

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):

Loxia cristata J. R. Forster, Indische Zoologie, 1781, p. 41.

Loxia butanensis J. R. Forster, Faunula Indica, 1795, p. 8.

Loxia rubra Suckow, Anfangsgr. Naturgesch. Thiere, II, 2, 1801, p. 832.

Loxia cristata Forster, 1781, being the oldest name for the species (assuming Seba's plate to be recognizable), Mr. Hartert would probably adopt it, but as it is twice preoccupied (Linnæus 1758, Müller 1776), the correct name; according to the American Ornithologists' Union "Code," would be *Hæmapiza indica* (Gmelin).—Chas. W. Richmond.

NEW GENERIC NAME FOR THE GIANT FULMAR.

The generic name *Ossifraga*, given by Hombron and Jacquinot (Comptes Rendus, XVIII, 1844, p. 356) to *Procellaria gigantea* Gmelin, is antedated by *Ossifraga* N. Wood (Analyst, II, 1835, p. 305; VI, 1837, p. 244), applied to a very different group of birds. As the Giant Fulmar is thus bereft of its generic name, that of *Macronectes* may be suggested as an equivalent.

—Chas. W. Richmond.

NOTE ON A SPECIMEN OF *PITHECOPHAGA JEFFERYI* OGILVIE-GRANT.

The United States National Museum has recently received from Mr. Fletcher L. Keller, a hemp-planter of Davao, Mindanao, and an energetic member of the Philippine Scientific Association, a fine skin of the Philippine Monkey-eating Forest-Eagle, which Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant made known as *Pithecophaga jefferyi*, a new genus and species, described in the Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club, Vol. VI, No. XL, p. XVII, 1896, and subsequently figured and described in greater detail in the *Ibis* for 1897 (pp. 214-220, pl. V, and text figures 1-4). He speaks of it as "perhaps the most remarkable bird which has been discovered in the Philippines." Mr. Ogilvie-Grant's specimen came from the island of Samar. He remarks: "The discovery of this mighty bird of prey is without doubt the most remarkable of Mr. Whitehead's achievements in the Philippine Islands. That so large a Raptor should have remained unknown till the present time only shows how easily these great Forest-Eagles may be overlooked." Respecting the size of this specimen, which was a male, Mr. Ogilvie-Grant states: "Mr. Whitehead says that it weighed between 16 and 20 lbs." The bill of this species is characterized by extreme narrowness and very great depth; and the high vaulted nasal opening is also a peculiar character. The naked tarsi and feet resemble those of the Harpy Eagle although considerably weaker. The wings are short and the tail very long, which is just the reverse of the common Eagle of the Islands (*Pontodetus leucogaster*). Mr. Ogilvie-Grant says: "Strange as it may seem, we have little doubt that the Harpy is the nearest known ally of the present species." In Sharpe's "Hand-List of the Genera and Species of Birds" (Vol. I, page 265), this bird is given a position between the Short-toed Eagles (*Circaetus*) and the Serpent-Eagles (*Spilornis*).