

## THE NAMES OF TWO NORTH AMERICAN WOLVES.

The technical names now in use for two of the wolves occurring in eastern North America are clearly untenable.

In 1761\* Buffon published an account of a melanistic wolf brought alive to Paris from Canada by a French naval officer. The plate representing this animal was copied by Schreber fifteen years later with the addition of the name *Canis lycaon*.† Although the name *lycaon* has been recently applied to the wolf of the Pyrenees,‡ it must stand for the animal occurring in eastern Canada and the northeastern United States. This form, as pointed out by Baird,§ differs from western and northern wolves in the weakness of the rostral portion of the skull.

In 1829 Richardson described the melanistic phase of the wolf of Mackenzie and Saskatchewan as [*Canis lupus, occidentalis*] var. *E. Lupus ater*. He supposed that the same animal occurred throughout North America, and at the end of his account he mentioned that: "it is reported to be plentiful in Florida, where, according to Bartram, the females are distinguished by a white spot on the breast."|| On the strength of this final statement Bangs restricted the name *ater* to the wolf of Florida.¶ This course is obviously not in harmony with the spirit of the International Code, Art. 30. There can be little if any doubt that a specific name like a generic name must, under the code, be applied to an animal known at first hand by the original author, when, as in the present case, there is choice between such an animal and others known from literature only. The Florida wolf is thus left without a technical name, since the *Canis lycaon*  $\beta$  *americana* applied to it by Hamilton Smith in 1827\*\* is invalidated by the *Canis alopec americanus* of Kerr, 1791,†† and the *Canis familiaris a americanus* of Gmelin, 1788.‡‡ It may be known as *Canis floridanus*.§§

—Gerrit S. Miller, Jr.

\* Hist. Nat., IX, pp. 362-370, pl. XLI.

† Säugethiere, pl. LXXXIX (only vernacular name used in text, III, p. 353), 1776.

‡ See Trouessart, Faune Mamm. d'Europe, p. 90, 1910.

§ Mamm. North Amer., p. 108, 1857.

|| Fauna Boreali-Americana, pp. 70-72, 1829.

¶ Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., XXVIII, p. 233, March, 1898.

\*\* Griffith's Cuvier, Animal Kingdom, V, p. 111.

†† Animal Kingdom, p. 142.

‡‡ Syst. Nat., 13th ed., I, p. 69.

§§ Type adult female (skin and skull) No.  $\frac{19376}{38488}$  U. S. National Museum, Horse Landing, St. Johns River, Florida, August 12, 1890, presented by Dr. W. L. Ralph. General color light buffy gray faintly clouded with black on upperparts; muzzle, legs and feet with strong ochraceous wash. Skull and teeth much as in *Canis lycaon*, but premolars larger and upper carnassial less robust; condylobasal length about 216 mm., zygomatic breadth 121.5 mm.

