

NOTES ON THE NOMENCLATURE OF CERTAIN GENERA OF BIRDS

By HARRY C. OBERHOLSER

The following notes concern the status of some seventeen generic and a few specific terms that seem to require change. Most of these, though for several years held in abeyance by the writer, appear not yet to have been published by others; a few are revivals of former changes that lately have been ignored; and one or two have been mentioned as probably necessary by recent writers who failed to go farther. The alterations in specific names pertain only to species belonging to the genera treated.

The writer is under obligation to Dr. Charles W. Richmond for various courtesies in connection with the preparation of this paper, and wishes here to express his consequent appreciation.

BELLONA Mulsant and Verreaux

This name,¹ employed by authors for a genus of West India hummingbirds, is, as already pointed out by Mr. J. H. Riley,² untenable, being preoccupied by *Bellona* Reichenbach,³ a genus of ornithicnites. In seeking a name for the group, however, Mr. Riley rejects the once used *Orthorhyncus* Lacépède⁴ as a nomen nudum because "no type was specified and the diagnosis is not diagnostic," but revives it to date from Froriep,⁵ and by elimination fixes as its type *Trochilus mosquitus* Linnæus. Then, since *Orthorhyncus* would thus take the place of the present *Chrysolampis*, Mr. Riley, still by process of elimination, transfers the name *Chrysolampis* to the group now known as *Eulampis*, and the term *Eulampis* to the unidentified "*Trochilus niger*" Wied. This arrangement leaves the preoccupied *Bellona* without a name, and it is accordingly christened *Microlyssa*.⁶ These changes, however, can not stand, because *Orthorhyncus* is the proper name for *Bellona*, as may easily be shown; and they furthermore constitute a forcible illustration of the

¹ *Bellona* Mulsant and Verreaux, *Classif. Troch.*, 1866, p. 75.

² *Auk*, 1904, p. 485.

³ Riley, *Auk*, 1904, p. 485.

⁴ *Natürl. Syst. Vögel*, 1852, p. xxx.

⁵ *Tabl. Ois.*, 1799, p. 9.

⁶ Duméril's *Analyt. Zool.*, 1806, p. 47.

instability and unsatisfactory nature of generic type determinations by elimination.

The genus *Orthorhyncus* was instituted by Lacépède¹ for the "Oiseaux mouches," undoubtedly of Buffon, a group of twenty-four species, to one of which the name of course must be applied; so that *Orthorhyncus* stands on equal basis with the other names of Lacépède proposed in the same place, which have been subsequently accepted without question. The type of *Orthorhyncus* was fixed as *Trochilus cristatus* Linnæus by Gray in 1840;² and happily enough the same species also becomes the type if this be determined by elimination.

The species of this group should therefore stand as follows:

Orthorhyncus cristatus cristatus (Linnæus).

Orthorhyncus cristatus emigrans Lawrence.

Orthorhyncus ornatus Gould.

Orthorhyncus exilis (Gmelin).

DROMÆUS Vieillot

This name, spelled as above, does not occur in Vieillot's "Analyse," and so far as we are aware was never used by this author. He does, however, in the main part of this work propose *Dromiceius* for the emu, type *Casuarius novaehollandiæ* LATHAM;³ and in the supplementary list where he gives the derivations of his generic names, he inserts instead of *Dromiceius* the term *Dromaius*⁴ which Ranzani later emended to *Dromæus*.⁵ Since *Dromiceius* can scarcely be considered a typographical error for *Dromaius*, it follows that the former, standing first in the book, becomes the proper name for the genus.

The species are:

Dromiceius novaehollandiæ (Latham).

Dromiceius ater (Vieillot).

Dromiceius irroratus (Bartlett).

Dromiceius patricius (De Vis) (fossil).

Dromiceius gracilipes (De Vis) (fossil).

Dromiceius queenslandiæ (De Vis) (fossil).

HYDRORNIS Milne-Edwards

The fossil genus *Hydrornis* Milne-Edwards⁶ is preoccupied by *Hydrornis* Blyth, used for a member of the Pittidæ (*Paludicola*

¹ *Tabl. Ois.*, 1799, p. 9.

