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NEW GENERIC NAMES FOR AUSTRALIAN BIRDS.

BY GREGORY M. MATHEWS.

SOME time ago I advocated the lumping of birds under a generic name, and was warned that my action would meet with little success as it had been tried and found wanting by the American Ornithologists' Union.

My own studies in the *Procellariiformes* and *Lariformes* for my Birds of Australia soon convinced me of the inability to follow up genus-lumping in any consistent manner. Hitherto no regular system has been accepted in genus-lumping, but birds have been lumped together without much reason; in some cases colour has been accorded generic rank and structural differences ignored; in others supposed structural features have been utilised, colour-values being overlooked.

Seebohm in the Geographical Distribution of the Charadriidæ, 1887, wrote in the preface: "The diagnosis [of a genus] must apply to every species in the genus

and must be inapplicable to any species outside the genus. . . Modern genera *must be genetic*, they must indicate *affinity*; but genera founded upon the shape of the bill or the number of the toes often associate birds together whose similarity is only one of *analogy*, where like causes have produced like effects, in very distinct genealogical lines.”

This is idealistic, and until we are able to form genetic genera, we have to make use of less perfect divisions. There can be no doubt that genera ignoring colour-values are liable to include analogous elements, and also that genera based on colour alone cannot be framed so that any consistency in their constitution can be assured.

The only way out of the difficulty, considering our present imperfect knowledge of the ontogeny and phylogeny of the lesser avian groups, is that followed by American ornithologists, viz. the recognition of many small, compact, easily defined groups usually compassed by colour, and the recognition of these as being of generic value. I have therefore decided to follow such writers as Berlepsch, Hellmayr, Ridgway, Oberholser, etc., who consistently use small compact genera, and my decision necessitated the examination of my collection with this point in view.

It would also appear that this method will appeal to Australian ornithologists, as instance A. J. Campbell, *Emu*, Vol. III., pp. 168-171, 1904, and more recently the comment in the same journal, Vol. XII., p. 51, 1912, regarding North's genus *Trichodere*. I am therefore proposing new generic names for species which seem to merit such distinction, and intend to utilise these in my *Birds of Australia*.

Those who prefer to lump can follow my Reference List, where I accepted genera with as wide limits as could consistently be employed.

I would here note that as generic names I have introduced in many cases names composed of personal names of the ornithologists who have worked in Australia.

I draw attention to this, as there once appeared in the Emu a grumble regarding North's action in a similar case. It seems a most appropriate method of nomination, and the ease with which such names become familiar and almost beautiful is evidenced by the fact that Botany has made household words of such names as Fuchsia, Dahlia, Gardenia, Banksia, etc.

The characters given hereafter are simply diagnostic, and do not depend on colour, though in most cases colour has been taken into consideration.

1.* PERONISTA, gen. nov.

Differs from *Dromiceius* in its proportionately longer bill and much shorter tarsus.

Type, *Dromaius peroni* Rothschild.

123. REINHOLDIA, gen. n.

Differs from *Puffinus* in its proportionately longer bill and much shorter tail, the latter being less than one-third the length of the wing and not twice the length of the exposed culmen.

Type, *Puffinus reinholdi* Mathews.

541. MICRALCYONE, gen. nov.

Differs from *Alcyone* in its smaller size, longer slenderer bill and weaker feet, with shorter wings.

Type, *Alcyone pusilla halli* Mathews.

556. SAUROPATIS Cabanis und Heine, Mus. Hein., Vol. II., p. 152, 1860

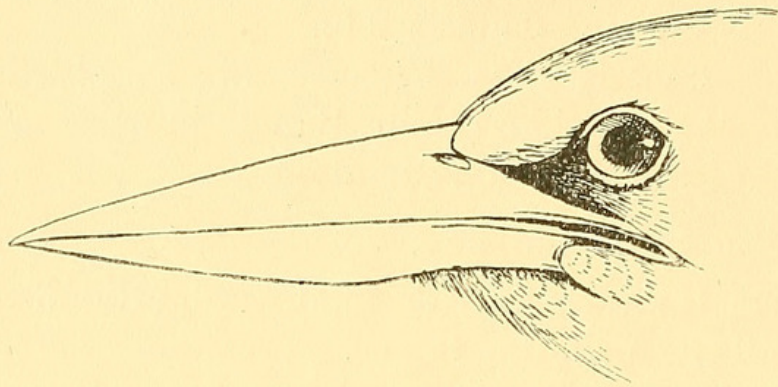
Type, *Halcyon sanctus*, Vigors and Horsfield ;
and

CYANALCYON Bonaparte, Consp., Vol. Aniso, p. 9, 1854.

