

ON SOME GENERIC AND SPECIFIC APPELLATIONS OF NORTH AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN BIRDS.

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Looking at the ornithological nomenclature and the changes which it daily undergoes, in consequence of the radical introduction of the oldest generic or specific appellations, without considering that many commonly adopted names thus become expelled, we feel it to be our duty to make this transitional state as short as possible, by presenting the evidences we may possess, and by proposing those changes which appear necessary.

The following remarks are chiefly proposed in reference to the names of North American and European birds, as they are given in the latest catalogues of birds from those regions, viz: ROBERT RIDGWAY'S "Nomenclature of North American Birds" (Washington, 1881), and H. E. DRESSER'S "List of European Birds" (London, 1881).

As to the rules of the nomenclature, it seems to me that the best are those which present the smallest number of exceptions, and which, once adopted, give the least occasion for disputes. I therefore propose to use the oldest available name in every case, where it can be proved, and to spell it exactly as it was spelled when published for the first time, notwithstanding incorrect derivation, barbarous offspring, error facti, &c.

The significance of a name, by means of the sound and the appearance, is to give a conception of the named object as being different from all other objects. If it, at the same time, can be formed so that it indicates one or another chief property of the object, then it is the better. The main point is, however, that we, by hearing or seeing the name, will get an idea of the object as being different from any other.

That names which do not signify anything cause no inconvenience worth mentioning is evident from the numberless specific names, indicating a quality common to all the species within the same genus, *e. g.* *cinereus*, *fuscus*, etc. It may be rather tedious that the names are incorrect, but the simply endless number of incorrect names with which we daily work, without feeling especially troubled, and which probably no one intends to change or to correct, shows better than anything else how unimportant the corrections and improvements are for facilitating the work. I think that we may very soon agree that many corrections have caused more trouble than relief, as for instance such improvements as *Heniconetta* for *Eniconetta*, and the like, and that they only have succeeded in swelling our lists of synonyms.

The only rule which can be carried out with safety, is the use of the oldest name, without regard to its appearance, derivation, or signification. If this be adopted, most differences would disappear from the

nomenclature, and it is in fact the only rule which is able to establish a passable uniformity in place of the present variety. Once universally accepted and put in practice, it would save much time, labor, and dispute; disputes concerning year and date may easily be settled, while all philological and linguistic disagreements may be thereby avoided. The question as to which species one or another name is to be referred has nothing to do with the rules of nomenclature, and are therefore liable to come up at any time.

As to the following remarks, it will be seen that some of the pages quoted are given in brackets. This signifies that the author has not had opportunity of verifying them, and that he therefore does not answer for their correctness. All the other citations have been carefully gone over, and are thought to be quite correct. He has followed this method in his later papers, and intends to proceed so in all his works in the future.

In order to show how far carelessness in quotation and excessive zeal concerning philological correctness may bring it, I select from the synonymy of *Phoenicurus titys*, p. 30, the following bouquet: *titys*, *tithys*, *thytis*, *tythis*, *tithis*, *thitis*, *tites*, *tethys*; and many other modes of spelling this word are surely to be found by a scrupulous investigation through the whole literature. Now please, dear reader, if you are as learned a philologist as an ornithologist, choose the right one!

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 21, 1882.

## RUTICILLA

is untenable as a generic name for the European Redstart and its allies, as the group had already, in 1817, received the name

*Phoenicurus* FORST.

- SYN. = 1817—*Phoenicurus* FORST. Syn. Cat. Brit. Birds, p. 53.  
 1822—*Ruticilla* NAUMANN, Naturg. Vög. Deutschl. I, p. iii.  
 1831—*Phoenicura* SWAINS. Fauna Br.-Amer. II, Append. p. 489.

The synonymy of the European species is as follows:

### 1. *Phoenicurus erithacus* (LIN.) 1758.

- 1758.—*Motacilla phoenicurus* LIN., Syst. Nat. ed. 10, I, p. 187.  
 1758.—*Motacilla erithacus* LIN., *ut supra*.  
 1817.—*Phoenicurus ruticilla* FORSTER, Syn. Cat. Brit. Birds, p. 16.  
 1817.—*Phoenicurus muralis* FORSTER, *op. cit.* p. 53.  
 1831.—*Ruticilla sylvestris* BRM., Handb. Vög. Deutschl. p. 363.  
 1831.—*Ruticilla arborea* BRM., *ut supra*.  
 1831.—*Ruticilla hortensis* BRM., *tom. cit.* p. 364.  
 1831.—*Phoenicura muraria* SWAINS., Fauna Bor.-Amer. II, App. p. 489.  
 1836.—*Phoenicura rutacilla* SWAINS., Classif. Birds, II, p. 240 (*nec Motacilla ruticilla* LIN.).  
 1854.—*Sylvia phenicurus* MACHADO, Aves Andal. p. 8.  
 1863.—*Ruticilla pectoralis* v. Hengl. Journ. f. Orn. 1863 (p. 165).

2. *Phoenicurus titys* (LIN.).

- 1758.—*Motacilla titys* LIN., Syst. Nat. ed. 10, I, p. 187.  
 1766.—*Motacilla phoenicurus* LIN., Syst. Nat. ed. 12, I, p. 335 (*passim*).  
 1769.—*Sylvia tithys* SCOP. Ann. I, Hist. Nat. p. 157.  
 1788.—*Motacilla gibraltariensis* GRU., Syst. Nat. I, p. 987.  
 1788.—*Motacilla atrata* GRU., tom. cit. p. 988 (*nec* JARD. & SELB.).  
 1792.—*Motacilla erithacus* BECHST., Gemeinn. Naturg. I, p. 535 (*nec* LIN.).  
 1803.—*Sylvia tithis* BECHST., Taschb. Vög. Deutschl. p. 179.  
 1810.—*Motacilla erythrorus* RAFINESQUE, Caratt. (p. 6).  
 1829.—*Sylvia tites* EHRB., Symb. Phys. (fol. dd.).  
 1831.—*Ruticilla atra* BRM., Handb. Vög. Deutschl. p. 365.  
 1840.—*Sylvia tithis* SCHINZ, Eur. Fauna I, p. 190.  
 1840.—*Phoenicurus tethys* JARD. & SELB., Ill. Orn. (pl. 86).  
 1845.—*Ruticilla tithis* RÜPP., Syst. Ueb. (p. 57).  
 1848.—*Ruticilla cairii* GERBE, Dict. Univ. d'Hist. Nat. XI (p. 259).  
 1854.—*Lusciola thytis* SCHLEG., Vog. v. Nederl. (p. 156).  
 1855.—*Ruticilla montana* BRM., Naumannia 1855, (p. 281).