² *List Gen. Birds*, 1840, p. 14.

³ *Analyse*, 1816, p. 54.

⁴ *Analyse*, 1816, p. 70.

⁵ *El. di. Zool.*, III, pt. I, 1821, p. 98.

⁶ *Rech. Oiseaux Foss. France*, I, 1867, p. 362, Tb. 57, fig. 18-22.

nipalensis Hodgson).¹ It may be replaced by *Dyspetornis*, from *δυσπετήρ*, *difficilis*, and *ὄρνις*, *avis*. The type and only species, *Hydrornis natator* Milne-Edwards,² should therefore now be called: *Dyspetornis natator* (Milne-Edwards).

NÆNIA Boie

The name *Nænia* Boie³ is untenable by reason of *Nænia* Stephens,⁴ employed for a genus of Lepidoptera. The next available name is apparently *Larosterna* Blyth;⁵ but the book in which this was published, though bearing on its title page the date 1849, contains internal evidence to show that it did not appear until at least 1852. This gives priority to *Inca* Jardine,⁶ which has the same species, *Sterna inca* Lesson, as its type. The only species of this group, therefore, now becomes:

Inca inca (Lesson).

GNATHOSITTACA Cabanis

An earlier name for *Gnathosittaca* Cabanis⁷ which is based on *Gnathosittaca heinei* Cabanis (= *Conurus icterotis* Massena and Souancé) is found in *Ognorhynchus* Gray,⁸ type *Conurus icterotis* Massena and Souancé.

The sole species is:

Ognorhynchus icterotis (Massena and Souancé).

DASYPTILUS Wagler

The generic name commonly applied to *Psittacus pecquetii* Lesson is *Dasyptilus* Wagler;⁹ but this is, however, antedated by *Psittrichas* Lesson,¹⁰ used for the same bird.

This species should therefore stand as:

Psittrichas pecquetii (Lesson.)

NANODES Vigors and Horsfield

The term *Nanodes* Vigors and Horsfield¹¹ for a group of Psittacidae

¹ *Journ. As. Soc. Bengal*, xii, 1843, p. 960.

² *Loc. cit.*

³ *Isis*, 1844, p. 189.

⁴ *Ill. Brit. Ent.*, ii, 1829, p. 165.

⁵ *Cat. Birds Mus. As. Soc.*, 1852, p. 293.

⁶ *Contrib. Orn.*, 1850, p. 33.

⁷ *Journ. f. Ornith.*, 1864, p. 414.

⁸ *List Psitt. Br. Mus.*, 1859, p. 33.

⁹ *Abhandl. Ak. Wissensch. München*, i, 1832, p. 502.

¹⁰ *Illustr. Zool.*, 1831, pl. i; Ferussac's *Bull. des Sci. Nat.*, xxv, June, 1831, p. 341.

¹¹ *Trans. Linn. Soc.*, xv, Feb., 1827, p. 274.

is rendered untenable because of *Nanodes* Schönherr,¹ a genus of Coleoptera. Some time ago Forbes proposed to put *Lathamus* Lesson in place of *Nanodes* Vigors and Horsfield, dating the former from 1831,³ and considering its type to be *Lathamus rubrifrons* Lesson (= *Psittacus discolor* Shaw); but the earlier use of *Lathamus*, also by Lesson, as a subgenus of *Psittacus*, for *Psittacus aurifrons* Lesson,⁴ makes it a synonym of *Bolborhynchus* and thus unavailable for *Nanodes*. The next and only other synonym of *Nanodes*, *Euphema* Wagler,⁵ becomes consequently its tenable title, since this is not invalidated by *Euphemus* Rafinesque,⁶ a nomen nudum.

The type and sole species ought therefore to be called:

Euphema discolor (Shaw).

