

## THE GENERIC NAME OF THE WILLET.

For many years—since 1858 at least—the Willet has remained in undisputed possession of the generic name *Symphemia*, proposed by Rafinesque in 1819 (*Journal de Physique*, LXXXVIII, p. 418), but overlooked by ornithologists until 1845, when it was noticed by Hartlaub (*Revue Zoologique*, 1845, p. 342). This author, in some notes on genera omitted by Gray in his "List of Genera of Birds," mentioned Rafinesque's paper, citing the three genera of birds there diagnosed, *Rimamphus*, *Helmitheros*, and *Symphemia* (all on page 418), giving, however, merely a reference to the first page (p. 417) of Rafinesque's article. Of the last he wrote: "*Symphemia*, Genre établi par Rafinesque, l.c., pour le *Scolopax semipalmata*, Gmel. espèce bien connue et type du genre *Catoptrophorus* de Bonaparte (1828). M. Rafinesque a nommé cet oiseau *S. atlantica*." Relying on Hartlaub's usual accuracy, subsequent authors accepted this statement (and erroneous page reference) without question, and *Symphemia* has since figured as the proper generic name for the Willet. Turning now to Rafinesque's paper we find the following brief account of *Symphemia*: "SYMPHEMIA. Différent du genre *Tringa* par bec cylindrique, doigts semi-palmés. Type *T. semipalmata* que je nomme *S. atlantica*. Il y en a une autre espèce en Kentucky qui peut se nommer *S. melanura*." That this diagnosis is not intended for the Willet is at once evident. The Willet, a long-legged bird, originally placed in the Linnæan genus *Scolopax*, has never been referred to *Tringa*, and its bill is by no means cylindrical. What Rafinesque actually did was to erect the genus *Symphemia* for *Tringa semipalmata* Wilson, our present *Ereunetes pusillus* (Linnæus), and as a natural sequence *Symphemia* must be reduced to a synonym of *Ereunetes* Illiger, 1811. Hence another name will be required for the Willet; and the earliest generic term for this bird appears to be *Catoptrophorus* Bonaparte (*Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. New York*, II, Nov., 1827, p. 323), first introduced as a subgenus of *Totanus*, in these words: "following the mania of the day, we have formed a new subgenus for the reception of this bird, which deserves the distinction quite as well, and better than a great many others."

It is unfortunate that Billberg's short term *Nea* was not published until 1828 (*Synopsis Faunae Scandinaviae*, II, 1828, p. 155). Two species were included in this genus, viz: *Scolopax glottis* Linn., and *S. semipalmata* Gmelin. The former is the type of *Glottis* Koch, 1816, leaving the latter as type of *Nea*.—Chas. W. Richmond.

NOTE ON THE SYNONYMY OF *HÆMATOSPIZA SIPAHI*.

In a recent note on this species (*Novitates Zoologicae*, XI, p. 456), Mr. Hartert accepts as its proper name *Hæmatospiza indica* (Gmelin), based on Seba (I, pl. 60, fig. 4), and cites two synonyms not mentioned in the British Museum "Catalogue of Birds," viz.: *Loxia indica* Gmelin (1788), and *L. boetonensis* Latham (1790). To these may be added three others, all based on Seba, or on Brisson (ex Seba):