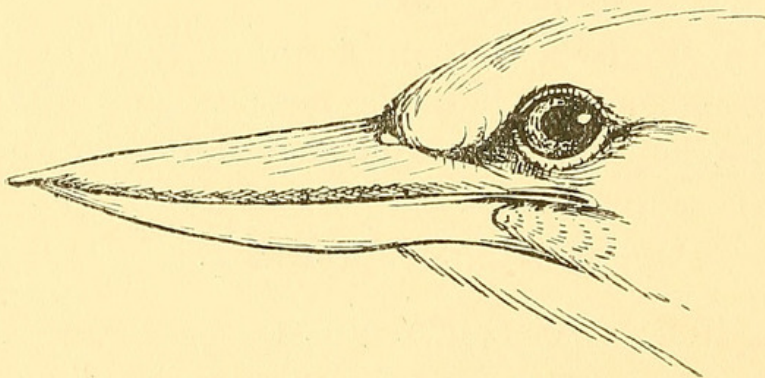
Type (by sub desig.), *Halcyon pyrrhopygia* Gould ; must be utilised in place of *Halcyon* the type of which by original designation is *H. senegalensis* (Linné).

* The number in front of the genus-name refers to the number of the species in my Reference List.

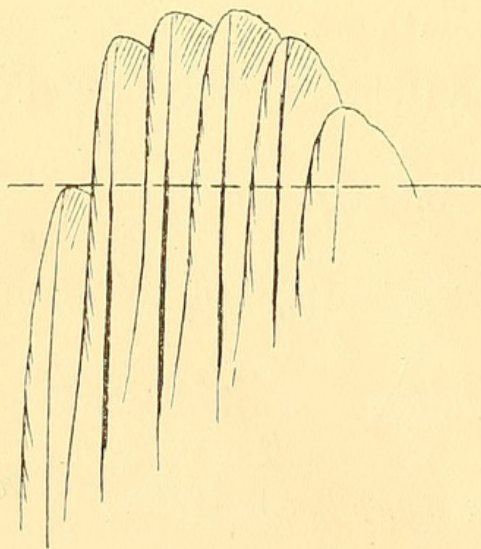
Examination of the type of *Halcyon* shows that the Australian Kingfishers have little affinity with the African ones, and so that Australian ornithologists can see the differences I have had the accompanying cuts prepared.



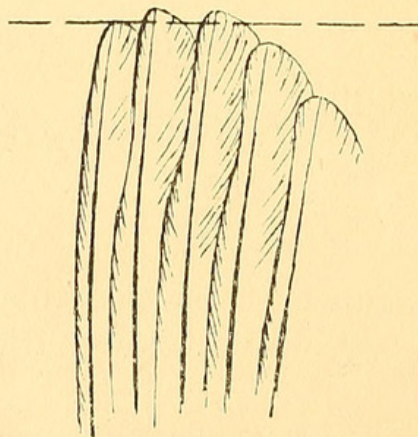
HALCYON SENEGALENSIS.



SAUROPATIS SANCTUS.



HALCYON SENEGALENSIS.



SAUROPATIS SANCTUS.

Whereas the African birds have the culmen curved and depressed towards the tip, the Australian ones have the culmen tending in an upward direction, the under mandible thereby becoming differently formed; in the former the first primary is much shorter than the second, whereas in *Sauropatis* it is very nearly the same length, and in *Cyanalcyon* it is absolutely the longest. There can be little doubt that we are here dealing with distinct forms, and that the African name cannot be correctly utilised for the Australian birds. As a matter of fact the latter would be better placed in *Todiramphus* than in *Halcyon* by genus lumpers.

603. HARRIWHITEA, gen. nov.

Differs from *Menura* in the different form of the tail, lacking the long curved outer rectrix.

Type, *Menura alberti* Bonaparte.