DENDRORNIS Eyton

The name of the group of Dendrocolaptidæ to which the generic term *Dendrornis* Eyton⁷ has been applied must apparently be changed. The type of *Xiphorhynchus* Swainson as usually cited⁸ is *Dendrocolaptes procurvus* Temminck; but earlier in the same year Swainson had used this generic name in describing *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*,⁹ which is a member of the present genus *Dendrornis*. Although Swainson evidently intended to make *Dendrocolaptes procurvus* Temminck the type of *Xiphorhynchus*, he defeated his purpose by allowing the previous publication of *Xiphorhynchus* in combination with the name of a species of another group, such publication being quite sufficient to fix the name of a genus. Since in this case the question is not complicated by the mention of any other species, *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster* Swainson¹⁰ must be considered the type of *Xiphorhynchus*, and this generic term therefore transferred to displace *Dendrornis*.

The species are as follows:

Xiphorhynchus guttatus (Lichtenstein).

Xiphorhynchus guttatoides (Lafresnaye).

¹ *Curc. Disp. Meth.*, 1826, p. 322.

² *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, 1879, p. 166.

³ *Traité d'Orn.*, 1831, p. 205.

⁴ *Cent. Zool.*, 1830, p. 63, pl. 18.

⁵ *Abhandl. Ak. Wissensch. München*, 1, 1832, p. 492.

⁶ *Anal. Nat.*, 1815, p. 144.

⁷ *Jardine's Contr. Ornith.*, 1852, p. 23.

⁸ *Zool. Journ.*, III, Aug.-Nov., 1827, p. 354.

⁹ *Phil. Mag.*, 1, June, 1827, p. 440.

¹⁰ *Phil. Mag.*, 1, June, 1827, p. 440.

- Xiphorhynchus palliatus* (Des Murs).
Xiphorhynchus rostri pallens rostri pallens (Des Murs).
Xiphorhynchus rostri pallens sororius (Berlepsch and Hartert).
Xiphorhynchus eytoni (Sclater).
Xiphorhynchus d'orbignianus (Pucheran and Lafresnaye).
Xiphorhynchus flavigaster flavigaster Swainson.
Xiphorhynchus flavigaster eburneirostris (Eyton).
Xiphorhynchus flavigaster mentalis (Lawrence).
Xiphorhynchus flavigaster megarhynchus (Nelson).
Xiphorhynchus striatigularis (Richmond).
Xiphorhynchus erythropygius (Sclater).
Xiphorhynchus punctigulus (Ridgway).
Xiphorhynchus triangularis triangularis (Lafresnaye).
Xiphorhynchus triangularis bogotensis (Berlepsch and Stolzmann).
Xiphorhynchus lacrymosus lacrymosus (Lawrence).
Xiphorhynchus lacrymosus eximius (Hellmayr).
Xiphorhynchus nanus nanus (Lawrence).
Xiphorhynchus nanus costiricensis (Ridgway).
Xiphorhynchus nanus confinis (Bangs).
Xiphorhynchus susurrans (Jardine).
Xiphorhynchus fraterculus (Ridgway).
Xiphorhynchus pardalotus (Vieillot).
Xiphorhynchus polystictus (Salvin and Godman).
Xiphorhynchus ocellatus (Spix).
Xiphorhynchus lineatocapillus (Berlepsch and Leverkühn).
Xiphorhynchus insignis (Hellmayr).
Xiphorhynchus elegans (Pelzeln).
Xiphorhynchus weddelli (Lafresnaye).
Xiphorhynchus kieneri (Des Murs).
Xiphorhynchus spixi (Lesson).
Xiphorhynchus chunchotambo (Tschudi).
Xiphorhynchus multiguttatus (Lafresnaye).
Xiphorhynchus obsoletus obsoletus (Lichtenstein).
Xiphorhynchus obsoletus notatus (Eyton).

XIPHORHYNCHUS Swainson

As explained under the previous heading, the generic name *Xiphorhynchus* Swainson,¹ since its type is clearly *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster* Swainson, belongs to *Dendrornis*. As the group now called *Xiphorhynchus* is thus left without a name, it may be known

¹ *Phil. Mag.*, 1, June, 1827, p. 440.

as *Xiphornis*, from *ξίφος*, ensis, and *ἄρνις*, avis, and its type designated as *Dendrocolaptes procurvus* Temminck.

