NOTES ON THE NOMENCLATURE OF CERTAIN GENERA OF BIRDS

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The following notes concern the status of some seventeen generic and a few specific terms that seem to require change. Most of these, though for several years held in abeyance by the writer, appear not yet to have been published by others; a few are revivals of former changes that lately have been ignored; and one or two have been mentioned as probably necessary by recent writers who failed to go farther. The alterations in specific names pertain only to species belonging to the genera treated.

The writer is under obligation to Dr. Charles W. Richmond for various courtesies in connection with the preparation of this paper, and wishes here to express his consequent appreciation.

BELLONA Mulsant and Verreaux

This name,¹ employed by authors for a genus of West India hummingbirds, is, as already pointed out by Mr. J. H. Riley,² untenable, being preoccupied by Bellona Reichenbach,³ a genus of ornithicnites. In seeking a name for the group, however, Mr. Riley rejects the once used Orthorhyncus Lacépède⁴ as a nomen nudum because "no type was specified and the diagnosis is not diagnostic," but revives it to date from Flöring,⁵ and by elimination fixes as its type Trochilus mosquitus Linnaeus. Then, since Orthorhyncus would thus take the place of the present Chrysolampis, Mr. Riley, still by process of elimination, transfers the name Chrysolampis to the group now known as Eulampis, and the term Eulampis to the unidentified "Trochilus niger" Wied. This arrangement leaves the preoccupied Bellona without a name, and it is accordingly christened Microlyssa.⁶ These changes, however, can not stand, because Orthorhyncus is the proper name for Bellona, as may easily be shown; and they furthermore constitute a forcible illustration of the

¹ Bellona Mulsant and Verreaux, Classif. Troch., 1866, p. 75.
² Auk, 1904, p. 485.
³ Riley, Auk, 1904, p. 485.
⁵ Tabl. Ois., 1799, p. 9.
⁶ Duméril’s Analyt. Zool., 1866, p. 47.
instability and unsatisfactory nature of generic type determinations by elimination.

The genus *Orthorhyncus* was instituted by Lacépède\(^1\) for the "Oiseaux mouches," undoubtedly of Buffon, a group of twenty-four species, to one of which the name of course must be applied; so that *Orthorhyncus* stands on equal basis with the other names of Lacépède proposed in the same place, which have been subsequently accepted without question. The type of *Orthorhyncus* was fixed as *Trochilus cristatus* Linnaeus by Gray in 1840;\(^2\) and happily enough the same species also becomes the type if this be determined by elimination.

The species of this group should therefore stand as follows:
- *Orthorhyncus cristatus cristatus* (Linnaeus).
- *Orthorhyncus cristatus emigrans* Lawrence.
- *Orthorhyncus exilis* (Gmelin).

**DROMÆUS Vieillot**

This name, spelled as above, does not occur in Vieillot's "Analyse," and so far as we are aware was never used by this author. He does, however, in the main part of this work propose *Dromiceius* for the emus, type *Casuarius novaehollandiae* Latham;\(^3\) and in the supplementary list where he gives the derivations of his generic names, he inserts instead of *Dromiceius* the term *Dromaïus*\(^4\) which Ranzani later emended to *Dromæus.*\(^5\) Since *Dromiceius* can scarcely be considered a typographical error for *Dromaïus*, it follows that the former, standing first in the book, becomes the proper name for the genus.

The species are:
- *Dromiceius novaehollandiae* (Latham).
- *Dromiceius ater* (Vieillot).
- *Dromiceius irroratus* (Bartlett).
- *Dromiceius patricius* (De Vis) (fossil).
- *Dromiceius gracilipes* (De Vis) (fossil).
- *Dromiceius queenslandiae* (De Vis) (fossil).

**HYDRORNIS Milne-Edwards**

The fossil genus *Hydrornis* Milne-Edwards\(^6\) is preoccupied by *Hydrornis* Blyth, used for a member of the Pittidae (*Paludicola*).

