

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

GENERAL NOTES.

The proper name of the Redwood Chickaree.

In the Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington (Vol. XI, pp. 281-282, December 30, 1897), I described as a new subspecies a form of *Sciurus* (*Tamiasciurus*) *douglasi*, that inhabits the costal strip of northern California west of the Coast Range, calling it *Sciurus hudsonicus orarius*. A few months later Dr. J. A. Allen published a review of the subgenus *Tamiasciurus** and to my astonishment substituted Audubon's and Bachman's name, *Sciurus mollipilosus* for this animal.

As I cannot agree with Dr. Allen on this point of synonymy, it seems well to point out why, in my opinion, the animal in question should be known by my name and not that of Audubon and Bachman.

Sciurus mollipilosus was first described by Audubon and Bachman in the Proc. Acad. of Nat. Sci., Phila., October, 1841, p. 102, from specimens said to have come from the "Northern parts of California." A little later the species was figured and again described in Quad. of N. Am., Vol. I, pp. 157-158, pl. XIX, by the same authors who changed the locality to "The northern part of California near the Pacific Ocean." The figure and both descriptions indicate an animal very rusty brown above and grayish below, the underparts being said to be "cinereous, lightly tinged in some places with rufous." The tail was described as "brown, twice annulated with black; a few of the hairs are tipped with gray." None of these characters agree in the least with the colors of the Redwood Chickaree, which is very dark and distinctly olivaceous above, without reddish brown shades, except sometimes a little at base of tail and on rump, and varies in color below from pale ochraceous-buff

*Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., X, pp. 249-298, July 22, 1898.

to strong ochraceous and has the tail deeply fringed with white at all seasons.

True *Sciurus douglasi*, the nearest relative of *S. orarius*, was perfectly well known to the distinguished authors of the Quadrupeds of North America, having been, in fact, first described by Bachman himself, but they make no mention of their *Sciurus mollipilosus* being at all like it, comparing the latter with the eastern Chickaree, *S. hudsonicus*.

At the time I wrote my description it seemed to me so perfectly evident that *S. mollipilosus* was a member of the *hudsonicus* and not the *douglasi* group that I did not mention that species though I carefully compared specimens of the new form with the descriptions and the plate. Going over the ground again, even more carefully, I am still emphatically of the same opinion.

As to the origin of the specimens (there were said to be specimens) upon which the name *Sciurus mollipilosus* was based—the only ground Dr. Allen gives for using the name to supplant my *S. orarius*—a word is sufficient. When Audubon and Bachman knew the exact source of their material they always stated it in detail, and such, in those days, little-known and indefinite regions as “Northern parts of California” and “Northern part of California near the Pacific Ocean” means merely northwest coast of North America, and is analogous to “that part of California that adjoins Mexico” of the same authors.

To sum up: In my opinion *Sciurus mollipilosus* Audubon and Bachman may have been based on the animal now called *Sciurus hudsonicus vancouverensis* Allen, with which the plate and descriptions agree very closely, or possibly it may have been *Sciurus hudsonicus streator*, but whatever it was, it was a member of the *hudsonicus* group and has nothing whatever to do with the Redwood Chickaree which belongs to the *douglasi* group, and should be known as *Sciurus (Tamiasciurus) douglasi orarius* (Bangs).—*Outram Bangs*.

A new name for the Dinosaur Haplocanthus Hatcher.

Dr. C. R. Eastman has very courteously called my attention to the fact that the generic name *Haplocanthus* recently proposed by me for a new Sauropod dinosaur from the Jurassic deposits near Canyon City, Colorado,* is essentially preoccupied, Agassiz having employed the name *Haplacanthus* for a genus of fishes. I would therefore propose the name *Haplocanthosaurus* for this genus of dinosaurs with simple median spines on the anterior dorsals and posterior cervicles.—*J. B. Hatcher*.

*Proc. Biol. Soc., Washington, XVI, pp. 1-2, February 21, 1903.



Bangs, Outram. 1903. "The proper name of the redwood chickaree."
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