The species are:

- Xiphornis procurvus* (Temminck).
- Xiphornis venezuelensis* (Chapman).
- Xiphornis trochilirostris* (Lichtenstein).
- Xiphornis thoracicus* (Sclater).
- Xiphornis lafresnayanus* (d'Orbigny).
- Xiphornis rufodorsalis* (Chapman).
- Xiphornis falcularius* (Vieillot).
- Xiphornis pusillus* (Sclater).
- Xiphornis subprocurvus* (Reichenbach).
- Xiphornis dorsoimmaculatus* (Chapman).
- Xiphornis pucheranii* (Lafresnaye).

SHARPIA Bocage

The generic term *Sharpia*, bestowed by Bocage¹ on a group of Ploceidæ, is preoccupied in coleoptera by *Sharpia* Tournier.² It may be replaced by *Notiospiza*, from *νότιος*, meridianus, and *σπίζα*, fringilla.

The type is *Sharpia angolensis* Bocage; and the two species will stand as:

- Notiospiza angolensis* (Bocage).
- Notiospiza sanctithomæ* (Hartlaub).

MALACOPTERON Eyton

Doctor Sharpe has already noted³ that *Malacopteron* Eyton is preoccupied in Coleoptera by *Malacopterus* Serville,⁵ and proposes to use *Setaria* Blyth⁶ in its place. Unfortunately this also is debarred, by *Setaria* Oken⁷ for a genus of Vermes. The genus *Ophrydornis* Büttikofer,⁸ based on *Setaria albogularis* Blyth, is quite distinct from *Malacopteron* proper, and therefore can not be employed as a substitute for the latter. Doctor Charles W. Richmond calls the writer's attention to the fact that Dr. Sharpe has recently, in seeming inadvertence, transferred this name *Ophrydornis* to the *Malacocercus*

¹ *Jorn. Sci. Math. Phys. e Nat. Lisboa*, vi, 1878, p. 258.

² *C. R. Ent. Belg.*, xvi, 1873, p. cxxxvii.

³ *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club*, xii, 1902, p. 54.

⁴ *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, 1839, p. 102.

⁵ *Ann. Soc. Ent. France*, ii, 1833, p. 565.

⁶ *Journ. As. Soc. Bengal*, xiii, pt. i, 1844, p. 385.

⁷ *Lehrb. d. Naturg.*, i, 1815, p. xiii.

⁸ *Notes Leyd. Mus.*, xvii, 1895, p. 101.

albogularis of Blyth, which is a *Dumetia*, and at the same time left *Setaria albogularis* Blyth, the type of *Ophrydornis*, in *Malacopteron* (*Setaria*)!¹ Since in view of these circumstances it becomes necessary to provide a new name for *Malacopteron*, it may be called *Horizillas*, from *ὁρίζω*, *limito*, and *ἄλλας*, *turdus*, with *Malacopteron magnum* Eyton as the type.

The species to be referred to this group are:

Horizillas magna (Eyton).

Horizillas cinerea cinerea (Eyton).

Horizillas cinerea bungurensis (Hartert).

Horizillas rufifrons (Cabanis).

Horizillas palawanensis (Büttikofer).²

Horizillas pyrrhogenys (Temminck).

Horizillas affinis (Blyth).

Horizillas notata (Richmond).

Horizillas melanocephala (Davison).

Horizillas cinereicapilla (Salvadori).

HEDYMELA Sundevall

The generic term *Hedymela* Sundevall,³ recently employed by Dr. Sharpe for the pied flycatchers,⁴ is long antedated by *Ficedula* Brisson.⁵ The type of both is the same—*Motacilla atricapilla* Linnæus—and if Brissonian genera are accepted, as is now the all but universal practice, the latter name (*Ficedula*) must be used for this group. The *Motacilla atricapilla* of Linnæus,⁶ moreover, must give place to *Motacilla ficedula* Linnæus,⁷ a prior name for the same species. Also, the bird commonly known as *Muscicapa collaris* Bechstein⁸ must be called *Ficedula albicollis* (Temminck), because *Muscicapa collaris* Bechstein³ is preoccupied by *Muscicapa collaris* Latham,⁹ a synonym of *Platysteira cyanea*, and *Muscicapa albicollis* Temminck¹⁰ is the next available name.