628. KEMPPIA, gen. nov.

Differs from *Microeca* in its broader bill, shorter wing and shorter toes; the third primary is the longest, the fourth shorter, though longer than the fifth, the second longer than the seventh; the first primary proportionately longer than in that genus. In the genus *Microeca* the third and fourth primaries are subequal, the fifth very slightly shorter.

Type, *Microeca flavigaster* Gould.

633A. LITTLERA, gen. nov.

Differs from *Petroica* in its weaker bill and feet, though having a longer wing with a proportionately shorter first primary.

Type, *Muscicapa chrysoptera* Quoy et Gaimard.

637. BELCHERA, gen. nov.

Differs from *Erythrodryas* in its shorter broader bill, with weaker legs and feet; the wing has the fourth primary longest and the first primary proportionately

shorter than in the genus named, which has also the fifth primary longest. The tail is almost square.

Type, *Petroica rosea* Gould.

+ 638. WHITEORNIS, gen. nov.

Differs from *Petroica* in its much shorter weaker bill and weaker legs and feet.

Type, *Muscicapa, goodenovii* Vigors and Horsfield.

+ 664. ETHELORNIS, gen. nov.

Differs from *Pseudogerygone* in its much stouter wider bill, while the first primary is proportionately much longer than in that genus.

Type, *Gerygone magnirostris* Gould.

+ 666. WILSONAVIS, gen. nov.

Differs from *Pseudogerygone* in its very short slender bill and very short weak feet.

Type, *Psilopus fusca* Gould.

+ App. 10. ROYIGERYGONE, gen. nov.

Differs from *Pseudogerygone* in its much longer slenderer bill and stouter legs and feet, with the first primary proportionately longer. This genus shows an approach to *Hapolorhynchus* Reichenow.

Type, *Gerygone mathewsae* Mathews.

+ 684. TREGELLASIA, gen. nov.

Differs from *Pæcilodryas* in its shorter wider bill, weaker legs and feet and different wing formula.

Type, *Eopsaltria capito* Gould.

+ 699. GILBERTORNIS, gen. nov.

Differs from *Pachycephala* in its stouter bill and longer tail which is square, not forked, and in its proportionately much longer and broader first primary of the wing.

Type, *Pachycephala rufogularis* Gould.

701. MATTINGLEYA, gen. nov.

Differs from *Pachycephala* in its longer thinner bill, though much shorter wing and tail and weaker feet, with the first primary longer proportionately.

Type, *Pachycephala peninsulæ* Hartert.

705. ALISTERORNIS, gen. nov.

Differs from *Pachycephala* in its larger bill and in having the first and second primary longer than in that genus.

Type, *Pachycephala lanioides buchanani* Mathews.

713. QUOYORNIS, gen. nov.

Differs from *Eopsaltria* in its stronger bill, legs and feet and its shorter and more rounded wings with the first primary proportionately longer, and the fourth, fifth and sixth longest and sub-equal, the second equalling the seventh.

Type, *Muscicapa georgiana*, Quoy et Gaimard.

724. HOWEAVIS, gen. nov.

Differs from *Rhipidura* in its much longer stouter bill and stouter feet with a proportionately longer first primary.

Type, *Muscicapa rufifrons* Latham.

752. CARTERORNIS, gen. nov.

Differs from *Piezorhynchus* in its weaker bill and feet and in its different wing-formula : the third, fourth, fifth and sixth primaries are sub-equal and longest, the seventh longer than the second which is about twice the length of the first, the eighth sub-equal with second ; from *Symposiachrus* in its longer narrower bill and different wing-formula.

Type, *Monarcha leucotis* Gould.

777. MACRORTHONYX, gen. nov.

Differs from *Orthonyx* in its more powerful bill and stronger legs and feet, with longer wings and tail ; in

the wing the first primary is proportionately longer and the second shorter than in *Orthonyx*; the fourth, fifth and sixth primaries longest and subequal.

Type, *Orthonyx spaldingi* Ramsay.

784. SAMUELA, gen. nov.

Differs from *Cinclosoma* in its weaker bill, legs and feet and in its differently shaped tail and wing; the tail is comparatively short and rounded, not long and fan-shaped; the wing has the second primary almost equal to the succeeding three which are longest and subequal and longer than the sixth; in *Cinclosoma* the second primary is noticeably shorter than the third and also shorter than the sixth while the first primary is proportionately longer in that genus.

Type, *Cinclosoma cinnamomeum* Gould.