The other species given in DRESSER'S List of Eur. Birds should stand as

3. *Phoenicurus mesoleucus* (EHR.).—Ehrenberg's Redstart.
4. *Phoenicurus rufiventris* (VIEILL.).—Indian Redstart.
5. *Phoenicurus moussieri* (OLPH-GALL.).—Monssier's Redstart.
6. *Phoenicurus erythrogaster* (GÜLD.).—Güldenstädt's Redstart.

## CINCLUS AQUATICUS BECHST.

is the usually adopted name of the red-bellied Water Ouzel of Central Europe. The oldest name is, however,

*Cinclus merula* SCHÄFF.

SYN.:—1789.—*Tringa merula* SCHÄFFER, Mus. Orn. p. 52.

## REGULUS CRISTATUS VIEILL. 1807,

is a name which antedates LICHTENSTEIN'S *Regulus satrapa* (1823). As it is not preoccupied, there is no reason for rejecting it. VIEILLOT, indeed, states that his bird is identical with the European species, which he erroneously calls *Motacilla regulus* LIN., but he gives a description and plate, which represent the American bird better than the *Regulus ignicapillus* BRM. The following is thought to be a tolerably exhaustive synonymy of these species:

1. *Regulus cristatus* VIEILL. 1807.

- 1807.—*Regulus cristatus* VIEILL., Ois. Amer. Sept. II, p. 50, pl. 106 (*nec* KOCH 1816).\*  
 1808.—*Sylvia regulus* WILS., Am. Orn. I (p. 126, pl. 8, fig. 2), (*nec* *Motacilla regulus* LIN.).  
 1823.—*Regulus satrapa* LICHT., Doublettenverz., p. 35.  
 1832.—*Regulus tricolor* NUTT., Man. Orn. I, p. 420.  
 1864.—*Regulus satrapa olivaceus* BAIRD, Rev. Am. Birds I, p. 65.  
 1866.—*Regulus satrapus* COUES, Pr. Phil. Acad. 1866 (p. 66).

\* It may, perhaps, be to this species that BARTRAM, Trav. Flor. (1791) p. 291, refers the same name. Cfr. E. COUES, Pr. Phil. Acad. 1875, p. 351.

2. *Regulus vulgaris* LEACH.

- 1758.—*Motacilla regulus* LIN., Syst. Nat. ed. 10, I, p. 188.  
 1816.—*Regulus vulgaris* LEACH, Cat. M. B. Brit. Mus. p. —.  
 1816.—*Regulus cristatus* KOCH, Bair. Zool. I (p. 199), (*nec* VIEILL. 1807).  
 1822.—*Regulus aureocapillus* MEY., Taschen. Vög. Deutschl. III, p. 108.  
 1822.—*Regulus crocecephalus* BRM., Beitr. Vogelk. II (p. 120).  
 1823.—*Regulus flavicapillus* NAUM., Vög. Deutschl. III (p. 968).  
 1831.—*Regulus septentrionalis* BRM., Handb. Vög. Deutschl. p. 479.  
 1831.—*Regulus chrysocephalus* BRM., op. cit. p. 481.  
 1833.—*Regulus auricapillus* SELBY, Brit. Orn. I (p. 229).  
 1877.—*Regulus linnei* MAHN, Göteb. och Bohusl. Fauna, p. 170.

3. *Regulus ignicapillus* (TEMN.).

- 1815.—*Motacilla regulus* TEMM., Man. d'Orn. I ed. p. —.  
 1820.—*Sylvia ignicapilla* TEMM., Man. d'Orn. I, p. 231.  
 1822.—*Regulus mystaceus* VIEILL, Faun. Franc., p. 231 (part).  
 1822.—*Regulus pyrocephalus* BRM., Orn. Beetr. II (p. 130); Handb. Vög. Deutschl., p. 482 (1831).  
 1831.—*Regulus nilssonii* BRM. Handb. Vög. Deutschl., p. 482; Naumannia 1855, p. 285.  
 1831.—*Regulus brachyrhynchos* BRM., op. cit., p. 483.

HIRUNDO, CHELIDON, and COTILE.

It has almost unanimously been considered, that BOIE (Isis, 1822), was the first who subdivided the genus *Hirundo* after the species belonging to *Cypselus* had been removed, and consequently his names *Hirundo* (type *rustica* LIN.), *Chelidon* (type *urbica* LIN.), and *Cotile* (type *riparia* LIN.) have been generally adopted. The same species, however, had already five years earlier been made types of three different genera, by THOMAS FORSTER, who, in his "Synoptical Catalogue of British Birds" (London, 1817), establishes the genera *Chelidon*, *Hirundo* and *Clivicola*, having as types respectively *rustica*, *urbica*, and *riparia*.

These names, which are as well founded as the later names of BOIE, cannot, so far as I can see, be rejected. Mr. FORSTER himself states, p. 40, that he has "in the following catalogue attended to generic and specific differences, and thereon founded a nomenclature, regardless of the modern names, wherever they appeared to disagree with facts."

I suppose the following will stand as the correct synonymy :

*Chelidon* FORSTER, 1817.

- < 1758.—*Hirundo* LIN. S. N. ed. 10, I, p. 191.  
 = 1817.—*Chelidon* FORSTER, Syn. Cat. Brit. B. p. 55 (*nec* BOIE, 1822), (type *H. rustica* LIN.).  
 = 1822.—*Hirundo* BOIE, Isis, 1822, p. 550 (*nec* FORSTER, 1817), (same type).

Of this genus we only have one species in North America, viz :

1. *Chelidon erythrogastra* (BODD.), Barn Swallow.

The European species are :

*Chelidon rustica* (LIN.), and

*Chelidon savignii* (STEPH.).

*Hirundo* LIN. 1758.

<1758.—*Hirundo* LIN. S. N. ed. 10, I, p. 191.

=1817.—*Hirundo* FORSTER, Syn. Cat. Brit. B. p. 55 (*nec* BOIE, 1822), (type *H. urbica* LIN.).

=1822.—*Chelidon* BOIE, Isis, 1822 p. 550 (*nec* FORSTER, 1817) (same type).

