

require the specific element of a species name to be changed whenever, under the vicissitudes of name shifting, it was brought under the same generic name as an earlier similar specific element of a species name which had never been combined with the same generic element. To be obliged to be constantly on the alert for homonyms is bad enough, but this is a triviality in comparison to the task of hunting out all previous combinations that might possibly associate the specific element of a name with other and entirely different generic combinations, to say nothing of the enormous element of uncertainty it would introduce into the matter of stability of names through the purely personal element that is constantly operative in changing the limits of genera. Finally, I know of no code of nomenclature that provides for or requires a change of a species name under conditions like those cited by Mr. Oberholser.—  
J. A. ALLEN ]

#### 'Ord's Zoölogy' Again.

TO THE EDITORS OF 'THE AUK':—

*Dear Sirs,*—In the Introduction to my Reprint of 'Ord's Zoölogy' (1894, p. viii) it is stated that the only copy of this part of the second American (1815) edition of Guthrie's 'Geography' previously known to authors had mysteriously disappeared from the library of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. While searching for some references in a bound volume (No. 1*a*) of General Natural History Tracts at the Academy, I lately chanced upon this missing copy of a rare and historic bit of literature. The separate is the last (No. xvii) of this volume of Tracts. On the upper margin of the first page of the brochure (p. 291) is written in lead pencil the autograph signature, "George Ord," and in lead pencil, apparently in another person's<sup>1</sup> writing, "from Guthrie's Geography, Phil. Edition." In ink, in Cassin's hand, follow the words, "Guthrie Geog. Philada. 1815." The separate probably had originally attached to it, page 290, containing the introductory paragraph, and the last leaf containing page 261, on which Ord's contribution ends, but neither of these leaves are preserved. Owing to some oversight the "author's" reference to this tract in our card catalogue contained no data to indicate anything further than its former existence in the library, and misled by this, it was supposed, after a fruitless search, that it had been irretrievably lost. On finding the tract, however, it was discovered that the full reference and data had been entered in the 'subject' catalogue under "Natural History of the United States" and so it escaped notice.

<sup>1</sup> Dr. E. J. Nolan declares this to be the handwriting of John Cassin, and a careful comparison with Cassin's letters strongly supports this view.

It is due the librarian of the Academy to state that the irregularity in cataloguing resulted naturally from the absence of Ord's name on the separate as the authoritative author and to the fact that the main page heading of the tract reads "United States of America."

SAMUEL N. RHOADS.

*Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.*,  
March 3, 1896.

### Chen hyperborea and C. nivalis.

TO THE EDITORS OF 'THE AUK':—

*Dear Sirs*,—I am desirous of ascertaining the status of *Chen hyperborea et nivalis* east of the Mississippi River, and therefore request that all members of the Union and readers of 'The Auk' that have specimens of these forms in their collections from the territory in question will favor me with the following data: locality where taken, date, sex and measurement,—length and wing.

WILLIAM DUTCHER.

525 *Manhattan Ave.*,  
*New York City.*

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## NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. WILLARD LORRAINE MARIS, an Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at the German Hospital in Philadelphia, December 11, 1895. Dr. Maris was a graduate of the University of Michigan, and shortly before his death, from typhoid fever and pneumonia, was appointed resident physician at the hospital where he died. He was a young man of fine education and exceptional abilities, and was much interested in natural history, devoting special attention to ornithology. He was a son of Prof. L. Maris of Newtown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

THE DELAWARE VALLEY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB held its annual meeting at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, on January 2, 1896. The annual reports showed a continuance of the prosperous condition of the Club as reported last year, while the membership list shows a decided increase. Among the communications of the past year