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\(^1\) *Tabl. Ois.*, 1799, p. 9.
\(^3\) *Analyse*, 1816, p. 54.
\(^4\) *Analyse*, 1816, p. 70.
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It may be replaced by *Dyspetornis*, from *δυσπετοσκόν*, difficilis, and *δρυος*, avis. The type and only species, *Hydrornis natator* Milne-Edwards, should therefore now be called: *Dyspetornis natator* (Milne-Edwards).

**Nænia** Boie

The name *Nænia* Boie is untenable by reason of *Nænia* Stephens, employed for a genus of Lepidoptera. The next available name is apparently *Larosterna* Blyth; but the book in which this was published, though bearing on its title page the date 1849, contains internal evidence to show that it did not appear until at least 1852. This gives priority to *Inca* Jardine, which has the same species, *Sterna inca* Lesson, as its type. The only species of this group, therefore, now becomes: *Inca inca* (Lesson).

**Gnathosittaca** Cabanis

An earlier name for *Gnathosittaca* Cabanis which is based on *Gnathosittaca heinei* Cabanis (≡ *Conurus icterotis* Massena and Souancé) is found in *OGnorhynchus* Gray, type *Conurus icterotis* Massena and Souancé.

The sole species is:

*OGnorhynchus icterotis* (Massena and Souancé).

**Dasyptilus** Wagler

The generic name commonly applied to *Psittacus pecquetii* Lesson is *Dasyptilus* Wagler; but this is, however, antedated by *Psittrichas* Lesson, used for the same bird.

This species should therefore stand as:

*Psittrichas pecquetii* (Lesson).

**Nanodes** Vigors and Horsfield

The term *Nanodes* Vigors and Horsfield for a group of Psittacidae

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1 Journ. As. Soc. Bengal, xii, 1843, p. 960.
2 Loc. cit.
3 Isis, 1844, p. 189.
5 Cat. Birds Mus. As. Soc., 1852, p. 293.
is rendered untenable because of *Nanodes* Schönherr,¹ a genus of Coleoptera. Some time ago Forbes proposed to put *Lathamus* Lesson in place of *Nanodes* Vigors and Horsfield, dating the former from 1831,³ and considering its type to be *Lathamus rubrifrons* Lesson (= *Psittacus discolor* Shaw); but the earlier use of *Lathamus*, also by Lesson, as a subgenus of *Psittacus*, for *Psittacus, aurifrons* Lesson,⁴ makes it a synonym of *Bolborhynchus* and thus unavailable for *Nanodes*. The next and only other synonym of *Nanodes*, *Euphemus* Wagler,⁵ becomes consequently its tenable title, since this is not invalidated by *Euphemus* Rafinesque,⁶ a nomen nudum.

The type and sole species ought therefore to be called: *Euphemus discolor* (Shaw).

**DENDRORNIS** Eyton

The name of the group of Dendrocolaptidae to which the generic term *Dendrornis* Eyton¹ has been applied must apparently be changed. The type of *Xiphorhynchus* Swainson as usually cited⁹ is *Dendrocolaptes procurvus* Temminck; but earlier in the same year Swainson had used this generic name in describing *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*,⁹ which is a member of the present genus *Dendrornis*. Although Swainson evidently intended to make *Dendrocolaptes procurvus* Temminck the type of *Xiphorhynchus*, he defeated his purpose by allowing the previous publication of *Xiphorhynchus* in combination with the name of a species of another group, such publication being quite sufficient to fix the name of a genus. Since in this case the question is not complicated by the mention of any other species, *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster* Swainson¹⁰ must be considered the type of *Xiphorhynchus*, and this generic term therefore transferred to displace *Dendrornis*.

The species are as follows:

- *Xiphorhynchus guttatus* (Lichtenstein).
- *Xiphorhynchus guttatoides* (Lafresnaye).

