

the entire body rising together, after a few circuits in the air, they fly directly north. Their customary time to leave us in the spring is exceedingly precise, rarely varying more than from the 9th to the 12th of June.

The Eider Ducks, called by our gunners 'Sea Ducks,' visit us in the autumn in immense throngs. Flying close to the water in horizontal lines, they pass along our shore early in November, and continue on through the Straits of Canso and along the eastern shore of Nova Scotia to the mouth of the Bay of Fundy. Occasionally, however, a flock with more sagacity has been seen to mount into the air and fly across the land to the head waters of the Bay. None of this species have been observed on our coast during the spring months, when their line of flight is said to be along the north-eastern shore of Cape Breton and to the Straits of Belle Isle. In all the throngs of this species that pass us no adult males are ever seen.

Occasionally birds have been met with in this vicinity that have evidently been driven off their usual haunts. For instance, some twenty years ago considerable numbers of Scarlet Tanagers were found here about the 10th of May. Some were dead, and all were in an emaciated condition. None have been seen here since.

About the same year the Glossy Ibises were seen on the margin of a small lake near here, and one was captured by a countryman.

ANALECTA ORNITHOLOGICA.

Fourth Series.

BY LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

XVII. ON THE ORIGIN OF THE WORD *Quiscalus*.

THE words *Quiscalus* of Vieillot and *quiscula* of Linnæus* seem to have perplexed 'ornithophilologists' considerably, and

* Both combined in the terms *Quiscalus quiscula* (Lin.), *Quiscalus quiscula aglæus* (Baird), and *Quiscalus quiscula æneus* (Ridgw.) for the Purple Grackles (Ridgw., Nomencl., Nos. 278, 278 a, and 278 b).

Professor Newton says that he has not been able to trace the latter further back than to Linnæus's 10th edition (*cf.* Coues's second Check-list, p. 64, where he enlarges upon the subject). The word *Quiscula* is, however, to be found as early as the middle of the 16th century, for Gesner gives among the names of the Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) "*Qualea & Quiscula Recentioribus*," and Pater Rzaczynski in his 'Historia Naturalis curiosa Regni Poloniæ,' etc. (1721, p. 376), names it "*Coturnix seu Quiscula, Quisquila*." The word is probably an onomatopoeicon, and the different names Quail, Quatla, Quaglia, Caille, Cuaderviz, Quackel have perhaps a kindred origin. I also find quoted as late Latin "*quaquila, quaquila, qualia* and *qualea*," while '*calha*' and '*quisquila*' are given as Portugese vernaculars of the Quail; and Ph. Statius Müller (S. N., II, 1773, p. 196) says: "Der Linnæische Name *Quiscula* Könnte eine Wachtel bedeuten." The Mexican origin, as suggested by some (*cf.* Auk, 1884, p. 57), seems not probable in view of the above.*

XVIII. *Colinus*, NOT *Ortyx*.

Good taste and common sense should have prevented a not unfrequent usage among older writers of adopting a classic Greek or Latin name of a well-known European species as generic term for an exotic or even Neogæan group of birds. That the early immigrants from 'the old country' transferred the names of familiar birds to the species of similar appearance in their new home, was natural and cannot be blamed; that they called the 'Bob-white' Quail is just as natural as the course of Stephens in imposing upon the exclusively American genus the classic name *Ortyx* is condemnable; for *ορτυξ* is the ancient Greek name for the common European Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*).

Still, this consideration would not affect the availability of the name as a generic appellation, and when we now propose to give it up it is because we are compelled to do so for other reasons. The fact is that *Ortyx* is preoccupied.