The species of this genus should consequently stand as follows:

¹ *Hand-List Gen. and Spec. Birds*, IV, 1903, pp. 27, 38, 39.

² This is *Trichostoma rufifrons* Tweeddale, nec *Malacopteron rufifrons* Cabanis, and is the *Turdinus rufifrons* of Sharpe, *Hand-List Gen. and Spec. Birds*, IV, 1903, p. 33.

³ *Öfvers. Kongl. Vetensk. Ak. Förhandl. Stockholm*, 1846 (1847), p. 225.

⁴ *Hand-List Gen. and Spec. Birds*, III, 1901, p. 213.

⁵ *Orn.*, III, 1760, p. 369.

⁶ *Syst. Nat.*, ed. 10, I, 1758, p. 187.

⁷ *Syst. Nat.*, ed. 10, I, 1758, p. 185.

⁸ *Gem. Naturg. Deutschl.*, IV, 1795, p. 495.

⁹ *Ind. Orn.*, II, 1790, p. 471.

¹⁰ *Man. d'Orn.*, 1815, p. 100.

Ficedula ficedula ficedula (Linnæus).

Ficedula ficedula speculigera (Bonaparte).

Ficedula semitorquata (Homeyer).

Ficedula albicollis (Temminck).

CHENORHAMPHUS Oustalet

Chenorhamphus Oustalet,¹ based on *Chenorhamphus cyanopectus* Oustalet (= *Todopsis grayi* Wallace), is rendered untenable by *Chenorhamphus* Gray² of which the type is *Ardea oscitans* Boddaert. Since it has no other name it may be called *Conopotheras*, from *κωνωποθήρας*, muscicapa.

The type and sole species is:

Conopotheras grayi (Wallace).

HELMINTHOPHILA Ridgway

The name *Helminthophila* Ridgway,³ long in use for a genus of Mniotiltidæ in place of the preoccupied *Helminthophaga* Cabanis,⁴ must itself be supplanted by *Vermivora* Swainson⁵ of much earlier date. Swainson evidently intended *Vermivora* as the generic name for *Sylvia vermivora* Wilson (= *Helmitheros vermivorus* Auct. recent.), and he so published it;⁶ but in another article previously appearing, he made use of this term⁷ in combination with *Sylvia solitaria* Wilson (= *Certhia pinus* Linnæus), which species therefore becomes the type of the genus. Furthermore, *Vermivora* Swainson is not, as often considered, preoccupied by "*Vermivora*" Meyer,⁸ for this latter is merely a group name—" *Vermivoræ*," and not used in a generic sense at all.

The species of this genus should therefore stand as:

Vermivora chrysoptera (Linnæus).

Vermivora lawrencei (Herrick).⁹

Vermivora leucobronchialis (Brewster).¹⁰

Vermivora pinus (Linnæus).

¹ Bull. Assoc. Scient. de France, XXI, 1878, No. 533, p. 248.

² Gen. Birds, III, 1848, p. 562.

³ Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, VII, 1882, p. 53.

⁴ Mus. Hein., I, 1850, p. 20.

⁵ Phil. Mag., I, June, 1827, p. 434.

⁶ Zool. Journ., III, Apr.-July (published in July or later), 1827, p. 170.

⁷ Phil. Mag., I, June, 1827, p. 434.

⁸ Besch. Vögl. Liv- und Esthl., 1815, p. 118.

⁹ Probably a xanthochroic phase of *V. chrysoptera*, or a hybrid between *V. chrysoptera* and *V. pinus*.

¹⁰ Almost certainly a leucochroic phase of *V. pinus*.

