

ON SOME NEW TERMS RECOMMENDED FOR USE
IN ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE.

BY PROFESSOR COUES.

I HAVE certain new terms to define and recommend for use in zoölogy — some, as desirable substitutes for inelegant or inept words now employed; others, as convenient names for ideas or things not now expressed except in paraphrase. I refer to the word *ONYM* and its compounds and derivatives. *Onym* is simply anglicized from *ὄνυμα*, *nomen*, 'name.'

Zoölogists constantly speak of the 'binomial' nomenclature, or 'binomial' system of naming. A name of two terms is called a 'binomial'. An object so named is 'binomially' entitled. The agent in such cases is a 'binomialist.' The principle involved is 'binomialism,' or 'binomiality'. And so on. Extension of this practise has led us to commit the verbal bastardy of 'monomial' and 'polynomial,' in speaking of names consisting respectively of one or several terms, or in speaking of a system of nomenclature in which objects are designated by one or several terms. Then we also have 'polynomialist', etc.

The objections to 'binomial', etc., are several. It does not fairly and fully express what we mean. It does not readily yield an eligible noun and verb. It does not easily enter into several desirable compound words of collateral signification. It is curiously related to, and generally confounded with, a different word, 'binominal.' It is preoccupied, so to speak, in algebra, in which science it has a special and appropriate signification.

Perceiving sundry objections to 'binomial', some have sought to obviate them by using 'binominal', 'uninominal', 'plurinominal', etc. But such terms are also ineligible, on several counts. Like 'binomial', they do not readily yield collateral words, especially the desired noun and verb. Secondly, the tautology of 'binominal name', for instance, is evident. Thirdly and chiefly, 'nominal' and its derivatives have acquired in English a special meaning, as the opposites of 'real' and its derivatives. Thus, a 'nominal' species is the opposite of a 'real' or true species; it is, in short, a figment; and though we do say, for instance, a 'nominal list of species', meaning a list consisting only of the names

of species, it is unlikely that 'nominal' and its derivatives will be much used in their proper etymological sense, they being too closely wedded to the idea of unreality.

So we still need some words to express our thoughts clearly in speaking of our systems of zoölogical nomenclature in the abstract, and of their operation and effect in the concrete. But we have not far to seek. The word *onym* supplies the desiderata of brevity in writing, euphony in speaking, plastic aptitude for combinations, and exactitude of signification. That it well answers the purpose, and is already anglicized in several compounds, is seen in the words *synonym*, *pseudonym*, and their many derivatives. I would therefore suggest and recommend as follows:—

Onym, *n.* The tenable technical name of a species or other group in zoölogy, consisting of one or more terms applied conformably with some recognized system of nomenclature.

Onymy, *n.* The doctrine or practise of using onyms; nomenclature, in a proper sense.

Onymize, *v. i.* To make use of onyms; to employ a proper nomenclature; to invent or adopt tenable technical names in zoölogy.

Onymizer, *n.* One who, or that which onymizes; a nomenclator, in a proper sense.

Onymal, *adj.* Of or pertaining to an onym, or to onymy.

Onymally, *adv.* In an onymal manner.

Mononym, *n.* An onym consisting of a single term.

Dionym, *n.* An onym consisting of two terms.

Trionym, *n.* An onym consisting of three terms.

Polygonym, *n.* An onym consisting of more than three terms.

Anonym, *n.* A mere name; a 'nomen nudum'; a name resting upon no diagnosis, or other recognized basis.

Chironym, *n.* A manuscript name; an unpublished name.

Graphonym, *n.* An onym based upon a recognizable published plate, diagnosis or description.

Typonym, *n.* A name based upon indication of a type species, or of a type specimen.

Pseudonym, *n.* (In a special zoölogical sense.) A nickname; a vernacular name, inadmissible in onymy.

Synonym, Homonym, and their derivatives, to be used in their current zoological senses. Other combinations and derivatives of onym might be suggested, but the above examples will suffice.

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A STUDY OF THE SINGING OF OUR BIRDS.

BY EUGENE P. BICKNELL.

(Continued from p. 218.)

Vireo flavifrons. YELLOW-THROATED VIREO.

THIS Vireo sings through July, August, and the early days of September. Records of song in some years are not closely consecutive during the middle weeks of July, and again towards the end of August; but usually occasional songs prevent any significant break in the record. If, however, the summer be exceedingly hot and dry singing may be suspended for weeks at a time.

Almost every year a few songs are to be heard in September, a week or two after singing has apparently ceased. In 1878 singing continued with some regularity until September 7, after which songs from single birds on the 12th and 18th were the last; in 1880 nothing was heard of the species between August 29 and September 12—on the latter date, as well as on the 17th and 18th, full songs being heard; in 1881, September 6 and 19 limit a hiatus in the record, though on the latter date, as well as on the 24th—my latest record—songs loud and full were heard. Mr. Brewster has observed somewhat similar habits of late song with this species at Cambridge, his latest record being September 11.

This is the only one of our Vireos which I have observed to sing while on the wing. On May 21, 1882, I observed a pair flying about among an open group of trees; one was being followed by the other: but their motions betrayed none of the excitement of pursuer and pursued: their flight was so easy and