

FIFTEENTH SUPPLEMENT TO THE AMERICAN  
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION CHECK-LIST OF  
NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.

THE Fourteenth Supplement to the Check-List was published in 'The Auk' for July, 1908 (XXV, pp. 343-399). The present Supplement gives the results of the Committee's work at its meetings held in Cambridge, Mass., November 16, 1908, and in Washington, April 13-17, 1909. At the Washington meeting all questions before it relating to the names and status of species, subspecies, and higher groups were disposed of in preparation for the new (third) edition of the Check-List, the manuscript for which is now nearly ready for the press. The present Supplement is therefore the final report of the Committee in relation to the preparation of the new Check-List.

It was finally decided, on the ground of convenience, to retain the order of arrangement of the higher groups (orders, suborders, families, etc.) followed in the former editions of the Check-List, for reasons more fully stated in the Preface to the new edition. It was also found desirable to omit the numeration of the species. It was further decided (in opposition to a former ruling of the Committee) to continue to use the possessive form, as heretofore, in vernacular names based on the names of persons.

The vernacular names employed in the Check-List were carefully scrutinized with a view to their modification in cases where names could be found that are more in accord with those in use where the birds live. A number of popular vernacular names were thus substituted for 'book names.' It was also decided to omit 'American' as a prefix, as being superfluous in a list of North American Birds. On the other hand, European birds, with the same vernacular names as their American representatives, are distinguished by the prefix 'European.'

The Fourteenth Supplement contained a list (*l. c.*, p. 399) of 16 generic cases that had been referred to the Nomenclature Commission of the International Zoölogical Congress for decision. Unfortunately the Committee has been disappointed in its expectation of obtaining a report from the Commission in time to incorporate its decisions in the new edition of the Check-List. In the

first 12 of these cases the names involved are allowed to stand as in the previous editions of the Check-List, with the exception of the case of *Chæmepelia*, which in the present Supplement (below, p. 300) is adopted in place of the untenable name *Columbigallina*. The last four names are the 'Swainsonian genera,' of late under controversy but now accepted in accordance with the law of priority.

The list of 'deferred cases' is now reduced to 12, 11 of which relate to the status of forms that have been described as species or subspecies, and one is a case of nomenclature. In each of these cases the Committee has been unable to secure material for their proper consideration.

Committee.	{	J. A. ALLEN, <i>Chairman</i> .
		CHARLES W. RICHMOND, <i>Secretary</i> .
		WILLIAM BREWSTER.
		JONATHAN DWIGHT, JR.
		C. HART MERRIAM.
		ROBERT RIDGWAY.
	}	WITMER STONE.

## I. ADDITIONS TO THE CHECK-LIST.

### 133a. *Anas rubripes tristis* BREWSTER.

**Black Duck.**

*Anas rubripes tristis* BREWSTER, *Auk*, XXVI, April, 1909, 176.

### 197.1. *Egretta candidissima brewsteri* THAYER & BANGS.

**Brewster's Snowy Egret.**

*Egretta candidissima brewsteri* THAYER & BANGS, *Proc. New Engl. Zool. Club*, IV, April 29, 1909, 40.

### 301b. *Lagopus lagopus alexandræ* J. GRINNELL.

**Alexander's Ptarmigan.**

*Lagopus alexandræ* GRINNELL, *Univ. Calif. Pub. Zool.*, V, No. 2, Feb. 18, 1909, 204.

### 302e. *Lagopus rupestris chamberlaini* CLARK.

**Adak Ptarmigan.**

*Lagopus rupestris chamberlaini* CLARK, *Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus.*, XXXII, No. 1539, June 15, 1907, 469.

- 302f. **Lagopus rupestris dixonii** J. GRINNELL.

Dixon's Ptarmigan.

*Lagopus dixonii* GRINNELL, Univ. Calif. Pub. Zoöl., V. No. 2,  
Feb. 18, 1909, 207.

- 337e. **Buteo borealis alascensis** J. GRINNELL.

