

of wing muscles in birds which fly, so to speak, by main strength and in which the humerus is reduced in length. The leg muscles are curious first by the absence of the *peroneus longus*, a muscle which runs from the head of the tibia to the upper end of the tarsus in Passeres, and second by the great simplification of the deep plantar tendons. In the Passeres, as we all know, one tendon flexes the first digit of the foot, while another with three branches flexes the three front toes. In the true Swifts, Macropterygidæ, the tendon of the hind toe is attached by a short slip to the branch running to the fourth digit. In the other Swifts so far examined the two main tendons are completely fused for some distance although worked by two muscles. Now in *Hemiprocne* while the muscle which ordinarily works the front toes, the *flexor perforans*, is present, it has no separate tendon, but is attached to the muscle of the first digit, *flexor longus hallucis*, and is diverted to the work of pulling on its tendon, which as usual runs up over the outer side of the belly of the muscle. Below this single tendon sends off four slips, one to each digit, thus presenting the simplest condition possible and literally realizing Gadow's statement that the *flexor longus hallucis* is really a common flexor of all digits. If a good generic character is needed for *Hemiprocne*, here it is. — F. A. LUCAS, *Washington, D. C.*

The Authority for the Combination *Cypseloides niger borealis*. — In the Eighth Supplement to the A. O. U. Check-List (Auk, Jan., 1897, XIV, 126) the second reference under *Cypseloides niger borealis* is credited to Drew, Auk, Jan., 1885, II, 17. Turning to Mr. Ridgway's 'Catalogue of North American Birds,' it is seen at once that Mr. Drew was not the first to write *Cypseloides niger borealis*; and unless one still earlier be found, the proper quotation is Ridgway, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Aug. 27, 1880, III, 188. — HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

Octhœca frontalis (Lafr.) and *Cardinalis granadensis* Lafr. — In a paper published in the *Revue Zoologique*, 1847, p. 67, Lafresnaye described a number of birds from Peru, Colombia, etc., collected by M. Delattre, the types of which are now in the Philadelphia Academy. Most of these are well known, but two — *Tyrannula frontalis* and *Cardinalis granadensis* — have been generally overlooked, and neither name appears in the British Museum Catalogue of Birds.

Tyrannula frontalis was redescribed by Sclater as *Octhœca citrinifrons* (P. Z. S., 1862, 113), which name must of course be relegated to synonymy. *Cardinalis granadensis* from Colombia is probably a synonym of *C. phœnicurus* Bp. (type locality, Venezuela), though it should be considered if any subdivision of this species is deemed advisable. — WITMER STONE, *Acad. Nat. Sciences, Philadelphia.*

Pica pica hudsonica in California. — In August last the Black-billed Magpie was found abundantly about Alturas, Modoc County. I believe

this is a record for California. There is no question as to the identity for I am familiar with both our American forms. *P. nuttallii* occurs as far north along the Sacramento River as Shasta County.—R. C. MCGREGOR, U. S. Fish Hatchery, Battle Creek, Cal.

On the Genus *Astragalinus* Cabanis.—When Cabanis established the genus *Astragalinus* (Mus. Hein. I, July, 1851, 159) he mentioned no type, but ranged under the generic name *A. tristis*, *A. mexicanus*, and *A. columbianus*, and in a footnote mentions also *A. pistacinus* and *A. yarrelli* “as the nearest relatives of the type of the genus,” which must, therefore have been one of the above mentioned species. In the catalogue of the Fringillidæ in the collection of the British Museum (Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. XII, 1888, 192), Dr. Sharpe gives the type as *Fringilla tristis* Linnæus; and that he is correct in doing so is proven by the fact that the only one of the three species named by Cabanis to be made the type of another supposed genus is *Fringilla psaltria* Say (conspecific with *Carduelis mexicanus* Swainson), which Cassin, fourteen years later, designated as type of his subgenus *Pseudomitris* (Proc. Ac. Nat. Sci. Phila. 1865, 93). This clearly establishes *Fringilla tristis* as the type of the genus *Astragalinus*, even were *F. psaltria* (with its subspecies *mexicanus* and *columbianus*) generically distinct, which they are not. *Carduelis lawrencei* Cassin is also an *Astragalinus*, and the only known species of the genus not mentioned by Cabanis. The genus is confined, so far as known, to North America, one form barely entering the northern frontier of the southern continent. This is *Astragalinus psaltria columbiana*, which ranges from Colombia to Costa Rica. *Carduelis yarrelli* Audubon, which Cabanis, in the footnote cited above, refers to *Astragalinus* is a *Spinus*, as are all other purely South American species, as well as all of those peculiar to Mexico and Central America (excepting, of course, the subspecific forms of *Astragalinus psaltria*).

The North American species and subspecies of *Astragalinus* are as follows:—

- 529. *Astragalinus tristis* (LINN.).
A. [stragalinus] tristis CABANIS, Mus. Hein. I, July, 1851, 159.
- 529a. *Astragalinus tristis pallidus* (MEARNS).
- 529b. *Astragalinus tristis salicamans* (GRINNELL).
Spinus tristis salicamans GRINNELL, Auk, XIV, Oct. 1897, 397.
GEOG. DIST.—Pacific coast district of United States.
- 530. *Astragalinus psaltria* (SAY).
Astragalinus psaltria RIDGWAY, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. III Aug. 27, 1880, 177.
- 530a. *Astragalinus psaltria arizonæ* (COUES).
Astragalinus psaltria arizonæ RIDGWAY, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. III, Aug. 27, 1880, 177.
- 530b. *Astragalinus psaltria mexicanus* (SWAINS.).



Stone, Witmer. 1899. "Octhœca Frontalis (Lafr.) and Cardinalis Granadensis Lafr." *The Auk* 16, 78–79. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4069275>.

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