This genus has no American representative. The European species is *Hirundo urbica* LIN.

*Clivicola* FORSTER 1817.

<1758.—*Hirundo* LIN. S. N. ed. 10, I, p. 191.

=1817.—*Clivicola* Forster, Syn. Cat. Br. B. p. 55 (type *H. riparia* LIN.).

=1817.—*Riparia* FORSTER, t. c. p. 17 (same type).\*

=1822.—*Cotyle* BOIE, Isis, 1822, p. 550 (same type).

=1826.—*Cotyle* BOIE, Isis, 1826, p. 971 (same type).

In North America only occurs—

1. *Clivicola riparia* (LIN.).

## PLECTROPHANES and CENTROPHANES.

In his "Ornithologisches Taschenbuch von und für Deutschland oder kurze Beschreibung aller Vögel Deutschlands" (Leipzig, 1803), BECHSTEIN separates the *Fringilla lapponica* from the other Fringillæ, and gives to this group, which he characterizes "by having an acute pointed bill with considerably imbricated tomia, and a long straight claw on the hind toe", the name *Calcearius*. This is, as far as I know, not preoccupied, and must therefore necessarily stand as the name for the genus, which has *F. lapponica* for its type. The Snow Bunting he left in the genus *Emberiza*. In 1815 Dr. BERNHARD MEYER, in his "Kurze Beschreibung der Vögel Liv- und Esthlands" created the genus *Plectrophanes* for the same type in the following words: "Fringilla calcarata Pall. (this bird does not at all belong to the genus Fringilla, but forms a separate genus, which I call Plectrophanes, Longspur)." He also did not include the Snow Bunting in this genus, but treated it under the head of *Emberiza*, following the example of BECHSTEIN.† In the third volume of the "Taschenbuch" (1822) Mr. MEYER first unites the two species under the same genus, *Plectrophanes*. In 1829 JAKOB KAUP, in his "Skizzirte Entwickelung-Geschichte und Natürliches System der Europäischen Thierwelt," again separates the two species, selecting

\* FORSTER uses this name a few pages earlier than *Clivicola*. As, however, the adoption of *Riparia* would necessitate the change of the specific name of *H. riparia* into *europæa* FORST. 1817 (which would be inconvenient, because the species is by no means limited to Europe), or into *cinerea* VIEILL. 1817 (which has only been used for the supposed American form), I have preferred to accept the name *Clivicola*.

† Mr. DRESSER in his "Birds of Europe" erroneously cites *Plectrophanes lapponica* Mey. & Wolf, Taschen. Vög. Deutschl. I (1810), p. 187, and *P. nivalis* Mey. & Wolf, op. cit. p. 176; but these authors l. c. only give the names *Fringilla calcarata* and *Emberiza nivalis*, and the word *Plectrophanes* is not to be found either in the first or the second volume of their work. Consequently, the statement of TEMMINCK, Man. d'Orn. 2 ed. I (1820), p. 318, is also false, viz, that "Mr. Meyer has made of this species [*E. nivalis*] and of the following [*E. calcarata*] the genus *Plectrophanes*."

each as type for different genera, *nivalis* for *Plectrophanes* and *lapponica* for *Centrophanes*, and herein he has been followed by later writers. But from the foregoing statement it is evident that—

- (1) BECHSTEIN'S *Calcarius* is the oldest name ;
- (2) the type of this is *Fr. lapponica* LIN. ;
- (3) MEYER'S *Plectrophanes* is merely a synonym of *Calcarius*, having the same type ;
- (4) the same is the case with KAUP'S *Centrophanes* ;
- (5) his *Plectrophanes* cannot be used for the genus having *E. nivalis* for type, because preoccupied as synonymous with *Calcarius* ;
- (6) the genus which has *E. nivalis* for its type should be supplied with a new name, as no later name has been given. In order to make as little change as possible, I propose for it the name *Plectrophenax*.\*

The synonymy of the two genera is then the following :

*Calcarius* BECHST. 1803.

- =1803.—*Calcarius* BECHST. *Taschb. Vög. Deutschl.* p. 130. (Type *Fringilla lapponica* LIN.)
- =1815.—*Plectrophanes* MEYER, *Vög. Liv- & Estl.* p. xii (*nec* KAUP, 1829) (same type).
- =1829.—*Centrophanes* KAUP, *Entw. Eur. Thierw.* p. 158 (same type).
- =1850.—*Leptoplectron* REICHL. *Av. Syst.* pl. LXXV. (Type *Emberiza picta* SWAINS.)

To this genus belong the North American species :

1. *Calcarius lapponicus* (LIN.).—Lapland Longspur ;
2. *Calcarius pictus* (SWAINS.).—Smith's Longspur ;
3. *Calcarius ornatus* (TOWNS.).—Chestnut-collared Longspur.

*Plectrophenax* STEJNEGER, 1882.

- <1817.—*Passerina* VIEILL. *Analyse Ornith.* p. 30 (type *Tanagra cyanea* LIN.) (preoccupied in Botany).
- =1829.—*Plectrophanes* KAUP, *Entw. Eur. Thierw.* p. 138 (*nec* MEYER, 1815). (Type *Emberiza nivalis* LIN.)

The North-American and only species of this genus is—

1. *Plectrophenax nivalis* (LIN.).—Snow Bunting.

EREMOPHILA BOIE, 1828,

cannot be used in Ornithology, because already preoccupied in Ichthyology and Botany. As the following synonymy shows, the proper name of the genus will be—

*Otocoris* BONAP. 1839.

- =1828.—*Eremophila* BOIE, *Isis*, 1828, p. 322 (preoccupied in Botany; *nec* *Eremophilus* HUMB. 1805).
- =1831.—*Philarenos* BREHM, *Handb. Vög. Deutschl.* p. 312 (*nec* LATR. 1809).
- =1837.—*Brachonyx* LESSON, *Compl. de Buffon*, VIII, p. 126 (*nec* SWAINS. 1827, *nec* SCHÖNHEN, 1826).
- =1839.—*Otocoris* BP. *Faun. Ital. Ucc. Introd.*
- =1840.—*Phitammas* G. R. GRAY, *List Gen. Birds* (p. 47.)
- =1845.—*Otocornis* RÜPP. *Syst. Uebers.* (p. 78).
- =1851.—*Otocorys* CAB. *Mus. Hein.* I, p. 121.
- =1854.—*Otocoryx* LICHT. *Nomencl.* p. 38.