812. MORGANORNIS, gen. nov.

Differs from *Pomatostomus* in its proportionately longer bill though shorter wing and weaker feet; in the wing the first and second primaries are proportionately shorter than in that genus.

Type, *Pomatorhinus superciliosus* Vigors and Horsfield.

865. DULCIORNIS, gen. nov.

Differs from *Megalurus* in its shorter bill and weaker feet while the wings and tail are also shorter; from *Poodytes* in its stronger stouter bill and stronger feet with longer wings and comparatively shorter tail; the wing has the first primary comparatively longer than in *Poodytes*.

Type, *Megalurus alisteri* Mathews.

888. MILLIGANIA, gen. nov.

Differs from *Acanthiza* in its stouter bill and longer thinner legs and feet.

Type, *Acanthiza robustirostris* Milligan.

977. MACCOYORNIS, gen. nov.

Differs from *Sphenura* in its more powerful bill and stronger feet and legs and in the longer wing and tail.

Type, *Sphenura broadbenti* McCoy.

949. HALLORNIS, gen. nov.

Differs from *Malurus* in its weaker bill and feet, its longer more wedge-shaped tail, and in lacking the erectile ear-coverts.

Type, *Malurus cyanotus* Gould.

954. LEGGEORNIS, gen. nov.

Differs from *Malurus* in its heavier bill and longer wedge-shaped tail though possessing erectile ear-coverts.

Type, *Malurus lamberti* Vigors and Horsfield.

964. ROSINA, gen. nov.

Differs from *Malurus* in its much longer stouter bill with curved-over tip; much stronger feet and the first primary longer, the second proportionately shorter.

Type, *Malurus coronatus* Gould.

965. RYANIA, gen. nov.

Differs from *Malurus* in its shorter wing and tail and in lacking the erectile ear-coverts.

Type, *Muscicapa melanocephala* Latham.

995. CAMPBELLORNIS, gen. nov.

Differs from *Artamus* in its longer, more curved and much narrower bill and its comparatively longer tail though shorter wing.

Type, *Ocypterus personatus* Gould.

+ 997. AUSTRARTAMUS, gen. nov.

Differs from *Artamus* in its narrow and weaker bill, and weaker feet and much shorter wing; from *Campbellornis* in its shorter broader bill and shorter tail.

Type, *Artamus melanops* Gould.

+ 1002. PSEUDARTAMUS, gen. nov.

Differs from *Austrartamus* in its much shorter broader bill and weaker feet.

Type, *Loxia cyanoptera* Latham (= *Turdus sordidus* Latham).

+ 1003. MICRARTAMUS, gen. nov.

Differs from *Pseudartamus* in its still weaker bill, though broad and weaker feet and shorter wings and tail.

Type, *Artamus minor* Vieillot.

+ 1020. BOWYERIA, gen. nov.

Differs from *Pinarolestes* in its stouter heavier bill, and stronger feet with longer wings and tail, and from *Colluricincla* in its much shorter wings and tail though as stout in the bill and feet.

Type, *Collyriocinclla boweri* Ramsay.

+ 1031. MELLORIA, gen. nov.

Differs from *Cracticus* in its stouter longer bill and longer wing and tail and stouter feet.

Type, *Cracticus quoyi tunneyi* Hartert (= *C. spaldingi* Masters).

+ 1076. NEOSITTELLA, gen. nov.

Differs from *Neositta* in its shorter stouter bill and weaker legs and feet, and shorter wing with comparatively longer first primary.

Type, *Sitella striata* Gould.

1079. WHITLOCKA, gen. nov.

Differs from *Climacteris* in its shorter stouter bill and stronger feet and comparatively much longer first primary; from *Neoclima* in its broader heavier bill and longer first primary though shorter wing.

Type, *Climacteris melanura* Gould.

1,086. NEOCLIMA, gen. nov.

Differs from *Climacteris* in its shorter, more slender, less curved bill and stronger feet, the longer wing with comparatively longer first primary.

Type, *Climacteris picumnus* Temminck.

1,112. PARDALOTINUS, gen. nov.

Differs from *Pardalotus* in its stronger bill and much stouter legs and feet, and with the first primary of the wing longest; in *Pardalotus* the second and third primaries are longest and subequal, the first longer than the fourth.

Type, *Pipra striata* Gmelin.