Alaska Red-tail.

*Buteo borealis alascensis* GRINNELL, Univ. Calif. Pub. Zoöl.,  
V, No. 2, Feb. 18, 1909, 211.

#### SUBFAMILY POLYBORINÆ.

Admitted as a subfamily, to include Nos. 362 and 363.

- 393g. **Dryobates villosus terrænovæ** BATCHELDER.

Newfoundland Woodpecker.

*Dryobates villosus terrænovæ* BATCHELDER, Proc. New Engl.  
Zoöl. Club, IV, June 24, 1908, 37.

- 581s. **Melospiza melodia maxillaris** J. GRINNELL.

Suisun Song Sparrow.

*Melospiza melodia maxillaris* GRINNELL, Univ. Calif. Pub.  
Zoöl., V, No. 3, April 9, 1909, 265.

## II. ELIMINATIONS.

- [359.1.] **Falco tinnunculus** LINNÆUS. Excluded on the basis of recent evidence that it was included in the Check-List on erroneous information.

- 622d. **Lanius ludovicianus mearnsi** RIDGWAY. Considered as indistinguishable from *L. l. anthonyi*. (Cf. LINTON, Condor, X, 1908, 182.)

## III. CHANGES IN NOMENCLATURE, INCLUDING CHANGES IN STATUS.

- [106.2.] **Oceanodroma castro** (HARCOURT). Brackets to be removed.

GENUS **PAVONCELLA** LEACH. This, being a *nomen nudum*, becomes

GENUS **MACHETES** CUVIER.

*Machetes* CUVIER, Règne Animal, I, 1817, 490. Type, *Tringa pugnax* LINNÆUS.

No. [260] thus becomes

[260] **Machetes pugnax** (LINNÆUS).

SUBFAMILY **PERDICINÆ**. PARTRIDGES. This becomes

FAMILY **ODONTOPHORIDÆ**. BOB-WHITES, QUAILS, ETC.

SUBFAMILY **TETRAONINÆ**. This becomes

FAMILY **TETRAONIDÆ**. GROUSE, SPRUCE PARTRIDGES, PTARMIGANS, ETC.

FAMILY **PHASIANIDÆ**. This becomes

FAMILY **MELEAGRIDÆ**. TURKEYS.

GENUS **COLUMBIGALLINA** BOIE. Within the limits of the Check-List, this is changed to

GENUS **CHÆMEPELIA** SWAINSON.

*Chæmepelia* SWAINSON, Zoölogical Journal, III, Dec., 1827, 361. Type, *Columba passerina* LINNÆUS.

No. 320 and its subspecies require correction as follows:

320. **Chæmepelia passerina terrestris** (CHAPMAN).

320a. **Chæmepelia passerina pallescens** BAIRD.

320b. **Chæmepelia passerina bermudiana** (BANGS & BRADLEE).

SUBFAMILY **ACCIPITRINÆ**. Becomes

FAMILY **BUTEONIDÆ**.

SUBFAMILY **FALCONINÆ**. This becomes

FAMILY **FALCONIDÆ**. To include the subfamilies *Falconinæ* and *Polyborinæ*.

SUBFAMILY **PANDIONINÆ**. This is given family rank, as

FAMILY **PANDIONIDÆ**.

GENUS **GLAUX** MORRIS. This, strictly interpreted, is a *nomen nudum*, and again becomes

GENUS **CRYPTOGLAUX** RICHMOND.

*Cryptoglaux* RICHMOND, Auk, XVIII, April, 1901, 193. Type, *Strix tengmalmi* GMELIN = *S. fumerea* LINNÆUS.

Nos. 371-372a will thus remain as given in the Thirteenth Supplement (Auk, XXI, 1904, 413), with the change of the species name from *tengmalmi* to *fumerea*, as given in the Fourteenth Supplement (Auk, XXV, 1908, 371).

GENUS **TROCHILUS** LINNÆUS. This is changed to

GENUS **ARCHILOCHUS** REICHENBACH.