† πλῆκτρον = spur ; φεναξ = impostor.

The names of the North-American species and races will then be :

1. *Otocoris alpestris* (LIN.)—Shore Lark.
2. *Otocoris alpestris leucolama* (COUES).—White-throated Shore Lark.
3. *Otocoris alpestris chrysolama* (WAGL.).—Mexican Shore Lark.

#### ARCHIBUTEO LAGOPUS (BRÜNN.), 1764.

Authors who reject names given before 1766, usually cite *Archibuteo lagopus* (GM.), 1788. As GUNNERUS, in 1767, has described the species very distinctly in LEEM'S Fimm. Beskr.\* p. 237, as *Falco norvegicus*, they will have to adopt the name *Archibuteo norvegicus* (GUNN.), 1767, being the first name applied to the bird after the 12th edition of LINNÆI Syst. Nat., in which the species is not included. The description of GUNNERUS is as follows:

“Falconis hujus \* \* \* pullum vivum \* \* \* accepi in nido captum, jam 8 menses natum : magnitudo est gallinæci. In dorso, alis et subtus fuscus est, maculis canis sublematis supra, præsertim in alis adpersis. Caput, collum & pectus ad medium usque dilute brunnea sunt, maculis longitudinalibus fuscis; color tamen capitis dilutior est, & maculæ longitudinales colli pectus adtrigentes, reliquis latiores & longiores sunt. In infima parte frontis supra ceram, nec non sub oculis s. in superiore regione genarum, color est dilute canus. Iris dilute cana, & membrana nictitans cærulea. Remigeo saturate fuscae non ad extremam caudam pertingunt, alis scilicet complicatis. Rectrices supra & infra albæ extremitatibus latitudine trium digitorum fuscis. Rostrum, ad instar ungvium, lividum, breve & inde a radice curvum, cera autem cum digitis flava. Pedes ad talos usque lanati & sordide albi, femoribus extrorsum parvis maculis fuscis adpersis. \* \* \* Character ejus pro præsentis ita formari potest : Falco *Norvegicus* dorso alis, sterno subtus & abdomine fuscis maculis sublemulatis canis supra, præsertim in alis, adpersis, rectricibus albis, extremitatibus late nigris.”

#### CICONIA ALBA.

The oldest author for this name has been stated to be BECHSTEIN, in his Naturgesch. Vög. Deutschl. III (1793), p. 48. It is, however, antedated by SCHÄFFER, who in 1789, Mus. Orn., p. 52, gave the name *Ciconia alba*.

#### STREPSILAS ILLIG. 1811,

is untenable, being one year younger than *Morinella* MEY. & WOLF, Tashb. Vög. Deutschl. II, p. 383 (1810).

The two North-American species are:

1. *Morinella interpres* (LIN.).—Turnstone.
2. *Morinella melanocephala* (VIG.).—Black Turnstone.

\* As to this work see p. 37, footnote under *Totanus glottis*.

VANELLUS CRISTATUS M. & W.

for a long time was considered to be the oldest name as given in 1805, in their "Hist. Nat. Ois. de l'Allem." (p. 110). DRESSER has shown that BECHSTEIN'S *Vanellus vulgaris* of 1803 (Orn. Taschenb. Vög. Deutschl., p. 313) is older, and substitutes this latter name for *cristatus*. The oldest name, however, is

*Vanellus capella* SCHÄFFER. Mus. Orn., p. 49 (1789).

ÆGIALITIS CANTIANUS (LATH.)

had already, in the tenth edition of LINNÆI Syst. Nat. I, p. 150 (1758), received the name *Charadrius alexandrinus*.\* Hence

*Ægialitis alexandrinus* (LIN.), 1758; and for the form occurring in North America.

*Ægialitis alexandrinus nivosus* (CASS).—Snowy Plover.

GALLINAGO MEDIA LEACH, 1816,

is antedated by *Scolopax media* BOCK, Naturforscher, XIII (1779), p. 211, which belongs to the bird subsequently called *Scolopax major* by GMELIN in 1788, and must therefore give place to *Gallinago coelestis* FREUZEL.† The North-American form will then stand as

*Gallinago coelestis wilsoni* (TEMML).—Wilson's Snipe.

TOTANUS GLOTTIS (LIN.) BECHST.

is the name usually adopted for the Greenshank, and for this is quoted either Syst. Nat. ed. 10, i, p. 146 (1758), Fauna Svec., ed. 2, p. 61 (1761), or Syst. Nat., ed. 12, i, p. 245 (1766). Any one who will take the trouble to compare these three quotations will soon find that they refer to a bird totally different from the *Totanus glottis* of BECHST. The fact that the three descriptions of LINNÆUS do not fully agree, will be mentioned later; for the present we will only consider those characters which occur in all the three editions, or which occur only in the one without being contradictory to any character given in the others.

The following phrase of the diagnosis is the same in all the editions: "*Rostrum recto basi inferiori rubro*"; and the same phrase is repeated in the description in the Fauna, thus: "*Rostrum nigrum basi inferioris maxilla rubra*." BECHSTEIN'S *glottis* has the bill "gray at the base" (under Wurzel grau), and never red or reddish at any age or season.

After the diagnosis follows a reprint of the diagnosis of the first edition of the Fauna, viz, "*Remigibus lineis albis piscisque undulatis*." In BECHSTEIN'S *glottis* the primaries, however, are black, and the

\* (Cf. R. COLLETT, in Christiania Vidensk. Forh. 1881, No. 10, p. 4.—R. R.)

† *Scolopax caelestis* FREUZEL, Beschreibung der Vögel und ihrer Eier in der Gegend um Wittenberg. 1801. (p. 58).

secondaries grayish, with white edges. In the 12th edit. is said: "*Alba immaculata sunt . . . tectrices alarum*," while those (upper wing-coverts) in the summer plumage of *glottis* BECHST. are dark grayish-brown with a black stripe along the shafts, in the autumnal plumage brownish-gray with such a stripe, and in the young blackish-brown with rusty-gray edges. Further in the same edition LINNÆUS says: "*Remiges primores scapo albo*"; in the *glottis* BECHST. only the shaft of the first quill is white, while the shafts of the remaining primaries are black. From these quotations it is evident that the *glottis* of LINNÆUS is a bird totally different from the species so named by BECHSTEIN, while most authors since BECHSTEIN'S time, however, mean the bird of the latter when they are speaking about *Totanus glottis* (LIN.).

