr. Lawrence's "*M. oberi*," as compared with the continental forms of the species *en masse*.

Finally, I therefore conclude that, whatever may be the character of Central American specimens (of course they are intermediate), or whether the name *mexicana* is to be applied to the larger or smaller race of the Mexican bird (and the odds are strongly in favor of the latter), that (1) the name *erythrocerus* should, if to be used at all, be restricted to examples agreeing strictly with the South American "race," since it is subsequent in date to *mexicanus*; and (2) that the Rio Grande birds are probably exactly like the type of the latter.*

Nyctidromus ALBICOLLIS (Gmel.) Burm.—As explained some years since by Dr. Sclater (see P. Z. S. 1861, p. 10, and 1866, p. 144), the earliest name for this species is *Caprimulgus albicollis* Gmel. (S. N., I, ii, 1788, p. 1030), the *C. americanus* of Linnæus, quoted by Mr. Cassin (Proc. Philad. Acad. 1851, pp. 179, 180) and some other authors (see Mr. Sennett's two lists) being unquestionably a Jamaican species belonging to quite a different genus (*Siphonorhis americana*). All the synonyms and the more important references are given in my notes in Dr. Merrill's paper (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., I, pp. 143 and 144).

LACIE latirostris (Sw.) Elliot.—This species, introduced to the fauna of the United States by Mr. Henshaw (*cf.* American Sportsman, v, Feb. 20, 1875, p. 328; Zoology Wheeler's Exp., Orn., p. 380) under the name of *Circe latirostris*, should be hereafter known by the above name, the genus *Circe* being previously employed in another branch of zoology (see Elliott, Synopsis of the Trochilidæ, p. 234).

NOMONYX, gen. nov.

CH.—Similar to *Erismatura*, but differing from all the species of that genus in the form of the maxillary unguis, which is similar to that of *Fulix* and allied genera, the same being in *Erismatura* the most peculiar and important generic character.

Type, *Anas dominica*, Linn.

Altogether the most distinctive feature of the genus *Erismatura* consists in the remarkably peculiar conformation of the maxillary unguis,

* It seems proper to offer here a word of explanation in reference to the second paragraph on page 403 of Mr. Sennett's paper, which says (referring to my remarks on this species in Dr. Merrill's list): "There is no notice whatever of my specimen from Hidalgo, Tex., . . . which is in the National Museum, and which is the first record of its existence within our limits, and which Mr. Ridgway no doubt examined when he coincided with Dr. Coues as to its identification." The explanation I have to make is, that at the time my paper was written and printed the specimen in question was not in the National Museum collection, but, with other birds, had been returned to Mr. Sennett, at his request, for examination.

or nail of the upper mandible. This, viewed from above, is extremely small, narrow, and linear, the broader terminal half being bent very abruptly downward and backward, so as to be visible only from in front or below. With the sole exception of *Anas dominica*, Linn., all the species usually referred to this genus agree strictly with the type, *Anas leucocephala*, Scop., notwithstanding other characters are more or less variable. *Anas dominica*, Linn., has the nail of normal form, or very much like that prevailing among the ducks generally, and on this account should be separated generically from *Erismatura*.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF BIRD OF THE FAMILY
TURDIDÆ, FROM THE ISLAND OF DOMINICA, W. I.

By GEO. N. LAWRENCE.

Margarops dominicensis.

Margarops herminieri, Lawr. nec Lafr., Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. I, p. 52.

Male.—The entire upper plumage is of a rich dark brown, the crown is darker and has the edges of the feathers of a lighter shade; tail and quill feathers of a darker brown than the back; axillars and under wing-coverts white; the lores are blackish brown; the feathers back of the eyes and the ear-coverts have narrow shaft streaks of pale rufous; the feathers of the neck and upper part of the breast are of a warm dark brown, those of the chin and middle of the throat with light rufous centres, those of the lower part of the neck and the upper part of the breast have also light rufous centres, but in addition each feather has a light terminal spot; on the lower part of the breast and on the sides the feathers have white centres, bordered strikingly with brown; the markings of the breast-feathers are squamiform in shape, those of the sides lanceolate; the abdomen is white, a few feathers on the upper part are very narrowly margined with brown; under tail-coverts brown, terminating with white; outer feathers of thighs brown, the inner whitish; "iris tea-color;" there is a naked space around the eye; bill yellow, with the basal half of the upper mandible dusky; tarsi and toes pale yellow.

Length (fresh), 9 inches; wing, 5; tail $3\frac{1}{2}$; tarsus, $1\frac{3}{4}$; bill from front, $\frac{15}{16}$, from gap, $1\frac{1}{8}$.

Type in United States National Museum.

Mr. Ober sent five specimens of this form from Dominica, all males and closely resembling each other. It is probable, as in the allied species, that the females do not differ in plumage materially from the males.

Mr. Ober's collection from Dominica contained three species of *Margarops* which I never had seen before. These were referred to known species, two of them, I think, correctly; but the one which is the subject of this article I now find was erroneously considered to be *M. herminieri*, Lafr. I supposed these species would be the same as those recorded