As I have no means of looking up the reference "*Ortyx* Oken, Lehrb. Naturg., VI, 1816, p. 611," which I suppose is used by

* It should also be mentioned that *Quiscalus* is used in botany, for which reason Swainson substituted *Scaphidurus*.

him *in lieu* of *Coturnix*,* I shall only call attention to *Ortygis* Illiger, 1811. Bestowing this name upon the genus best known as *Turnix* he evidently transliterated the Greek *ορνυξ*, which he quotes in parenthesis after the Latin appellation. There are other Latin transcriptions of the same name, *Ortygia* and *Ortyga*, and the reason why Illiger did not select the strict transliteration *Ortyx* was probably that in ancient Latin the latter is only used for a plant.

Ortygis and *Ortyx* are identical in meaning and derivation, only differing in their grammatical ending, and consequently the latter will have to give way.

The next name for the genus is Lesson's *Colinus* (Nuttall's *Colinia* was given four years later without knowledge of Lesson's name), derived from the vernacular French name Colin "contracted by Buffon from the barbarous appellation of some Mexican species," for instance Acolin, Cacacolin, Ocacolin, etc.

The synonymy of the genus stands as follows:

Genus *Colinus* Lesson.

1819.—*Ortyx* STEPHENS, Gen. Zool. XI, p. 376 (type *O. borealis* = *virginianus* LINN.) (nec *Ortyx* OKEN 1816, nec *Ortygis* ILLIG. 1811).

1826.—*Ortygia* BOIE, Isis, 1826, p. 977 (same type).

1828.—*Colinus* LESSON, Man. d'Orn. II, p. 190 (same type).

1832.—*Colinia* NUTTALL, Man. Orn. Landb. p. 646 (same type).

1854.—*Philortix* DES MURS (nec GOULD 1845).

The names of the North American species are therefore:

480.† *Colinus virginianus* (Linn.). BOB-WHITE.

480 a. *Colinus virginianus floridanus* (Coues). FLORIDA QUAIL.

480 b. *Colinus virginianus texanus* (Lawr.). TEXAN QUAIL.

480.₁ *Colinus graysoni* (Lawr.). GRAYSON'S QUAIL.

Any one having the opportunity of ascertaining the true nature of the above quotation would confer a favor upon the author by publishing a brief statement of it in the next number of 'The Auk.'—Since the above was written Mr. Allen has been kind enough to look the matter up, and has communicated to the author an extract from Oken's work, from which it is evident that he used *Ortyx* instead of *Turnix*, and not, as I supposed, for *Coturnix*. It is only necessary to quote the following: "I. Gattung. *Ortyx*, *Turnix*, *Tridactylus*, Queil; Hühnerschn. mässig, schwächig, Nasl. in Mitte, Kopf befiedert," etc. Oken simply 'emended' Illiger's *Ortygis*.

† Ridgway's 'Nomenclature,' 1881.

XIX. IS THE NAME *Ortyx massena* TENABLE?

In the synonymies of the species known as the 'Massena Quail' the earliest name is quoted as "*Ortyx massena* Less., Cent. Zool., 1830, 189," this name taking the preference over "*Ortyx montezumæ* Vig., Zool. Journ. V, 1830, 275."

In turning to Lesson's work, quoted above, we find first that *Ortyx massena* is a mere *nomen nudum*. The following is all that is said about it: "Ce colin [*O. elegans* Less.] provient de la Californie, ainsi qu'une autre belle et nouvelle espèce, que nous avons nommée *ortyx Massena*, et qui se trouve dans la collection de M. le duc de Rivoli. Les *ortyx elegans* et *Massena* sont très-distincts des *ortyx picta* et *ortyx Douglasii*, décrits dans le tome 16 (pag. 243) des Transactions de la société Linnéenne de Londres." The name does not occur in the same author's 'Traité' published in 1831.