It remains to determine to which species the descriptions of LINNÆUS really belong. In order to clear up this question it will be necessary to compare those characters which in the above-mentioned three editions do not agree. It will thus be seen that while in the diagnoses the legs are said to be greenish ("*pedibus virescentibus*"), they are given as plumbeous ("*pedeo plumbei*") in the description of the Fauna. In the same work is said: "*pectus griseum*," but in the 12th edition, "*Alba immaculata sunt pectus . . .*" From these disagreements of the descriptions it seems to be very probable that LINNÆUS in this case did not give his diagnosis and descriptions from the specimens themselves, but only from the statements of earlier writers. The phrase "*pedes plumbei*" may thus have been taken from STRÖM, who, in his Söndmörs Beskrivelse, I, p. 235, quotes the Linnæan diagnosis in the following manner: "*Numeuius pedibus virescentibus* (more correctly *plumbei*). . . ." This opinion seems also to be well founded when one compares the very meager description of the Fauna (*l. c.*) with the much fuller descriptions of other species, of which LINNÆUS had specimens before him when describing. It will therefore be very useful to know which species the authors cited by LINNÆUS may have meant. In the 12th edit. LINNÆUS quotes as synonymous *Limosa grisea major* BRISS., ed. 5, p. 272, t. 24, f. 2. To this species BRISSON himself cites the same authors, which are given by LINNÆUS, and besides, the diagnosis of LINNÆI Systema, 10th edit., and Fauna, 1st ed. From the excellent description of BRISSON it is unquestionable that his species is *Limosa lapponica* in winter-plumage. The description of STRÖM (*l. c.*) also shows that the bird in question belongs to this species. It then only remains to determine whether the characters given by LINNÆUS agree with those of *L. lapponica*. This species has in fact the base of the lower mandible reddish, as described above, and also the shafts of the first quills white. The two other marks, "quills varied with white and black lines," and "wing-coverts white, unspotted," do not agree so well, but the difference is not great, and is easily understood when one attends to the manner in which the description has been made; the inner webs of the first quills are variegated as above described, and although the wing-coverts are not unspotted

white, this color, however, occupies a larger space on the wing-coverts of this species than in any other which here reasonably can be in question. The other characters agree as well with both species, and consequently they speak in favor of the opinion here expressed.

Having thus proved that the *Scolopax glottis* LINNÆUS is merely a synonym of *Limosa lapponica*, we proceed to select a new name for it, the first binominal one given to the bird in question, the Green-shank.

In 1767 KNUD LEEM published his "Beskrivelse over Finmarkens Lapper," with a Latin translation following the Danish text, in which work the Norwegian bishop GUNNERUS, a very distinguished and, at that time, everywhere in Europe, highly esteemed naturalist, and one of the more prominent of the pupils of LINNÆUS, gives a tolerably complete account of the natural history of northern Norway in form of foot-notes. In these we find many good descriptions, and several species named for the first time, and there is not the slightest reason for rejecting his names, as he was a strict binominalist, whose descriptions are very clear, and published in a proper manner after 1766.

As the work is perhaps somewhat scarce, I think it proper to give its title in full below.\*

From his diagnosis of *Scolopax nebularia* (p. 251), "*Rostro levi, acuto, sub-recurvato, collo pectoraque albido, maculis fuscis; rachis prima remigis nivea*" it is beyond doubt that he means the species here in question. The description of the bill is sufficient to separate this bird from the other species of *Totanus* BECHST., which have the beak straight, and it cannot be confounded with any *Limosa*, having the shaft of the first quill white. The comparison with other species which he gives corroborates this opinion, as also does his quotation of STRÖM'S Söndm. Beskr. I, p. 252.

As GMELIN'S name *canescens* was bestowed 21 years later, and his description is by far not so precise as that of GUNNERUS, the name of the latter must be adopted, and the species for the future stand as *Totanus nebularius* (GUNN.).

The synonymy may be given as follows :

1766.—*Scolopax totanus* LIN., Syst. Nat. 12 ed. I, p. 245 (*nec* 1758 *quæ* *T. calidris*).

1767.—*Scolopax nebularius* GUNNERUS, in Leem, Lapp. Beskr. p. 251.

\* Knud Leems, | Profe sor i det Lappiske Sprog | Beskrivelse | over | Finmarkens Lapper, | deres Tungemaal, Levemaade og forrige Afgudsdyrkelse | oplyst ved mange Kaaberstykker : | med | J. E. Gunneri, | Bishop over Trondhjems Stift, og S. S. Theologiæ Doctor, | Anmærkninger; | og | E. J. Jessens, | Justitz-Raad, General-Kirke-Inspector og Cancellie-Secretaire, | Afhandling om de Norske Finners og Lappers Hedenske Religion. | ——— Canuti Leemii, Professoris Linguae Lapponicae. | De | Lapponibus Finmarchie, | eorumque lingua, | vita et religione pristina | commentatio, | multis tabulis aeneis illustrata : | una cum | J. E. Gunneri, | Episcopi | Diæces. Nidros. & S. S. Theologiæ Doctoris | Notis; | & | E. J. Jessen-s | Cœnciliar Justit., | Rer. Ecclesiast. p. ntr. regn. Inspector, General. & Secret. Cancellar | Tractatu Singulari de Finnorum Lapporumque Norvegiæ religione pagana. | ——— Kiöbenhavn, 1767. Trykt ndi det Kongel. Wäysenhuses Bogtrykkerie af | G. G. Salikath.