³ *Traité d’Orn.*, 1831, p. 205.
⁴ *Cent. Zool.*, 1830, p. 63, pl. 18.
⁹ *Phil. Mag.*, 1, June, 1827, p. 440.
¹⁰ *Phil. Mag.*, 1, June, 1827, p. 440.
Xiphorhynchus palliatus (Des Murs).
Xiphorhynchus rostripallens rostripallens (Des Murs).
Xiphorhynchus rostripallens sororius (Berlepsch and Hartert).
Xiphorhynchus eytoni (Sclater).
Xiphorhynchus d'orbignianus (Pucheran and Lafresnaye).
Xiphorhynchus flavigaster flavigaster Swainson.
Xiphorhynchus flavigaster eburneirostris (Eyton).
Xiphorhynchus flavigaster mentalis (Lawrence).
Xiphorhynchus flavigaster megarhynchus (Nelson).
Xiphorhynchus striatigularis (Richmond).
Xiphorhynchus erythrocygnus (Sclater).
Xiphorhynchus punctigulus (Ridgway).
Xiphorhynchus triangularis triangularis (Lafresnaye).
Xiphorhynchus triangularis bogotensis (Berlepsch and Stolzmann).

Xiphorhynchus lacrymosus lacrymosus (Lawrence).
Xiphorhynchus lacrymosus eximius (Hellmayr).
Xiphorhynchus nanus nanus (Lawrence).
Xiphorhynchus nanus costiricensis (Ridgway).
Xiphorhynchus nanus confinis (Bangs).
Xiphorhynchus susurrans (Jardine).
Xiphorhynchus fraterculus (Ridgway).
Xiphorhynchus pardalotus (Vieillot).
Xiphorhynchus polystictus (Salvin and Godman).
Xiphorhynchus ocellatus (Spix).
Xiphorhynchus lineatocapillus (Berlepsch and Leverkühn).
Xiphorhynchus insignis (Hellmayr).
Xiphorhynchus elegans (Pelzeln).
Xiphorhynchus weddelli (Lafresnaye).
Xiphorhynchus kienerii (Des Murs).
Xiphorhynchus spixi (Lesson).
Xiphorhynchus chunchotambo (Tschudi).
Xiphorhynchus multiguttatus (Lafresnaye).
Xiphorhynchus obsoletus obsoletus (Lichtenstein).
Xiphorhynchus obsoletus notatus (Eyton).

**XIPHORHYNCHUS** Swainson

As explained under the previous heading, the generic name *Xiphorhynchus* Swainson,\(^1\) since its type is clearly *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster* Swainson, belongs to *Dendornis*. As the group now called *Xiphorhynchus* is thus left without a name, it may be known

\(^1\) *Phil. Mag.*, 1, June, 1827, p. 440.
as Xiphornis, from ἵφος, ensis, and ὁς, avis, and its type designated as Dendrocolaptes procurvus Temminck.

The species are:

Xiphornis procurvus (Temminck).
Xiphornis venezuelensis (Chapman).
Xiphornis trochilirostris (Lichtenstein).
Xiphornis thoracicus (Sclater).
Xiphornis lafresnayanus (d'Orbigny).
Xiphornis rufodorsalis (Chapman).
Xiphornis falcularius (Vieillot).
Xiphornis pusillus (Sclater).
Xiphornis suhprocurvus (Reichenbach).
Xiphornis dorsoimmaculatus (Chapman).
Xiphornis pucheranii (Lafresnaye).

SHARPIA Bocage

The generic term Sharpia, bestowed by Bocage on a group of Ploceidae, is preoccupied in coleoptera by Sharpia Tournier. It may be replaced by Notiospiza, from νότος, meridianus, and σπίζα, fringilla.

The type is Sharpia angolensis Bocage; and the two species will stand as:

Notiospiza angolensis (Bocage).
Notiospiza sanctithomæ (Hartlaub).