But, even apart from the unavailability of Lesson's name because unaccompanied by a diagnosis, description, or figure, there seems to be little doubt that *Ortyx montezumæ* has the priority. The title-page of Lesson's 'Centurie Zoologique' certainly bears the date 1830, and the dedication to M. Geoffroy-Saint-Hilaire is dated, "Janvier 1830." The work seems to have been issued in parts, the title-page and the dedication having been annexed to the first part, which may have been published in 1830, for the title on the paper-cover has the year 1832, and the 'Post-Scriptum' on p. 229 is written in "Février 1831." The article from which the above quotation is taken pretends to be *written* in June 1830, according to a remark at the bottom of the page, but on the same signature and four pages earlier is an article written in November of the same year, so that it is safe to presume that the part containing the name *ortyx Massena* was not printed and *published* before 1831.

Therefore, the Massena Quail, or, perhaps better, the Massena Colin, should stand as

485. *Cyrtonyx montezumæ* (Vig.).

XX. *Cyanolesbia*, 'STRICTLY CORRECT'!

The Trochiline genus *Cynanthus*, as at present accepted by 'plurimis auctoribus,' offers a curious transposition of types, not

less remarkable for the fact that the transposition has been generally admitted.

In his 'Synopsis of the Humming-birds' Mr. Elliot remarks in a footnote (p. 150): "This genus was first established by Swainson in 1827, Zool. Journ., p. 357, and contained species belonging to various genera, all of which he called types. In 1837 (Cl. B., II, p. 330), he ejected the species from *CYNANTHUS*, which he had previously placed in it, and inserted *T. forficatus*, Linn., only, which now stands as *the* type of the genus." From this quotation it is evident that a species has been selected for type which was not originally included in the genus when established, and that none of the species first placed therein—one of which, of course, must be the type—was admitted into the *new* genus *Cynanthus* of 1837. Whatever may be Swainson's *Cynanthus* of 1827, certain it is that it is not the genus of which *Trochilus forficatus* Linn. is the type.

As no other already proposed name seems to be available for that group I have called it

Cyanolesbia,

derived from *cyaneus* and *lesbia*, on account of the blue reflections on the tail, and the near relationship to the typical species of the genus *Lesbia*, which have the metallic gloss on the tail greenish.

It includes *Cyanolesbia forficata* (Linn.), the type, and *Cyanolesbia smaragdina* (Gould) (= *C. mocoa*).

XXI. CONCERNING THE NAMES OF SOME NORTH AMERICAN SPIZINÆ.

A few more of the names of the North American Spizinæ require a revision, as will be apparent from the following remarks.

As *Spermophila* Swains., 1827, is preoccupied by *Spermophilus* Fleming, 1822, we will have to adopt Cabanis's *Sporophila*,* and our species will stand as

R. 252. *Sporophila morelleti* (Puch.) Cab.

Professor Cabanis has persistently used the generic term "*Euethia* Reichenb. 1850" in preference to the commonly adopted

* Deriv. σπόρος, seed, and φιλέω, I love.

"*Phonipara* Bonap. 1850," and a close examination shows that he is right in using the former. Although based upon different types, the two names apply strictly to the same genus, and Reichenbach's *Euetheia* has a slight priority of nearly two months over *Phonipara*.

The synonymy of the genus stands thus:

Genus *Euetheia** *Reichenb.*

Euetheia REICHENBACH, Av. Syst. Nat., Knacker, pl. lxxix "June 1, 1850" (type *E. lepida* LINN.).

Phonipara BONAPARTE, Consp. Av. I, p. 494, "July 30, 1850" (type *Loxia canora* GM.).

Euethia CABANIS, Mus. Hein. I, 1851, p. 146 (emend.).

The species entering the North American Fauna must be called

R. 253. *Euetheia bicolor* (Linn.) Gundl.

and not *Euetheia zena* (Linn.). Linnæus, in the tenth edition, described two different species under the very same name *Fringilla zena*,† our bird being the last one of the two. It will therefore have to give way for *F. bicolor*, a name substituted by Linnæus himself when becoming aware of his carelessness. I quote the following from the synonymy of the species:

1758.—*Fringilla zena* LINN., S. N. 10 ed. I, p. 183 (*nec op. ej. p. 181 quæ Spindalis zena*).