*Archilochus* REICHENBACH, Journ. für Orn., 1853, Extra-Heft, 1854 (Aufz. der Colib.), 13. Type, *Trochilus alexandri* BOURCIER & Mulsant.

The following changes are necessitated in nos. 428 and 429:

428. **Archilochus colubris** (LINNÆUS).

429. **Archilochus alexandri** (BOURCIER & Mulsant).

GENUS **COTURNICULUS** BONAPARTE. This becomes

GENUS **AMMODRAMUS** SWAINSON.

*Ammodramus* SWAINSON, Philos. Magazine, n. s., I, June, 1827, 435. Type, *Ammodramus bimaculatus* SWAINSON.

Nos. 545-546b become

545. **Ammodramus bairdi** (AUDUBON).

546. *Ammodramus savannarum australis* MAYNARD.  
 546a. *Ammodramus savannarum bimaculatus* SWAINSON.  
 546b. *Ammodramus savannarum floridanus* (MEARNS).

SUBGENUS **AMMODRAMUS** SWAINSON. This is changed to

GENUS **PASSERHERBULUS** MAYNARD.

*Passerherbulus* MAYNARD, *Birds Eastern N. A.*, 2d ed., Pt. 40,  
 1895, 707. Type, *Emberiza leconteii* AUDUBON.

Nos. 547-551 thus become

547. *Passerherbulus henslowi* (AUDUBON).  
 547a. *Passerherbulus henslowi occidentalis* (BREWSTER).  
 548. *Passerherbulus lecontei* (AUDUBON).  
 549. *Passerherbulus caudacutus* (GMELIN).  
 549.1. *Passerherbulus nelsoni* (ALLEN).  
 549.1a. *Passerherbulus nelsoni subvirgatus* (DWIGHT).  
 550. *Passerherbulus maritimus* (WILSON).  
 550a. *Passerherbulus maritimus peninsulæ* (ALLEN).  
 550b. *Passerherbulus maritimus sennetti* (ALLEN).  
 550c. *Passerherbulus maritimus fisheri* (CHAPMAN).  
 550d. *Passerherbulus maritimus macgillivraii* (AUDUBON).  
 551. *Passerherbulus nigrescens* (RIDGWAY).

GENUS **HELMINTHOPHILA** RIDGWAY. This becomes

GENUS **VERMIVORA** SWAINSON.

*Vermivora* SWAINSON, *Philos. Magazine*, n. s., I, June, 1827,  
 434. Type, *Sylvia solitaria* WILSON = *Certhia pinus*  
 LINNÆUS.

Nos. 640-647 thus become

640. *Vermivora bachmani* (AUDUBON).  
 641. *Vermivora pinus* (LINNÆUS).  
 642. *Vermivora chrysoptera* (LINNÆUS).  
 643. *Vermivora luciaë* (COOPER).

644. *Vermivora virginiae* (BAIRD).  
 645. *Vermivora rubricapilla* (WILSON).  
 645a. *Vermivora rubricapilla gutturalis* (RIDGWAY).  
 646. *Vermivora celata* (SAY).  
 646a. *Vermivora celata lutescens* (RIDGWAY).  
 646b. *Vermivora celata sordida* (C. H. TOWNSEND).  
 647. *Vermivora peregrina* (WILSON).  
 662. *Dendroica blackburniae* (GMELIN). This is changed to  
 662. *Dendroica fusca* (P. L. S. MÜLLER).

*Motacilla fusca* MÜLLER, *Natursyst. Suppl.*, 1776, 175. (*Cf.*  
 BERLEPSCH, *Novit. Zool.*, XV, 1908, 315.)

This change is made necessary by reason of *Motacilla fusca*  
 MÜLLER having priority over *M. blackburniae* GMELIN.