- 1787.—*Scolopax glottis* LATH., Synops. Suppl. p. 292 (*nec* LIN. *qua* *Limosa lapponica*).  
 1788.—*Scolopax canescens* GMEL., Syst. Nat. I, p. 668.  
 1803.—*Totanus glottis* BECHST., Ornith. Taschenb. p. 287.  
 1809.—*Totanus griseus* BECHST., Gem. Naturg. Deutschl. 2 ed. IV, p. 231 (*nec* *Scolop. grisea* GMEL. *qua* *Macrorhamphus gr.*).  
 1809.—*Totanus fistulans* BECHST., tom. cit. p. 241.  
 1810.—*Totanus chloropus* MEY. & WOLF, Taschenb. Vög. Deutschl. II, p. 371.  
 1816.—*Glottis nutans* KOCH, Syst. Pair. Zool. II (p. 305) (*nec* *Scol. nutans* OTTO 1797 *qua* *T. fuscus*).  
 1831.—*Glottis nigrigula* HODGS. in Gray, Zool. Misc. II (p. 36).  
 1831.—*Totanus glottoides* VIGORS, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1831 (p. 173).  
 1838.—*Glottis floridanus* BP. Comp. List. (p. 51).  
 1844.—*Glottis vigorsii* GRAY, Cat. Brit. Mus. III, Gallie (p. 99).  
 1844.—*Glottis horsfieldii* GRAY, *ut supra*.  
 1877.—*Glottis linnei* MALM, Göteborg. och Bohurl. Fauna pp. 81 & 278.

## MACHETES CUV. 1817,

must give place to the one year older *Pavoncella* LEACH, Cat. M. B. Brit. Mus. (1816), which is not, so far as I can detect, preoccupied. Then *Pavoncella pugnax* (LIN.).

## TADORNA CORNUTA (GMEL.)

is not the oldest name given to that species. It is recognizably described as *Anas damiatica* in HASSELQUIST'S Palest. Reise, Deutsche Ausgabe (1762), p. 318, and should therefore stand as *Tadorna damiatica* (HASSELQU.), 1762.

## HARELDA GLACIALIS (LIN.), 1766,

should be changed into *Harelda hyemalis* (LIN.), 1758, the name *Anas glacialis* not being found in his 10th edition. The three earliest names of this species are :

- 1758.—*Anas hyemalis* LINN., Syst. Nat. ed. 10, I, p. 126 (*nec* PALL).  
 1764.—*Anas hiemalis* BRÜNN., Ornith. bor. p. 17.  
 1766.—*Anas glacialis* LINN., Syst. Nat. ed. 12, I, p. 203.

## POLYSTICTA EYT. 1836,

is preoccupied by *Polysticte* SMITH, 1835. The next name in date is *Stellaria* BP. 1838, which is preoccupied in botany. The name given by GRAY in 1840 is not occupied, and the genus should therefore in the future bear the name

*Eniconetta* GRAY.

- SYN : =1834.—*Macropus* NUTTALL, Man. II, p. 450 (*nec* SPIX, 1824).  
 =1836.—*Polysticta* EYTON, Brit. Birds, p. — (*nec* *Polysticte* SMITH, 1835, *nec* *Polystictus* REICH, 1850).  
 =1838.—*Stellaria* BONAP., Comp. List, p. 57 (preoccupied in Botany).  
 =1840.—*Eniconetta* G. R. GRAY, List Gen. Birds (p. 95).  
 =1840.—“*Stellaria* BP.” GRAY, *ut supra*.  
 =1846.—*Heniconetta* AGASS., Ind. Univers. p. 178.  
 =1872.—“*Polysticte* EYT.” SUNDEV., Tentam. Av. Disp. p. 148.  
 Species : *Eniconetta stelleri* (PALL.).—Steller's Duck.

PAGOPHILA EBURNEA (PHIPPS).

As to this bird, both the generic and the specific appellations are to be changed. *Pagophila* is antedated by *Gavia* BOIE, 1822, to whom the first use of this name, as a generic one, is to be referred. MÖHRING, it is true, had already used the same word in another sense, but as his genera are not recognized there cannot be any obstacles for adopting them by later authors. KAUP'S name *Pagophila* is 7 years younger and based upon the same type as BOIE'S genus.

Synonymy of the genus :

*Gavia* BOIE 1822.

- <1822.—*Gavia* BOIE, Isis, 1822, p. 563 (*nee* KAUP, 1829, *nee* BRUCH, 1853).
- =1829.—*Pagophila* KAUP, Entw. Eur. Thierw. p. 69 (*nee Pagophilus* ———).
- =1842.—*Cetosparactes* MACGILL, Man. Brit. Orn. II, p. 251.
- =1845.—*Catosparactes* G. R. GRAY, Gen. of Birds III, p. 655 (*err. typogr.*)

The Ivory Gull had already, in 1767, received a binominal appellation by GUNNERUS, who applied to it the name *Larus albus* in the following words: "*Larus albus* . . . qui toto interdum corpore albus esse & Laro cauo vel & fusco magnitudine convenire perhibetur . . . Ni valde fallor, *Larus* hic habendus est idem ac *Senator Martensii*, qui toto corpore albus, nostro & pedibus nigris describitur esse." The restoration of this name, which is 7 years older than the *eburneus* of PHIPPS, cannot meet with any objection, as the later use of the same name by SCOPOLI and STAT. MÜLLER never has been adopted.

*Gavia alba* (GUNN.).

- SYN: 1767.—*Larus albus* GUNNERUS in Leem, Beskr. Fimm. Lapp., p. 265 (*nee* SCOP. 1769, *nee* S. MÜLL. 1776).
- 1774.—*Larus eburneus* PHIPPS, Voy. N. Pole, App. (p. 187).
- 1876.—*Larus candidus* O. F. MÜLLER, Prodr. Zool. Dan. p. VIII.
- 1783.—*Larus niveus* BODD., Tabl. Pl. Enl. (p. 58), (*nee* PALL.).
- 1846.—*Larus brachytarsus* HOLBÖLL, Fauna Grönl. (p. 52).

LARUS GLAUCUS (BRÜNN.).

The appellation of this species exhibits a close analogy to the facts referred to under *Archibuteo lagopus* (BRÜNN.), and writers, who choose the 12th edit. of LINNÆI Systema as the starting point for specific names, will have no alternative but to adopt the name of GUNNERUS, given in 1767, as the bird has not received any name by LINNÆUS. There can be no doubt as to which species the following description of GUNNERUS belongs: "*Larus hyperboreus* dorso dilute cinereo, extremitatibus remigum albis. A Martensio in itril. Spitzberg. dicitur Germanice *Burgemeister*. A Brünn. in Ornith. p. 44, n. 148 evocatur *Larus glaucus* totus albus, dorso & alis canis, remigum extremitatibus albis." GUNNERUS in LEEM'S Beskr. Fimm. Lapp. p. 283 (1767).