1,132. NESOPARDALOTUS, gen. nov.

Differs from *Pardalotus* in its shorter, heavier bill, and in the wing-formula, the first four primaries being longest and subequal.

Type, *Pardalotus quadragintus* Gould.

1,187. RAMSAYORNIS, gen. nov.

Differs from *Gliciphila* in its shorter but comparatively stouter bill, with weaker legs and feet; the wing is shorter and the tail comparatively much shorter, while the first and second primaries are proportionately shorter.

Type, *Gliciphila subfasciata* Ramsay.

1,204. MICROPTILOTIS, gen. nov.

Differs from *Ptilotis* in its absolutely longer though more slender bill, while the wing is shorter and the legs and feet weaker.

Type, *Ptilotis gracilis* Gould.

1,295. COLEIA, gen. nov.

Differs from *Anthochaera* in its longer bill and short rounded wattles, and from *Dyottornis* in its shorter wing and tail and different shaped wattles, though the bill is as powerful.

Type, *Merops carunculatus* Latham.

NOTE. — *Anthochaera* was introduced by Vigors and Horsfield in the Trans. Linn. Soc. (Lond.), Vol. XV., p. 320, 1826, and three species were attached, *A. carunculata*, *A. mellivora*, and *A. phrygia*. In a footnote they added *A. lewinii* and noted that *Merops novæ-zealandiæ* may be referred to this group. No type was designated, and *A. carunculata* Latham has been generally accepted as type. But *A. carunculata* Vigors and Horsfield was not *M. carunculatus* Latham as they supposed, but *Corvus paradoxus* Daudin, which they included in the synonymy. Their *A. lewinii*, only added in the footnote, is the true *M. carunculatus* Latham. Consequently, the acceptance of *A. carunculata* (nec Latham) as type would involve the use of *Anthochaera* for *Corvus paradoxus* Daudin. But Vigors and Horsfield carefully diagnosed their genus, and this diagnosis, upon which the genus must stand, forbids such action. The words "Cauda elongata, rotundata, vix gradata" are not applicable to Daudin's species, but are quite correct when *A. mellivora* (the second species) is examined. I therefore designate this as type of *Anthochaera* Vigors and Horsfield, and have generically named the other species as above. Thus *Anthochaera* Vigors and Horsfield, 1826, will replace *Anellobia* Cabanis, 1851, and *Dyottornis* will replace *Anthochaera* Auct., not Vigors and Horsfield.

1,298. DYOTTORNIS, gen. nov.

Differs from *Anthochaera* Vigors and Horsfield, Type *A. mellivora* (= *Merops chrysopterus* Latham), in its longer bill, much stronger feet, longer wing and very long fan-shaped tail, and the presence of long pendulous wattles.

Type, *Corvus paradoxus* Daudin.

1,316. NEOPHILEMON, gen. nov.

Differs from *Philemon* in the presence of a high swollen protuberance on the basal half of the keel of the upper mandible, and in its comparatively shorter tail; from *Tropidorhynchus* it differs in the nature of the protuberance, and in the feathering on the top of the head, and in lacking the pointed, scaly breast-feathers and in its more powerful bill and longer first primary of the wing.

Type, *Philedon buceroides* Swainson.

1,319. MICROPHILEMON, gen. nov.

Differs from *Philemon* in its shorter weaker bill and weaker legs and feet, and shorter wings and tail.

Type, *Buphaga orientalis* Latham (= *Tropidorhynchus citreogularis* Gould.

1,413. ROGERSORNIS, gen. nov.

Differs from *Chlamydera* in its stronger bill and stronger legs and feet, with longer wings and tail and proportionately longer first primary, while the third and fourth primaries are longest and subequal, in *Chlamydera* the third is longest.

Type, *Ptilonorhynchus nuchalis* Jardine and Selby.

89. PORZANOIDEA, gen. nov.

Differs from *Porzana* in its wing-formula and the possession of a long hallux, in which respects it resembles *Lapornia*, than which it has a much shorter wing, longer bill and stonger feet; in the wing the first primary is shorter than the sixth, while the secondaries are very long.

Type, *Gallinula immaculata* Swainson.



Mathews, Gregory Macalister. 1912. "New generic names for Australian birds." *Austral avian record; a scientific journal devoted primarily to the study of the Australian avifauna* 1, 105–117.

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