#### IV. PROPOSED ADDITIONS AND CHANGES NOT ACCEPTED.

**Plautus**<sup>1</sup> vs. *Alca*.

**Thalasseus** vs. *Hydroprogne*.

**Actochelidon** vs. *Thalasseus*.

**Fulmarus** vs. *Rhantistes*.

**Herodias** vs. *Leucophoyx*.

*Lophortyx catalinensis* GRINNELL, *Auk*, XXIII, 1906, 262. Re-  
 considered and again found not entitled to recognition.

**Chæmepelia** vs. *Columbina*.

**Gatharista** vs. ———?

**Urubitinga** vs. *Morphnus*.

*Speotyto cunicularia becki* ROTHSCHILD & HARTERT, *Nov. Zool.*,  
 IX, 1902, 405. The Guadeloupe Island form is too slightly  
 differentiated to warrant recognition.

**Ceryle** vs. *Alcedo*.

*Picoides americanus fumipectus* GRINNELL, *Univ. Calif. Pub. Zool.*,  
 V, 1909, 217. The single known specimen considered as not a  
 satisfactory basis for the admission of this form.

*Otocoris alpestris enertera* OBERHOLSER, *Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash.*,  
 XX, 1907, 41. Regarded as too close to *O. a. pallida*.

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<sup>1</sup> In reference to the generic cases here listed see *antea*, p. 295.

*Agelaius phoeniceus arctolegus* OBERHOLSER, Auk, XXIV, 1907, 332. Not satisfactorily distinguishable.

*Loxia curvirostra sitkensis* GRINNELL, Univ. Calif. Pub. Zoöl., V, 1909, 223. It was found that the alleged characters appear in birds from various parts of the range of *L. c. minor*.

**Acanthis** vs. *Ægiothus*.

**Zonotrichia** vs. *Hortulanus*.

*Melospiza melodia saltonis* GRINNELL, Univ. Calif. Pub. Zoöl., V, 1909, 268. Not satisfactorily distinguishable from *M. m. fallax*.

*Melospiza melodia gouldi*, cf. GRINNELL, Univ. Calif. Pub. Zoöl., V, 1909, 267. Regarded as too near *M. m. samuelis*.

**Tiaris** vs. *Euethia*.

*Bombycilla garrula pallidiceps* REICHENOW, Orn. Monatsb., XVI, 1908, 191. No appreciable differences could be found between birds from Europe and various parts of the Northwest, when birds comparable as to season, age, and sex were compared.

*Virco huttoni oberholseri* BISHOP, Condor, VII, Sept. 1905, 142, 143. Based on a seasonal phase of plumage. (Cf. GRINNELL, Condor, XI, March, 1909, 66.)

**Helinaia** — ?

The following generic names, proposed in Maynard's Directory to the Birds of Eastern North America, 1907, are not accepted:

*Cacruleocantor*, p. 236. Type, *Motacilla cærulescens* GMELIN.

*Maculocantor*, p. 238. Type, *Motacilla maculosa* GMELIN.

*Azuria*, p. 238. Type, *Sylvia rara* WILSON.

*Sylviocantor*, p. 239. Type, *Motacilla pensylvanica* LINNÆUS.

*Lineocantor*, p. 240. Type, *Motacilla striata* FORSTER.

*Piceacantor*, p. 241. Type, *Motacilla blackburnie* GMELIN.

*Vireocantor*, p. 242. Type, *Motacilla virens* GMELIN.

*Agreocantor*, p. 243. Type, *Sylvicola kirtlandii* BAIRD.

*Pinacantor*, p. 244. Type, *Sylvia vigorsii* AUDUBON.

*Terracantor*, p. 245. Type, *Motacilla palmarum* GMELIN.

*Fruticantor*, p. 246. Type, *Sylvia discolor* VIEILLOT.

*Frutiornis*, p. 251. Type, *Sylvia formosa* WILSON.

**Turdus iliacus** vs. *T. philomelos* [BREHM, 1831] (cf. HARTERT, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, XXXIII, No. cxlviii, Feb. 2, 1909, 54).



*Planesticus migratorius caurinus*, GRINNELL, Univ. Calif. Pub. Zoöl., V, 1909, 241.