Vermivora bachmani (Audubon).
Vermivora peregrina (Wilson).
Vermivora celata celata (Say).
Vermivora celata sordida (Townsend).
Vermivora celata lutescens (Ridgway).
Vermivora rubricapilla rubricapilla (Wilson).
Vermivora rubricapilla gutturalis (Ridgway).
Vermivora virginiae (Baird).
Vermivora crissalis (Salvin and Godman).
Vermivora luciae (Cooper).

TIARIS Swainson

Doctor Charles W. Richmond has already shown¹ that *Tiaris* Swainson² belongs properly to *Euethia*, but he failed to provide a name for the consequently nameless group of South American Fringillidæ for which *Tiaris* has commonly been employed. This, therefore, may be called *Charitospiza*, from χάρις, gratia, and σπιζα, fringilla. The type and only species, *Fringilla ornata* Wied,³ needs a new specific designation on account of the earlier *Fringilla ornata* Vieillot,⁴ and as it has no synonyms, may be known as:

Charitospiza eucosma Oberholser.

COTURNICULUS Bonaparte

An earlier name for *Coturniculus* Bonaparte⁵ is found in *Ammodramus* Swainson,⁶ the real type of which is *Ammodramus bimaculatus* Swainson—not, as commonly considered, *Fringilla caudacuta* Wilson (= *Oriolus caudacutus* Gmelin).⁷ This is a case precisely similar to those of *Xiphorhynchus* and *Tiaris*, since the first use of *Ammodramus*⁹ is in the original description of *Ammodramus bimaculatus*, the western continental form of *Ammodramus savannarum* (Gmelin), antedating by several months the publication of an article wherein *Fringilla caudacuta* Wilson is given as the type.¹⁰

The forms of this group will be therefore once more in possession of their former generic designation, and pass as:

¹ *Auk*, XIX, 1902, p. 87.

² *Phil. Mag.*, I, June, 1827, p. 438 (type *Tiaris pusilla* Swainson).

³ *Reis. Brasil*, II, 1821, p. 191.

⁴ *Nouv. Dict. d' Hist. Nat.*, XII, 1817, p. 243 (Polynesia).

⁵ *Geog. and Comp. List Bds. Eur. and N. A.*, 1838, p. 32.

⁶ *Phil. Mag.*, I, June, 1827, p. 435.

⁷ Cf. *Zool. Journ.*, III, Aug.-Nov., 1827, p. 348.

⁸ *Antea*, pp. 62, 67.

⁹ *Phil. Mag.*, I, June, 1827, p. 435.

¹⁰ *Zool. Journ.*, III, Aug.-Nov., 1827, p. 348.

- Ammodramus savannarum savannarum* (Gmelin).
Ammodramus savannarum passerinus (Wilson).
Ammodramus savannarum obscurus Nelson.
Ammodramus savannarum floridanus (Mearns).
Ammodramus savannarum bimaculatus (Swainson).

AMMODRAMUS Swainson

Since the term *Ammodramus* Swainson¹ belongs to *Coturniculus*, as already shown,² another name is required for the group to which the former has been applied, and as there is none such available, it may be called *Ammospiza*, from ἄμμος *harena*, and σπίζα, *fringilla*, with *Oriolus caudacutus* Gmelin as the type.

The species and subspecies are:

- Ammospiza maritima maritima* (Wilson).
Ammospiza maritima macgillivraii (Audubon).
Ammospiza maritima peninsulæ (Allen).
Ammospiza maritima fisheri (Chapman).
Ammospiza maritima sennetti (Allen).
Ammospiza nigrescens (Ridgway).
Ammospiza caudacuta caudacuta (Gmelin).
Ammospiza caudacuta nelsoni (Allen).
Ammospiza caudacuta subvirgata (Dwight).
Ammospiza leconteii (Audubon).
Ammospiza henslowii henslowii (Audubon).
Ammospiza henslowii occidentalis (Brewster).

¹ *Phil. Mag.*, I, June, 1827, p. 435.

² *Antea*, p. 67.



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