

**The Rank of Certain Groups of Birds.**—The following changes in the rank of certain groups in the A. O. U. Check-List seem desirable in order to make those of the same grade of more equal value.

The Cuculi (including the Cuculidæ and the African Musophagidæ), and the Striges should both be raised to full orders. The former are, by all recent authorities, given higher rank than is accorded them in the Check-List. They possess certain characters separating them from all the other Picarian birds (the Trogones, Aleyones, Pici and Macrochires of the List and other extralimital groups) and allying them with the Gallinaceous birds and the Parrots. As to the Striges there now seems little doubt that they are not really related to the diurnal birds of prey but are nearer the Goatsuckers. However this may be, the Owls are so different from the Hawks and Vultures that they should be ordinarily separated.

The subfamilies Fulmarinæ and Puffinidæ should be united in a family Puffinidæ, as is done in the British Museum Catalogue by Salvin, who gives several excellent characters to distinguish them from the other Tubinares. The Oceanitinæ, comprising the long-legged Petrels, are characterized by eight or ten good anatomical characters, and also merit family rank. These two groups are at present given the same grade in the List as the Gallinulinæ and the Sterninæ, but are undoubtedly of much higher value. In fact they are better marked than several of the families now recognized, as the Odontophoridæ, Meleagridæ, Tetraonidæ, and certain Limicoline groups, and probably also the Buteonidæ, Plataleidæ, Rynchopidæ and others. The fact that all the essential characters of the Puffinidæ and several of those of the Oceanitidæ are internal, is doubtless the reason why their recognition as families is not more general.

With the Falconidæ restricted to the true Falcons, the Caracaras, and their few near allies, it is now desirable to recognize a subfamily Polyborinæ to include *Polyborus* and the extralimital genera *Ibycter* and *Milvago*.

In the Check-List the Aramidæ are included in the suborder Ralli. In all internal characters and in pterylosis, however, *Aramus* is strictly Gruine and should be placed nearer the cranes as is done by Gadow, Sharpe, and other authorities.—W. DEW. MILLER, *Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City*.

**Three Records for British Columbia.**—**Aluco pratincola.** BARN OWL. Messrs. Jose and Faulks, taxidermists, of Vancouver, recently showed me a fine female Barn Owl, shot by a Mr. McKenzie at Ladner's landing, not far from the mouth of the Fraser River. The cere and feet were still soft, as the specimen had just been mounted; the date of capture would be about 7th April, 1909. It was a female with the ovaries much enlarged.

**Strix occidentalis caurinum.** NORTHWESTERN SPOTTED OWL.—On the 26th January of this year I shot a fine female of this owl at Chilliwack, B. C., the first I have seen in the flesh in over twenty years' collecting in this Province. It was killed during a cold snap of exceptional severity.