1766.—*Fringilla bicolor* LINN., S. N. 12 ed. I, p. 324.

1874.—*Euethia bicolor* GUNDLACH, Journ. f. Orn. XXII, p. 312.

* Deriv. *εὐθηΐα*, ἡ, simplicity. It is not to be confounded with *Eutheia*, 1830, applied to a coleopterous insect by Stephens, and derived from *εὐθύς*, εἶα, ὕ, meaning *straight*.

† *Zena*, if a Greek word, may have been intended for *Xena*, ξένη, a (female) guest or stranger, a not infrequent corrupt transliteration, e. g., *Zenia* Gray, *Zenopeltis* Boie, *Zenophasia* Sw., *Zanthomyza* Sw., *Zenitis* Boisd., *Ziphius* Cuv., *Ziphorhynchus* Sw., *Ziphotheca* Val. & Cuv., *Zyphothyca* Sw. for *Xenia*, *Xenopeltis*, *Xenophasia*, etc. Against this is the fact that Linnæus in both instances wrote *Zena* with the initial letter capitalized. Ζήνα is the objective case of Ζεὺς, Zeus, Jupiter. I find that Pater Rzaczynski (p. 370, *vide antea*), among other names, quotes '*Zena Belonii*' for the European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*), and also that the same bird was styled '*Fringilla Jovis*,' i. e., Jupiter's Finch, by Klein (Hist. Avium Prodr. 1750, p. 97). Cf. Coues, 2d Check List, p. 59.

It will be seen that the name applied by Townsend to the Lark Bunting, viz., *Fringilla bicolor*, was already disposed of by Linnæus, and is thus unavailable for any other bird. As there seems to be no synonyms, a new name will be required, for which I propose

R. 256. *Calamospiza melanocorys*.* LARK BUNTING.

XXII. THE CORRECT NAME OF THE AMERICAN COWBIRD.

In 'The Ibis' for 1883, p. 583, Dr. Sclater has a note headed as above, in which he concludes that it should remain *pecoris* and not be changed to *ater* as proposed originally by Gray and, later on, by Coues, and adopted by Ridgway. The following are my reasons for not agreeing with him.

Pl. Enlum. 534 is identified and named by Boddaert (Tabl. Pl. Enl. p. 31) thus:

"534. Troupiale noir BUFF. V. p. 301. BRISS. II. p. 103. *Oriolus niger* mihi LINN. *Gen.* 52.0."

On p. 37 he identifies Pl. 606, fig. 1 (which represents the bird in question) thus:

"606. 1. Petit Troupiale noir, BUFF. V. p. 303. BRISS. *Ornith.* II. p. 103. pl. XI. LINN. *Gen.* 52.0. *Oriolus ater*, black oriole LATH. *birds* I. p. 445. n. 37."

Now, Dr. Sclater reasons thus (*l. c.*): "On reference to Boddaert's Table, p. 37, it will be observed that he does not propose to give a *new name*, '*Oriolus ater*,' to Daubenton's '*Troupiale de la Caroline*' (Pl. Enl. 606. fig. 1), but merely quotes (as a synonym of Daubenton's figure) '*Oriolus ater*, Black Oriole, Lath. *Birds*, i. p. 445. n. 337.' But the synonym is incorrect, for Latham's 'Black Oriole' is quite another bird. Moreover, when Boddaert intends to make an original name he usually adds after it the word 'mihi.'"