## HYDROCHELIDON LARIFORMIS (LIN.).

I see no reason whatever for rejecting the name *Sterna nigra* for this species, because there can be no doubt about which species LINNÆUS has described under this name. That GRAY and others have used the names *fissipes* for this species, and erroneously given the appellation *nigra* to another, cannot be a hinderance to the restoring of the proper name. The following citations from LINNÆUS'S description in Fauna Suec., 2d ed. p. 56, will be sufficient to show that he means the common black Tern: "*Color totius avis supra canus*" and "*remiges & rectrices omnīs unicolores & subtus albescentes.*" From these it is evident that the rump and upper surface of the tail are gray, which are the very characteristic features of the bird occurring in Scandinavia, in opposition to *leucoptera* MEISN., which has the rump and the upper surface of the tail white, being one of the rarest stragglers in the country of LINNÆUS. His statement "*Habitat Ultunæ prope Upsaliam*" therefore corroborates the opinion here expressed.

The synonymy of the European form is the following:

*Hydrochelidon nigra* (LIN.).

- 1758.—*Sterna nigra* LIN., Syst. Nat. ed. 10, I, p. 137 (*nec Gray*).  
 1758.—*Rallus lariformis* LIN., tom. cit. p. 153.  
 1766.—*Sterna navia* LIN., Syst. Nat. ed. 12, I, p. 228 (*nec Pall.*).  
 1766.—*Sterna fissipes* LIN., ut supra (*nec Pall.*).  
 1769.—*Sterna merulinus* SCOP., Ann. I, Hist. Nat. p. 81.  
 1788.—*Sterna obscura* GMEL., Syst. Nat. I, p. 608 (*nec LATH.*).  
 1831.—*Hydrochelidon nigricans* BRM., Handb. Vög. Deutschl. p. 794.

The American form has the following synonymy:

*Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis* (GMEL.).

- 1788.—*Sterna surinamensis* GM., Syst. Nat. I, p. 604.  
 1813.—*Sterna plumbea* WILS. Am. Orn. VII (p. 83, pl. 60).  
 1828.—*Sterna nigra* BP., Syn. (p. 355).  
 1860.—*Sterna frenata* SALVIN, Ibis, 1860, p. 278 (*nec GAMBEL*).  
 1862.—*Hydrochelidon fissipes* COUES, Pr. Phil. Ac. 1862 (p. 554).  
 1874.—*Hydrochelidon lariformis* COUES, Birds of N. W. p. 704.  
 1880.—*Hydrochelidon lariformis surinamensis* RIDGW. Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. 1880, p. 208.

## STERCORARIUS CREPIDATUS and PARASITICUS.

Since the first separation of the two species, which are called "Richardson's Jaeger" and "Long-tailed Jaeger," much dispute among authors has arisen from the question, to which of these species the *parasiticus* of LINNÆUS really belongs.\* At one time the one opinion has been the prevailing one, and at other times the opposite belief. For a long time the "Richardson's Jaeger" held the name in unquestioned possession,

\* All the authors before 1800 (except BRISSON and GUNNERUS, who in 1767 give the name *parasiticus* to Richardson's "Jaeger;" see LEEM, Beskr. Finn. Lapp. pp. 239 and 287) confound the two species.

until in the later years especially English ornithologists (SAUNDERS, DRESSER) have tried to vindicate the name *parasiticus* for the long-tailed species.

In the 10th edition of LINNÆI Systema we find nothing which justifies the change of the generally adopted appellation. Mr. SAUNDERS (Pr. Zool. Soc. Lond. 1876, p. 327) thinks, however, that the short diagnosis, viz, "*rectricibus duabus intermediis longissimis*," is sufficient to prove the contrary, and exclaims, "Nothing could well be clearer!" This might perhaps have been right, if LINNÆUS had had before him more than one species, of which one or more were supplied with *rectricibus longis*, and the *parasiticus* then was given as having *rectrices longissimi*; but as he knew but one species, his expression would be quite correct if the middle pair of rectrices in his *parasiticus* had been still shorter than they are in "Richardson's Jaeger." The phrase "*Rectrices intermedii longissimi*" indicates only that the middle pair was longer than the other, or it may also signify that it in this "*Larus*" was very long compared with the other *Lari* described by him, which all had a square tail. Mr. SUNDEVALL (Tent. Meth. Av. Disp. p. 136) uses the same phrase exactly in the same meaning, when he characterizes the whole genus in the words, "*Cauda subaquili, pennis 2 mediis longissimis*," and nobody will consider this to be incorrect, although he, in the genus thus characterized, includes the *Cataracta skua* BRÜNN. Besides, the quotations and the habits of the bird, as they are given in the 10th edition, agree better with the common Jaeger than with the long-tailed species. The authors who take this edition for their starting point in nomenclature have not the slightest reason for changing the name.

SAUNDERS, DRESSER, and most English writers, however, found their nomenclature on the 12th edition of 1766. In this the diagnosis from the 10th edition is reprinted verbatim. Besides, there is nothing new which can justify the change; it might then be that LINNÆUS here cites as synonymous the *longicaudatus* of BRISSON, but as he does not adopt the other species of the same author, the "*Stercorarius*," the erroneous citation is of no importance, as it only shows that he did not recognize more than one species. Thus the 12th edition does not furnish any reason supporting the change. But—and this is the main point—this edition contains a phrase which corroborates the opinion here defended, and which appears to have been overlooked by Mr. SAUNDERS, viz, "*Rachis remigum rectricumque, imprimis subtus, nivea*." From this quotation it seems to be evident that LINNÆUS means the bird which has the shafts of all the primaries white, and that his *parasiticus* of 1766 belongs less to the long-tailed species than even the *parasiticus* of 1758. If it is so that both editions of the Systema Naturalis entitle the common Jaeger to bear the name *parasiticus* LIN., it will be of no importance that the description in Fauna Svecica (1761)—the diagnosis is the same as in S. N.—is perhaps made from a specimen of the long-tailed species which LINNÆUS himself confounded with the common Jaeger. It will

have no influence on those authors who start from 1758, because the description of the Fauna is of later date, and it must have less influence on those who date their specific appellations from 1766, because the said description is older, and those ornithologists pay no attention to names given before that date. It will be the less justifiable for them to use the name of 1761, as this is opposite to the appellation of 1766.

Mr. SAUNDERS himself states (tom. cit. p. 651) that "these violent transfers must always be productive of confusion *even when justifiable*." Where the case is clear and allows no doubt, we will have, however, to accept the oldest name, even if the restoration for a short time would produce some confusion, but it should never be performed where the case is doubtful, or, like the present, more than doubtful.