#### V. DEFERRED CASES.

*Acanthopneuste borealis* vs. *A. b. kennicottii*.

*Accipiter velox rufilatus* RIDGWAY.

*Anas boschas spilogaster* SCHIOLER.

*Ardea herodias treganzai* COURT.

*Bæolophus inornatus murinus* RIDGWAY.

*Glaucidium phalænoides* vs. *G. p. ridgwayi*.

*Larus vegæ* vs. *L. argentatus*.

*Melospiza cinerea phæa* FISHER.

*Oceanodroma socorroensis* vs. *O. monorhis*.

*Pinacantor vigorsii florida* MAYNARD.

*Telmatodytes palustris thryophilus* OBERHOLSER.

*Totanus melanoleucus frazari* BREWSTER.

#### VI. CHANGES IN VERNACULAR NAMES.

In addition to the list of changes given below it was decided to omit 'American' as a part of the vernacular name, and to add 'European' where necessary. Also to abandon the adjectival form of geographical names, as Bahaman, Californian, Texan, etc., for Bahama, California, Texas, etc., except where the adjectival form is required for euphony, as in Acadian, Cuban, Mexican, etc.; and to substitute Northwestern for Northwest, where such designations occur.

St. Domingo Grebe	becomes Mexican Grebe.
Dark-bodied Shearwater	“ Sooty Shearwater.
Stormy Petrel	“ Storm Petrel.
Tropic Bird	“ Tropic-bird.
Anhinga	“ Water-Turkey.
Man-o'-War Bird	“ Man-o'-war-bird.
Widgeon	“ European Widgeon.
Steller's Duck	“ Steller's Eider.
Lesser Snow Goose	“ Snow Goose.
Ross's Snow Goose	“ Ross's Goose.
White-bellied Brant	“ Brant.
Whooping Swan	“ Whooper Swan.

European Blue Heron	becomes European Heron.
Snowy Heron	“ Snowy Egret.
Greater Snipe	“ Great Snipe.
Bartramian Sandpiper	“ Upland Plover.
Ring Plover	“ Ringed Plover.
Little Ring Plover	“ Little Ringed Plover.
Surf-Bird	“ Surf-bird.
Partridge	“ Quail, in Nos. 292-296.
Canada Grouse	“ Spruce Partridge.
Prairie Hen	“ Prairie Chicken.
Sage Grouse	“ Sage Hen.
Florida Wild Turkey	“ Florida Turkey.
Black Merlin	“ Black Pigeon Hawk.
Richardson's Merlin	“ Richardson's Pigeon Hawk.
Green-crested Flycatcher	“ Acadian Flycatcher.
American Raven (No. 486)	“ Western Raven.
Bicolored Blackbird	“ Bicolored Red-wing.
Tricolored Blackbird	“ Tricolored Red-wing.
House Finch	“ California Linnet.
Leucosticte (Nos. 523-526)	“ Rosy Finch.
Snowflake (Nos. 534-535)	“ Snow Bunting.
Sandwich Sparrow	“ Aleutian Savannah Sparrow.
Savanna <sup>1</sup> Sparrow	“ Savannah Sparrow.
Bryant's Marsh Sparrow	“ Bryant's Sparrow.
Belding's Marsh Sparrow	“ Belding's Sparrow.
Townsend's Sparrow	“ Townsend's Fox Sparrow, and the word 'Fox' is added in the names of all the sub- species of No. 585.
Louisiana Tanager	“ Western Tanager.
Parkman's Wren	“ Western House Wren.
Turner's Chickadee	“ Yukon Chickadee.
Wilson's Thrush	“ Veery.

The word 'Bewick's' is to be omitted from all the subspecies under No. 719, except the first.

Ridgway's vernacular names, in 'Birds of North and Middle America,' are adopted for the species and subspecies of *Chamaea*.

'Macgillivray's Warbler' is *not* changed to 'Tolmie's Warbler.'

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<sup>1</sup> Named from the city of Savannah.