

The Authorship of the Generic and Specific Names of the Bat Hawk

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There are two generic names available for the Bat Hawk:— *Macheiramphus* Bonaparte, 1850, *Rev. Mag. Zool.* ser. 2, vol. 2: 482; and *Machaerhamphus* Westerman, 1851, *Bijdr. Dierk.* 1: 29. For about a century Westerman's name was used, not least because it was believed, erroneously, to have been published in 1848. In 1960 Deignan, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 80: 121, pointed out that Bonaparte's name had priority and should be brought into use. Both authors recognized only one species in their genus, a species which they both named *alcinus* when proposing the genera. As may be seen from the Appendix (below), the great majority of workers on African birds have followed the Law of Priority and used Bonaparte's name once they had become aware of Deignan's remarks.

Amadon (1979) in Peters' *Check-list of Birds of the World* (I: 298) restored Westerman's name, arguing that Bonaparte's name is a *nomen oblitum* and should not have been resurrected. This is surely unwarranted. In the first place, the present Code of Zoological Nomenclature does not recognize the term *nomen oblitum*, but in Art. 79, as amended, lays down the procedure to be followed if a previously overlooked senior synonym poses a threat to the stable nomenclature of an animal of major interest to the scientific community. We are not aware that Dr Amadon has taken the prescribed measures, basically an application to the International Commission, for the conservation of Westerman's generic and specific names.

If an application for the conservation of Westerman's names were made now instead of in 1961 or 1962 we would oppose it on the grounds that most workers on African birds who have published books or check-lists in the last 20 years have used Bonaparte's names. It would be a lengthy and not very rewarding exercise to comb the extensive periodical literature to see what the weight of usage has been, but we are confident that it would support the conclusion derived from the survey of books and check-lists enumerated in the Appendix below. As far as we are concerned, stability and priority combine to continue to follow Deignan in adopting Bonaparte's names *Macheiramphus alcinus* for the Bat Hawk.

APPENDIX

Use of *Machaerhamphus* Westerman and *Macheiramphus* Bonaparte in major works on African birds since 1960.

Use of *Machaerhamphus* Westerman

- Amadon, D. 1979. in Amadon, D. & Stresemann, E. Falconiformes in Mayr, E. & Cottrell, G. W. (edd.) *Check-list of Birds of the World*, 2nd ed. Vol. 1: 289. Harvard, Mass.: Museum Comparative Zoology.
- Brown, L. 1970. *African Birds of Prey* (p. 304). London: Collins.
- Brown, L. & Amadon, D. 1968. *Eagles, Hawks and Falcons of the World*, Vol. 1: 230. Feltham: Country Life Books.
- Mackworth-Praed, C. W. & Grant, C. H. B. 1962. *Birds of the Southern Third of Africa*, Vol. 1: 150. London: Longmans, Green.
- — 1970. *Birds of West Central and Western Africa*, Vol. 1: 125 (where it is attributed to Bonaparte). London: Longman Group.

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Schouteden, H. 1965. La faune ornithologique des territoires de Dilolo et Kolwezi de la Province du Katanga (p. 16). *Zool. Docum.* 9: 1-96; and where necessary in earlier numbers.

Use of *Macheiramphus* Bonaparte (sometimes misspelt "rb" instead of "r")

Benson, C. W. & Benson, F. M. 1977. *The Birds of Malawi* (p. 57). Limbe: D. W. K. Macpherson (sponsor).

Benson, C. W., Brooke, R. K., Dowsett, R. J. & Irwin, M. P. S. 1971. *The Birds of Zambia* (p. 72). London: Collins.

Britton, P. L. (ed.). 1980. *Birds of East Africa*. Nairobi: East Africa Natural History Society.

Brown, L. H. & Britton, P. L. 1980. *The Breeding Seasons of East African Birds* (p. 42). Nairobi: East Africa Natural History Society.

Clancey, P. A. 1964. *The Birds of Natal and Zululand* (p. 75). Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd.

— 1965. A catalogue of birds of the South African sub-region (p. 243). *Durban Mus. Novit.* 7: 201-633.

— 1971. A handlist of the birds of southern Moçambique (p. 194). *Mem. Inst. Invest. Cient. Moçambique*. Vol. 10, ser. A: 145-303.

— (ed.) 1980. *S.A.O.S. Checklist of Southern African Birds* (p. 35). Johannesburg: Southern African Ornithological Society.

Cyrus, D. & Robson, N. 1980. *Bird Atlas of Natal* (p. 71). Pietermaritzburg: University Natal Press.

Irwin, M. P. S. 1978. *A Bibliography of the Birds of Rhodesia 1873-1977* (p. 52). Salisbury: Rhodesian Ornithological Society.

McLachlan, G. R. & Liversidge, R. 1970. *Roberts Birds of South Africa*, 3rd ed. (p. 88). Cape Town: Trustees Voelcker Bird Book Fund.

— 1978. *Roberts Birds of South Africa*, 4th ed. (p. 94). Cape Town: Trustees Voelcker Bird Book Fund.

Pakenham, R. H. W. 1979. *The Birds of Zanzibar and Pemba* (p. 65). London: British Ornithologists' Union.

Pinto, A. A. da R. 1970. Um catálogo das aves do Distrito da Huíla (p. 26). *Mem. Trab. Inst. Invest. Cient. Angola* 6: 1-193.

Serle, W. & Morel, G. J. 1977. *A Field Guide to the Birds of West Africa* (p. 52). London: Collins.

Snow, D. W. (ed.) 1978. *An Atlas of Speciation in African Non-Passerine Birds* (p. 105). London: Trustees British Museum (Natural History).

White, C. M. N. 1965. *A Revised Check List of African Non-Passerine Birds* (p. 59). Lusaka: Govt Printer.

Winterbottom, J. M. 1968. A check list of the land and fresh water birds of the western Cape Province (p. 98). *Ann. Sth. Afr. Mus.* 53: 1-276.

— (ed.) 1969. *Check List of the Birds of South Africa* (p. 39). South African Ornithological Society.

— 1971. *A Preliminary Check List of the Birds of South West Africa* (p. 58) (where it is attributed to Westerman). Windhoek: S.W.A. Scientific Society.

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Ecological differences between the Grass Owl *Tyto capensis* and the Marsh Owl *Asio capensis*

by C. W. Benson

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Brooke (1965) reported on a collection made by D. W. K. Macpherson in the Furancungo District of northern Mozambique (here interpreted as Mozambique north of the Zambezi River) in 1928-29. He also used further information in Macpherson's field note-book (now in the FitzPatrick Institute,



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