MALACOPTERON Eyton

Doctor Sharpe has already noted that Malacopteron Eyton is preoccupied in Coleoptera by Malacopterus Serville, and proposes to use Setaria Blyth in its place. Unfortunately this also is debarred, by Setaria Oken for a genus of Vermes. The genus Ophrydornis Büttikofer, based on Setaria albogularis Blyth, is quite distinct from Malacopteron proper, and therefore cannot be employed as a substitute for the latter. Doctor Charles W. Richmond calls the writer's attention to the fact that Dr. Sharpe has recently, in seeming inadvertence, transferred this name Ophrydornis to the Malacocercus

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2 C. R. Ent. Belg., xvi, 1873, p. cxxxvii.
albogularis of Blyth, which is a Dumictia, and at the same time left Setaria albogularis Blyth, the type of Ophrydornis, in Malacopteron (Setaria)¹. Since in view of these circumstances it becomes necessary to provide a new name for Malacopteron, it may be called Horizillas, from Ὠρίζω, limito, and ἰλλός, turdus, with Malacopteron magnum Eyton as the type.

The species to be referred to this group are:
- Horizillas magna (Eyton).
- Horizillas cinerea cinerea (Eyton).
- Horizillas cinerea bungurensis (Hartert).
- Horizillas rufifrons (Cabanis).
- Horizillas palawanensis (Buettikofer).
- Horizillas aëinis (Blyth).
- Horizillas notata (Richmond).
- Horizillas melanocephala (Davison).
- Horizillas cinereicapilla (Salvadori).

**HEDYMELA Sundevall**

The generic term Hedymela Sundevall,² recently employed by Dr. Sharpe for the pied flycatchers,³ is long antedated by Ficedula Brisson.⁴ The type of both is the same—Motacilla atricapilla Linnaeus—and if Brissonian genera are accepted, as is now the all but universal practice, the latter name (Ficedula) must be used for this group. The Motacilla atricapilla of Linnaeus,⁵ moreover, must give place to Motacilla ficedula Linnaeus,⁶ a prior name for the same species. Also, the bird commonly known as Muscicapa collaris Bechstein⁷ must be called Ficedula albicollis (Temminck), because Muscicapa collaris Bechstein is preoccupied by Muscicapa collaris Latham,⁸ a synonym of Platysteira cyanea, and Muscicapa albicollis Temminck⁹ is the next available name.

The species of this genus should consequently stand as follows:

² This is Trichostoma rufifrons Tweeddale, nec Malacopteron rufifrons Cabanis, and is the Turdinus rufifrons of Sharpe, Hand-List Gen. and Spec. Birds, iv, 1903, p. 33.
⁵ Orn., iii, 1760, p. 369.
⁷ Syst. Nat., ed. 10, i, 1758, p. 185.
⁹ Ind. Orn., ii, 1790, p. 471.
¹⁰ Man. d'Orn., 1815, p. 100.
Ficedula ficedula ficedula (Linnaeus).
Ficedula ficedula speculigera (Bonaparte).
Ficedula semitorquata (Homeyer).
Ficedula albicollis (Temminck).

CHENORHAMPHUS Oustalet

Chenorhamphus Oustalet,¹ based on Chenorhamphus cyanopsectus Oustalet (= Todopsis grayi Wallace), is rendered untenable by Chenorhamphus Gray² of which the type is Ardea oscitans Boddaert. Since it has no other name it may be called Conopotheras, from χωποθέρας, muscicapa.

The type and sole species is:
Conopotheras grayi (Wallace).

HELMINTHOPHILA Ridgway

The name Helminthophila Ridgway,³ long in use for a genus of Mniotiltidae in place of the preoccupied Helminthophaga Cabanis,⁴ must itself be supplanted by Vermivora Swainson⁵ of much earlier date. Swainson evidently intended Vermivora as the generic name for Sylvia vermivora Wilson (= Helmitheros vermivorus Auct. recent.), and he so published it;⁶ but in another article previously appearing, he made use of this term⁷ in combination with Sylvia solitaria Wilson (= Certhia pinus Linnaeus), which species therefore becomes the type of the genus. Furthermore, Vermivora Swainson is not, as often considered, preoccupied by "Vermivora" Meyer,⁸ for this latter is merely a group name—"Vermivora," and not used in a generic sense at all.

The species of this genus should therefore stand as:
Vermivora chrysoptera (Linnaeus).
Vermivora lawrencei (Herrick).⁹
Vermivora leucobronchialis (Brewster).¹⁰
Vermivora pinus (Linnaeus).