In order to show the proper names of the two species, I give the following synonymy :

1. *Stercorarius parasiticus* (LIN.)

- 1758.—*Larus parasiticus* LIN. Syst. Nat. ed. 10, I, p. 136 (*nec descr. Faun. 1761* (?), *nec LESS.*).  
 1764.—*Catharacta cepphus* BRÜNN. Orn. Bor. p. 36 (*nec STEPH.*).  
 1764.—*Catharacta coprotheres* BRÜNN. op. cit. p. 38 (?).  
 1773.—*Larus crepidatus* BANKS in Hawkesw. Voy. II (p. 15) (*nec BRM. & SCHILL.*).  
 1824.—*Lestris boji* BRM., Lehrb. Eur. Vög. II, p. 991.  
 1824.—*Lestris schleppi* BRM., tom. cit. p. 993.  
 1824.—*Lestris benickii* BRM., tom. cit. p. 996.  
 1811-31.—*Cutarractes parasita* PALL., Zoogr. Ross.-As. II, p. 310.  
 1831.—*Lestris richardsoni* SWAINS., Fann. Bor.-Amer. p. 433.  
 1862.—*Lestris thuliaca* PREYER, Reise n. Isl. (p. 418).  
 1865.—*Stercorarius lephras* MALINGR., Journ. f. Orn., 1865, p. 392.  
 1873.—*Stercorarius asiaticus* HUME, Stray Feathers (p. 269).

2. *Stercorarius longicaudus* VIEILL.

- 1819.—*Stercorarius longicaudus* VIEILL., Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. xxxii, p. 157.  
 1822.—" *Lestris buffonii* H. BOIE," F. BOIE, Isis, 1822, pp. 562 and 874.  
 1822.—*Lestris crepidata* BRM. and SCHILL., Brit. Vogelk. (p. 861) (*nec BANKS*).  
 1826.—*Stercorarius cepphus* STEPH. in SHAW, Gen. Zool., XIII, I, p. 211.  
 1828.—*Lestris parasitica* LESS., Man. d'Orn. II, p. 288 (*nec LINN. 1758*).  
 1831.—*Lestris microrynchus* BRM., Handb. Vög. Deutschl. p. 725.  
 1838.—*Lestris lessoni* DEGL., Mem. Acad. Roy. de Lille, 1838 (p. 108).  
 1842.—*Stercorarius longicaudatus* DE SELYS, Faune Belg. (p. 156).  
 1855.—*Lestris brachyrhynchus* BRM., Vogelf. (p. 337).  
 1867.—" *Lestris brissoni* BOIE," DEGL. and GERBE, Ornith. Europ. II, p. 400.

PODICEPS and COLYMBUS.

LINNÆUS united the Grebes and the Loons or Divers in the same genus, *Colymbus*, but in 1760 BRISSON had already separated the Loons from the Grebes, retaining the name *Colymbus* for the latter. In 1777 SCOPOLI followed his example. Ten years later LATHAM applied the name *Podiceps* to the same group, this consequently being a mere synonym of *Colymbus* as restricted by BRISSON. As the name given by the latter author to the Loons was preoccupied, the next name, which is CUVIER'S *Urinator*, is to be used. The name *Eudytes* ILLIGER,

although 12 years younger, has been generally adopted, but it must give way to the older name, for the suppression of which I see no reason.

The following is the synonymy of the genus :

*Urinator* CUV.

- < 1758.—*Colymbus* LIN., Syst. Nat. ed. 10, I, p. 135.
- = 1760.—*Mergus* BRISS., Ornith. VI, p. 104 (*nee* LINN. 1758.)
- < 1777.—*Uria* SCOPOLI, Introd. p. 473 (*neo* BRISS. 1760).
- = 1799.—*Urinator* CUV., Anat. Comp. I, Tabl. II.
- = 1811.—*Eudytes* ILLIG., Prodr. Syst. p. 282.
- < 1811-31.—*Cepphus* TALL., Zoogr. Ross.-As.
- > 1829.—*Eudites* KAUP, Entw. Eur. Thierw. p. 144.

All the species belonging to this genus occur in North America, viz :

1. *Urinator immer* (BRÜNN.),

usually known among North American ornithologists as *C. torquatus* BRÜNN.; but as the former name also is acceptable to those writers who follow the Stricklandian code of nomenclature, and who reject specific names older than 1766, I have found the name *C. immer* preferable, because it also occurs in the 12th edition of LINNÆI Syst. Nat.

The synonymy of the species is given as follows :

- 1764.—*Colymbus immer* BRÜNN., Ornith. Bor. p. 38.
  - 1764.—*Colymbus torquatus* BRÜNN., tom. cit. p. 41.
  - 1765.—*Colymbus maximus* GUNN., Tr. Selsk. Skr. III, p. 125.
  - 1766.—*Colymbus glacialis* LIN., Syst. Nat. ed. 12, I, p. 221.
  - 1790.—*Mergus navius* BONNAT., Enc. Meth. Orn. I, p. 73.
  - 1810.—*Colymbus atrogularis* MEYER & WOLF, Taschen. Vög. Deutschl. II, p. 449 (*partim*).
  - 1824.—*Colymbus hyemalis* BRM., Lehrb. Eur. Vög. II, p. 883.
  - 1831.—*Colymbus hiemalis* BRM., Handb. Vög. Deutschl. p. 972.
2. *Urinator adamsii* (G. R. GRAY), 1859.
  3. *Urinator arcticus* (LINN.), 1758.
  4. *Urinator pacificus* (LAWR.).
  5. *Urinator lumme* (BRÜNN.), 1764.

This is the *C. septentrionalis* LIN. 1766. But as LINNÆUS does not give the name either in the 10th edition of Syst. Nat. or in 2d ed. of Fauna Svecica (1761), the name of BRÜNNICH is to be used.

**ON THE GENERA HARPORHYNCHUS, CABANIS, AND METHRIOPTERUS, REICHENBACH, WITH A DESCRIPTION OF A NEW GENUS OF MIMINE.**

**By ROBERT RIDGWAY.**

In treating of the genus *Harporhynchus*, in its comprehensive sense, most authors have alluded more or less strongly to the great difference in form presented by the type of the genus (*H. redicivus*) on the one hand and certain species associated with it under the same generic name