

on the lower step, the birds came up and performed within ten feet of him. He kept perfectly quiet. The male called from a low branch overhead, while the female strutted on the gravel path below, with wings and tail outspread and head lowered, and sidestepped back and forth, half way around to the right, then to the left, all the time uttering a curious guttural chuckle. This performance was kept up for ten or fifteen minutes.

One morning he saw them sleeping on a log. They were sitting close together facing each other, their heads about half way along side of one another, while each had one wing spread over the other's head. This male bird had a peculiar call which could be recognized from the other Whip-poor-wills which were heard in the woods nearby, and Mr. Boehm, who is a close observer of nature, is quite sure that the same pair come to visit him every summer.—HENRY K. COALE, *Highland Park, Ill.*

***Aeronautes melanoleucus* (Baird) versus *Aeronautes saxatalis* (Woodhouse).**—The White-throated Swift of western North America is commonly called *Aeronautes melanoleucus* (Baird) (*Cypselus melanoleucus* Baird, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., VII, June, 1854, p. 118; "Camp 123, west of San Francisco Mountains" [on Bill Williams River, west of Ives Peak, Lat. 34° 15' N., Arizona]). As is well known, there is an earlier name in *Acanthylis saxatalis* [sic] Woodhouse, in Sitgreaves' 'Report of an Expedition down the Zuni and Colorado Rivers,' 1853, p. 64, based on a bird seen at "Inscription Rock, New Mexico." This name has been rejected chiefly because no specimen was obtained and because the description given was not entirely accurate. This description is as follows:

"Head and rump white; back, tail, wings, and sides black, beneath white; upper tail coverts black; under coverts white; about the size of *A. pelagica*, and in its mode of flight the same."

The chief discrepancies in this account are the statements that the head and rump are white, and that the under tail-coverts are white. Any one who has seen this species in life, however, will readily recall that when the bird is flying the white flank patches spread out both above and below, so that the rump and even the under tail-coverts also, have all the appearance of being white, which circumstance readily explains these two discrepancies in Woodhouse's description of a bird seen in flight. The head is in some individuals very light colored, and in certain lights might readily at a distance appear superficially white. There can be no doubt at all that the White-throated Swift was the bird seen at Inscription Rock by Dr. Woodhouse and described as above; and this most writers on the subject readily admit. Furthermore, there is no rule of nomenclature that provides for the rejection of a name based on the printed description of an animal only seen in life, nor for the rejection of a name if certainly identifiable even though the description be partly inaccurate. We see, therefore, no reason for not hereafter calling our White-throated Swift

Aeronautes saxatalis (Woodhouse).—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

A New Name for *Phaeochroa* Gould.—The name of the genus of Trochilidae now known as *Phaeochroa* Gould (Introd. Troch., 1861, p. 54; type, *Trochilus cwieirii* De Lattre and Bourcier) proves to be preoccupied by *Phaeochrous* Laporte de Castelnau (Hist. Nat. Ins., II, 1840, p. 108), a genus of Coleoptera. As it seems to be generically separable from *Aphantochroa* Gould and appears to possess no synonym, we propose to call it *Bombornis* (βόμβος bombus; ἄρνις avis) nom. nov., with *Trochilus cwieirii* De Lattre and Bourcier as type. The following species are referable to this genus:

Bombornis cwieirii cwieirii (De Lattre and Bourcier).

Bombornis cwieirii saturator (Hartert).

Bombornis roberti (Salvin).—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

Great Crested Flycatcher in Massachusetts in Winter.—On December 8, 1919, at Nahant Beach, Mass., I found a Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*). The bird was in apparently good condition and quite tame. When alarmed at my close approach it seemed reluctant to leave the immediate vicinity and allowed me to observe it at close range. On the beach, where I first flushed it, was a mass of kelp, washed up by the tide, and covered with hundreds of black insects the size of a common fly. When I walked by, the insects rose in clouds covering my clothes. Upon these insects the bird was feeding, catching them from its perch on the rocks or from a wooden fence that runs along a walk near the beach. It would be interesting to know whether or not it will survive the winter.—CHARLES B. FLOYD, *Auburndale, Mass.*

The Song of the Boat-tailed Grackle.—During a six weeks' trip through central and eastern Florida in January and February, 1917, the writer had numerous opportunities to improve acquaintance with this distinctive grackle (*Megaquiscalus major major*). Here its range is not strictly maritime (as it appears to be elsewhere along the Atlantic Coast from Georgia to Maryland), for it makes its home also about the many bodies of fresh water throughout the interior of the state as far north as the vicinity of Gainesville. It is known everywhere to Florida people as the 'Jackdaw,' a name probably adopted and handed down by the early settlers because they saw in this species some slight similarity to the Old-World Jackdaw (*Colæus monedula*), a small representative of the family Corvidae. The females differ so much in size and color from the resplendent males that they have gained, here and there, a separate appellation; in the Kissimmee region, for instance, they are said to be called 'Cowbirds.'