We now turn to Latham, and find nowhere the name '*Oriolus ater*.' It is therefore clear that Boddaert does not quote "*Oriolus ater*, Black Oriole, Lath.," etc., as a synonym, but simply the latter part of it, imposing the name *Oriolus ater* upon the bird represented on the plate, and not named systematically either by Buffon, Brisson, or Linnæus. That he adduces Latham's 'Black Oriole' wrongly as a synonym does not invalidate the name which

* Deriv. μέλας genit. μέλανος, black, and κόρυδος, contr. κόρυς, a Lark.

is based upon the plate 606. It seems, moreover, evident, that his quotation of Latham's 'Black Oriole' is not due to a misidentification of Latham's description, but rather to a lapsus of the pen, for under the 'Black Oriole' Latham quotes Pl. Enlum. 534, the same figure which Boddaert a few pages earlier (p. 31, see above) named *Oriolus niger*, while again Latham quotes Pl. Enl. 606, f. 1. under the 'Lesser Black Oriole,' the bird in question, to which Boddaert, therefore, most probably intended to refer.

That '*Oriolus ater*' lacks the appendix *mihi* is totally insignificant. A few examples, picked up at random, are sufficient to show that: *Hirundo albiventer* (pl. enl. 564. 2, Bodd. p. 32), *Muscicapa fusca* (574, 1, p. 34), *Muscicapa eques* (831, 1, p. 51), *Tringa miles* (835, p. 51), *Formicarius cayanensis* (821, p. 50), *Motacilla naevia* (752, 1, p. 47), *Motacilla eques* (730, p. 46), *Tanagra nigricula* et *T. pileata* (720, 1 and 2, p. 45), *Tanagra grisea* (714, 1, p. 45), *Tanagra rufa* (711, p. 45), *Parus cinctus* (708, p. 44), etc. The last seven are particularly interesting as compared with the name given to the bird on plate 712. The latter is based upon exactly the same authorities and in precisely the same manner as the above, to which '*mihi*' is not appended, and still the species figured on pl. 712 is called "*Alauda capensis mihi*.*

Somebody might perhaps object, that '*Oriolus ater*' belongs as a quotation to 'black oriole' (see Boddaert's text as quoted above) because only separated from it by a comma. In reply I shall only refer to Bodd., p. 44, and the following quotation to prove that the comma is of no account:

"704. 2. Figuier Protonotaire, BUFF. IX. p. 465. BRISS. *Ornith.* III. o. *Motacilla citrea*, LINN. *Gen.* 114. o."

On the same page are two examples, 701, 2, and 706, 1.

There is, therefore, in my mind no doubt but what Dr. Coues was perfectly justified in proposing the change from *Molothrus pecoris* to *Molothrus ater* for the American Cowbird.

* Numerous similar examples might be quoted, as pl. 700. 1 and 2, compared with 701, 2, 702, 703, 1 and 2; 706. 1 compared with the same pl. fig. 2, all these on p. 44. In many of these cases the absence of '*mihi*' is very notable, as both the generic and the specific names were new and given by Boddaert.

XXIII. REMARKS ON THE GENERIC NAME *Sayornis* AND ON *Sayornis phæbe*.

Sayornis, as composed of the name Say and *ornis*, may be either masculine or feminine, for we find both $\sigma \delta \rho \nu \iota \varsigma$ and $\eta \delta \rho \nu \iota \varsigma$. It might perhaps be urged that the addition of Thomas Say's name makes the gender masculine, but holding that the author who first indicated the gender is entitled to settle the question, I contend that *Sayornis* is feminine. Bonaparte, when establishing the name (Coll. Delattre, 1854, p. 87; I can find no other or earlier reference) gave no clue, as he combined it with the specific name *nigricans*, but Sclater who next adopted the term, in 1855, indicated his preference by writing *Sayornis ardosiaea* (P. Z. S., 1855, p. 149), and has consistently followed this course in all his later writings.

As to the specific names of the North American species, I have to remark that Gmelin's name *Muscicapa fusca* cannot stand for the Pewee, as not less than two other authors, independent of each other, had disposed of that name for two other birds previous to 1788. Nor can the same author's *Muscicapa atra* be employed, for a similar reason, as is apparent from the subjoined synonymy. The next name in order seems to be Latham's *M. phæbe*, which will give us the name *Sayornis phæbe*, a very fortunate change, when change must be made!

