

## CORRESPONDENCE

### THE NAME 'BLACK-POLL WARBLER'

Editor of 'The Auk':

The suggested changes in the spelling and hyphenating of the vernacular names of birds recommended by Messrs. Cheesman and Oehser in the July 'Auk' are undoubtedly good in the main and make for uniformity, though one may balk a little at 'Chuckwillswidow' and 'Waterturkey.' There is one change, however, that we really must protest against. That is 'Black-poll Warbler' for 'Black-poll Warbler'. In his original description of the species as *Muscicapa striata* in 1772, Forster gave it the English name of 'Striped Flycatcher,' but this inaccurate name did not stick, and Latham in the second volume of his 'General Synopsis of Birds,' bearing date of 1783, called it the 'Black-poll Warbler,' a name that appears to have been universally used ever since. Let us not now change it for mere consistency's sake. Consistency has been called a jewel, but let us beware of that particular kind of consistency that Emerson tells us is the bugbear of a certain type of mind.

FRANCIS H. ALLEN

*West Roxbury, Mass.*

### PSYCHOLOGICAL TERMINOLOGY

Editor of 'The Auk':

The work of Dr. Konrad Z. Lorenz on the instinctive behavior of birds is the greatest that has ever been done in that field, and we owe him a debt of gratitude for his article in 'The Auk,' vol. 54, pp. 245-273, July, 1937, which summarizes his work. The article is written in beautiful English, but two of its most important words are wrongly formed, and they should be corrected, in order that the incorrect forms may not be used by other writers. The two words are "perceptory" (used throughout the article, beginning at p. 247, twelfth line from bottom) and "receptory" (in the heading at the top of p. 261, and in the text, beginning at p. 248, tenth line from bottom). These words should be 'perceptual' and 'receptual.'

WALLACE CRAIG

*280 Hamilton Street  
Albany, New York*