

sea by the hurricane and found refuge on Ontong Java, which lies 250 km north-east of Choiseul and Santa Isabel.

Four months after its first arrival *Eos* appeared to be flourishing in its new atoll environment. Although there were no reports of nesting, there seems to be no reason why a breeding population should not become established. The vegetation of the islets where it has settled is mainly coconut woodland, a habitat very similar to the coastal coconut plantations of the Solomon Islands where *Eos* is so numerous. There are already complaints by local people of damage caused by the birds to the flowers of coconut palms. The ecology of the species involved is not well known, but it is probable that *Eos* will compete both for food and nest sites with the two Ontong Java pigeons *Ducula pacifica* and *Caloenas nicobarica*, and possibly also with the Atoll Starling *Aplonis feadensis*. It will be interesting to see in the future whether the atoll can accommodate the newcomer without the displacement of one of the existing residents, or whether a total of eight land birds is in fact the equilibrium species number for an atoll of this size.

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The correct spelling of Scopoli's specific name for the Malaysian Crested Wood Partridge (*Rollulus*)

by John Farrand, Jr. & Storrs L. Olson

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For more than a century the specific name of the Malaysian Crested Wood Partridge has been subject to persistent mis-spelling. Some authors have listed the species as *Rollulus rouloul* (Scopoli) but most, inserting a second *r*, have cited it as *Rollus rouloul*, still under the authorship of Scopoli. Basing his description on "Le Rouloul de Malacca" of Sonnerat (1782: 174, 286, pl. 100), Scopoli (1786: 93) named the bird *Phasianus (Rouloul)*. Owing perhaps to the rarity of Scopoli's publication, his name was subsequently overlooked, generally in favour of *Columba cristata* Gmelin (1788, vol. 1, pt. 2: 774). The vernacular name "Rouloul" did, however, serve as the basis for the genus *Rollulus* Bonnatere (1791, vol. 1: xciii).

Scopoli's name was resurrected by G. R. Gray (1844: 42; 1846, vol. 3: 507; 1870: 269) who unfortunately mis-spelled it *rouloul*. Since the

publication of these works by Gray, the spelling *rouroul* has appeared frequently in the literature, and with the use of this spelling by Ogilvie-Grant (1893: 225), who evidently followed Gray, and by Peters (1934: 104), the erroneous spelling has all but supplanted that appearing in Scopoli's original description. Notable exceptions have been, among others, the several papers on the birds of Borneo by R. B. Sharpe (1876: 51; 1879: 270; 1881: 800; 1890: 140) and by Salvadori (1874: 308), in which the bird is listed as *Rollulus rouroul*. Baker employed both spellings in the second edition of the *Fauna of British India*, calling the species *Rollulus rouroul* in Volume 5 (1928: 368) and *Rollulus rouloul* in Volume 7 (1930: 459). More recently, the original spelling of Scopoli has been used by Smythies (1960: 168; 1968: 172). Most other works published within the last fifty years have listed the species as *Rollulus rouroul*.

We are not aware of any published, formal emendation of Scopoli's name. Indeed, such an emendation would not be justified, since there was no error on Scopoli's part. He based the name on "Le Rouloul" of Sonnerat, who clearly intended this spelling, as it reappears in the second edition of his *Voyage* (1806: 300). It is evident therefore that Scopoli's original spelling should be used and that the Malaysian Crested Wood Partridge should be referred to as *Rollulus rouloul* (Scopoli). This spelling may be adopted without application to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, since it has been used within the last fifty years, and therefore is not a nomen oblitum as defined in Article 23b of the 1961 and 1964 International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (see also Corliss 1972).

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