The synonymy will stand thus:

R. 315. *Sayornis phæbe* (Lath.). PHÆBE; PEWEE.

Muscicapa carolinensis fusca, BRISSON, Orn. II, p. 367 (1760).

Dusky Flycatcher, PENNANT, Arct. Zool. II, p. 389 (1785).

1788.—*Muscicapa fusca* GMELIN, S. N. I, p. 931 (based on BRISS. l. c.; nec MÜLLER, 1776, quæ Pl. Enl. 568 fig. 2; nec BODDAERT, 1783, quæ Pl. Enl. 574 fig. 1).

1788.—*Muscicapa atra* GMELIN, S. N. I, p. 946 (based on PENNANT, l. c.; nec MÜLLER, 1776, quæ Pl. Enl. 572 fig. 3).

1790.—*Muscicapa phæbe* LATHAM, Ind. Orn. II, p. 489 (based on PENNANT, l. c.).

1810.—*Muscicapa nunciola* WILSON, Am. Orn. II (p. 78, pl. xiii, fig. 4.).

XXIV. ON THE PROPER GENERIC NAME OF THE PILEATED WOODPECKER AND ALLIES.

The generic name *Hylotomus* for the Pileated Woodpecker cannot stand, because preoccupied by *Hylotoma* Latreille

(given to an hymenopterous insect in 1804). Cabanis was aware of the fact and changed the name in 1862 to *Ceophloeus*, in which genus he placed *lineatus*, *scapularis*, *erythrope*, and *pileatus*, with the first mentioned as 'typus generis.' The following year, however, he separated *pileatus* from the others, bestowing upon it the name *Phloeotomus*. As Mr. Ridgway has convinced me, *pileatus* and *lineatus* are strictly congeneric, and, consequently, the generic appellation of the latter applies as well to the former.

GENUS *Ceophloeus** Cab.

<1831.—*Dryotomus* SWAINSON, Faun. Bor. Am. II, pp. 303 & 104 (type *P. martius*).

<1849.—*Dryopicos* MALHERBE, Mém. Acad. Metz, 1849, p. 320 (same type).

<1850.—*Dryopicus* MALHERBE, Classif. Picin. Sept. 1850 (same type).

×1854.—*Driopicus* BONAPARTE, Consp. Zyg. Estr. At. Ital., No. 8, May 1854, p. 8 (type *pileatus*).

=1858.—*Hylatomus* BAIRD, B. N. Am. p. 107 (type *pileatus*).

=1862.—*Hylatomus* CABANIS, Journ. f. Orn, 1862, p. 176 (emend.).

=1862.—*Ceophloeus* CABANIS, Journ. f. Orn. 1862, p. 176 (type *lineatus*).

>1863.—*Phloeotomus* CABANIS, Mus. Hein. IV. p. 102 (type *pileatus*).

At first sight it might seem as if Malherbe's *Dryopicos* would be available, but a closer investigation shows that this author only emended Boie's *Dryobates* and Swainson's *Dryotomus* to suit his new nomenclature, in which all the four-toed Woodpeckers had names ending in '*picus*' or '*pico*'(!). The two generic names just referred to have expressly *martius* for type, and *Dryopicos* may therefore be considered as having the same type.

The North American species will stand as

R. 371. *Ceophloeus pileatus* (Linn.) Cab. PILEATED WOODPECKER,

the authorities being

1758.—*Picus pileatus* LINN., S. N. 10 ed. I. p. 113.

1862.—*C[ceophloeus] pileatus* CABANIS, Journ. f. Orn. 1862, p. 176.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,
Washington, D. C., Dec. 1, 1884.

* Deriv. κέω = I split, φλοιός = bark.



Stejneger, Leonhard. 1885. "Analecta Ornithologica: Fourth Series." *The Auk* 2, 43–52. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4625172>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/54093>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/4625172>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/86822>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Smithsonian

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.