

NOTES ON THE SKUNKS OF INDIANA, WITH A CORRECTION.

In my "Revision of the Skunks of the Genus *Chincha*" * [= *Mephitis*], I listed under the name *Chincha mesomelas avia* a specimen from Fowler, Benton County, Indiana. This specimen was in the collection of Dr. C. Hart Merriam, having been purchased from Fletcher M. Noe of Indianapolis, labeled by him with the above locality. Quite recently, this specimen with a number of other mammal skins bearing Noe's name as collector and labeled as from various places in Indiana were shown to Mr. Vernon Bailey, who instantly recognized them by the peculiar make up as having been collected by himself at Elk River, Minnesota and sold to said Noe. Associated with the skunk skin was an undoubted skull of *Mephitis mesomelas avia*, but in view of the circumstances there can be no assurance that it came from Indiana and the record above referred to should be disregarded. † The reliability of the data with any other specimens bearing Noe's name that may have found their way into collections is thus open to suspicion.

Evermann and Clark, in their "Notes on the Mammals of the Lake Maxinkuckee Region" ‡ (influenced, probably, by the supposed record from Fowler), referred the skunks of that region to *Mephitis mesomelas avia*, but specimens in the Biological Survey from Culver, later secured through the aid of Doctor Evermann, prove to be *Mephitis mephitis putida*, as are also specimens from Knox County. *Mephitis mesomelas avia* is known at present in Indiana only from a single specimen in the U. S. National Museum collected at Effner, on the Indiana-Illinois boundary.

—*Arthur H. Howell.*

NOTE ON *ANAS CRISTATA* GMELIN.

Count Salvadori§ says of *Anas cristata*: "This species is not a very typical member of the genus *Anas*." When a species does not conform to the diagnosis of a genus or does not fit in one without making it too elastic, I believe that it is best to remove such species, and accordingly I propose **Lophonetta** with *Anas cristata* Gmelin as the type, with the following diagnosis:

Differs from *Anas* in possessing a hair-like nuchal crest; in the middle tail-feathers being lengthened, broad, and acute, not recurved; and in having the tail composed of only 14 feathers instead of 18-20.

The two races will stand as follows:

Lophonetta cristata cristata (Gmelin).

[*Anas*] *cristata* GMELIN, Sys. Nat. i, 2, 1789, 540.

Lophonetta cristata alticola (Menegaux).

Anas cristata alticola Menegaux, Rev. Fran. Orn. I, Jan. 7, 1910, 137.

—*J. H. Riley.*

* N. Am. Fauna, No. 20, 1901, p. 31.

† The Elk River Skunk is *Mephitis hudsonica*.

‡ Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci., XIII, 1911, p. 29.

§ Cat. Birds Br. Mus., xxvii, 1895, 217.