

## GENERAL NOTES.

The proper Generic Name of the Loons.—Formerly, and still to a large extent, the Loons were referred to the genus *Colymbus* Linn., 1758. Brisson, however, in 1760, restricted *Colymbus* to the Grebes (cf. Stejneger, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. V, 1882, 42), in which sense it is used in the A. O. U. Check-List, where *Urinator* Cuvier, 1799, is employed for the Loons. There is, however, a perfectly tenable earlier name for the Loons in *Gavia* Forster, 1788. Why it has been so long overlooked seems unaccountable, as it is so well defined that its pertinency is beyond question.

Forster (Enchirid. Hist. Nat. 1788, 38) clearly distinguished the Grebes as *Colymbus*, as follows: “*rostrum* subulatum, compressum. *Pedes* lobati, *Tibiae* postice carinato-serratae.” Next follows his genus *Uria*, for the Auks, and then *Gavia*, characterized as follows: “*rostrum* subulatum, compressum. *Pedes* palmati, tetradactyli.” This in itself is unequivocally diagnostic, and taken in connection with the groups that precede and follow *Gavia*, the conclusion that *Gavia* is here proposed for the Loons is irresistible.

The main synonymy of the genus *Gavia* is as follows:

*Colymbus* LINN. Syst. Nat. ed. 10, I, 1758, 135 (in part).

*Gavia* FORSTER, Enchirid, Hist. Nat. 1788, 38.

*Urinator* CUVIER, Anat. Comp. I, 1799, Tabl. ii.

The Loons of the A. O. U. Check-List will therefore stand as follows:

7. *Gavia imber* (GUNN.).

8. *Gavia adamsii* (GRAY).

9. *Gavia arctica* (LINN.).

10. *Gavia pacifica* (LAWR.).

11. *Gavia lumme* (GUNN.).

It also becomes necessary to change the name of the family from *Urinatoridæ* to *GAVIDÆ*.—J. A. ALLEN, *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City*.

*Uria lomvia*, an Addition to the Avifauna Columbiana.—The recent erratic movement of this species extended also to the Potomac at this point, and adds another family to our list. Six specimens, all birds of the season were obtained in this locality, as follows:

No. 1. Dec. 14, 1896. The first seen at the market.

“ 2. “ 20, “ Occoquan Creek, Potomac River.

“ 3. “ 22, “ ♂, Potomac River, between Washington and Alexandria.

No. 4. Dec. 27, 1896. ♀, Potomac River, between Washington and Alexandria.

No. 5. Dec. 28, 1896. ♀, Potomac River, between Washington and Alexandria.

No. 6. Jan. 1, 1897. ♂, Potomac River, between Washington and Alexandria.