⁴ Mus. Hein., i, 1850, p. 20.
⁵ Phil. Mag., i, June, 1827, p. 434.
⁷ Phil. Mag., i, June, 1827, p. 434.
⁹ Probably a xanthochroic phase of V. chrysoptera, or a hybrid between V. chrysoptera and V. pinus.
¹⁰ Almost certainly a leucochroic phase of V. pinus.
Vermivora bachmani (Audubon).
Vermivora peregrina (Wilson).
Vermivora celata celata (Say).
Vermivora celata sordida (Townsend).
Vermivora celata lutescens (Ridgway).
Vermivora rubricapilla rubricapilla (Wilson).
Vermivora rubricapilla gutturalis (Ridgway).
Vermivora virginica (Baird).
Vermivora crissalis (Salvin and Godman).
Vermivora lucie (Cooper).

**TIARIS** Swainson

Doctor Charles W. Richmond has already shown¹ that *Tiaris* Swainson² belongs properly to *Euetheia*, but he failed to provide a name for the consequently nameless group of South American Fringillidae for which *Tiaris* has commonly been employed. This, therefore, may be called *Charitospiza*, from ξάρεις, gratia, and σφιξα, fringilla. The type and only species, *Fringilla ornata* Wied,³ needs a new specific designation on account of the earlier *Fringilla ornata* Vieillot,⁴ and as it has no synonyms, may be known as:

*Charitospiza eucosma* Oberholser.

**COTURNICULUS** Bonaparte

An earlier name for *Coturniculus* Bonaparte⁵ is found in *Ammomudranus* Swainson,⁶ the real type of which is *Ammomudranus bimaculatus* Swainson—not, as commonly considered, *Fringilla caudacuta* Wilson (= *Oriolus caudacutus* Gmelin).⁷ This is a case precisely similar to those of *Xiphorhynchus* and *Tiaris*, since the first use of *Ammomudranus*⁸ is in the original description of *Ammomudranus bimaculatus*, the western continental form of *Ammomudranus savannarum* (Gmelin), antedating by several months the publication of an article wherein *Fringilla caudacuta* Wilson is given as the type.¹⁰

The forms of this group will be therefore once more in possession of their former generic designation, and pass as:

¹ *Auk*, xix, 1902, p. 87.
² Phil. Mag., i, June, 1827, p. 438 (type *Tiaris pusilla* Swainson).
³ Reis. Brasil, ii, 1821, p. 191.
⁶ Phil. Mag., i, June, 1827, p. 435.
⁹ Phil. Mag., i, June, 1827, p. 435.
Ammodramus savannarum savannarum (Gmelin).
Ammodramus savannarum passerinus (Wilson).
Ammodramus savannarum obscurus Nelson.
Ammodramus savannarum floridanus (Mearns).
Ammodramus savannarum bimaculatus (Swainson).

**Ammodramus** Swainson

Since the term *Ammodramus* Swainson\(^1\) belongs to *Coturniculus*, as already shown,\(^2\) another name is required for the group to which the former has been applied, and as there is none such available, it may be called *Ammospiza*, from ἀμμός harena, and σπιζα, fringilla, with *Oriolus caudacutus* Gmelin as the type.

The species and subspecies are:

- *Ammospiza maritima maritima* (Wilson).
- *Ammospiza maritima macgillivraii* (Audubon).
- *Ammospiza maritima peninsulae* (Allen).
- *Ammospiza maritima fisheri* (Chapman).
- *Ammospiza maritima sennetti* (Allen).
- *Ammospiza nigrescens* (Ridgway).
- *Ammospiza caudacuta caudacuta* (Gmelin).
- *Ammospiza caudacuta nelsoni* (Allen).
- *Ammospiza caudacuta subvirgata* (Dwight).
- *Ammospiza lecontii* (Audubon).
- *Ammospiza henslowii henslowii* (Audubon).
- *Ammospiza henslowii occidentalis* (Brewster).

\(^1\) *Phil. Mag.*, 1, June, 1827, p. 435.
\(^2\) *Antea*, p. 67.