

THIRTY-FIRST SUPPLEMENT TO THE AMERICAN  
ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION CHECK-LIST OF  
NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS<sup>1</sup>

THE present supplement covers changes in names and status, as well as additional forms, accepted by the Committee on Classification and Nomenclature during the period since our last publication on such matters a year ago. The Committee met in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in October, 1955, at the time of the Annual Meeting of the A.O.U., and has conducted other business by mail.

Since the manuscript for the fifth edition of the Check-List will be in the hands of the printer when the present paper appears, it is anticipated that this will be the final announcement of changes prior to publication.

Committee

ALEXANDER WETMORE, Chairman  
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28. *Egretta* Forster. *Egretta* T. Forster, Syn. Cat. Brit. Birds, 1817, p. 59. Type, by monotypy, *Ardea garzetta* Linnaeus.  
*Egretta garzetta garzetta* (Linnaeus). Little Egret. [196.1.] *Ardea Garzetta* Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 12, vol. 1, 1766, p. 237. (in Oriente, ex Brisson = Malalbergo, River Reno, south of Ferrara, Italy.) Additional form (which adds a genus and species to the list). Southern Europe and central Asia east to China and Japan, south through Africa, Madagascar, India, and Ceylon. Accidental at Flatrock, Conception Bay, Newfoundland, May 8, 1954. See Godfrey, Auk, vol. 73, no. 3, July, 1956, p. 457.
33. *Plegadis mexicana* (Gmelin) becomes *Plegadis chihui* (Vieillot), from *Numenius chihui* Vieillot, Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat., nouv. éd., vol. 8, March, 1817, p. 303. (Paraguay et dans les plaines de Buenos-Ayres.) See Hellmayr and Conover, Cat. Birds Amer., pt. 1, no. 2, 1948, p. 266.
35. *Cygnus olor* is to be listed under *Cygnus* both as to genus and subgenus, since it is the genotype of *Cygnus* Bechstein. Subgenus *Sihenelides* Stejneger (genotype *Anas melancoripha* Molina), insofar as the A.O.U. Check-List is concerned, includes only *Cygnus paloregonus* Cope, of the fossil list.
42. *Dendrocygna viduata* is dropped from the Check-List, since there is no certainty that the single record, from the Hackensack Meadows, New Jersey, is not based on an escaped aviary bird. See Griscom, Birds New York City Region, 1923, p. 386.

<sup>1</sup>The Thirtieth Supplement was published in The Auk, 72, no. 3, July, 1955, pp. 292-295.

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57. *Arctonetta* Gray, 1856, becomes *Lampronetta* Brandt, from *Fuligula* (*Lampronetta*) *Fischeri* J. F. Brandt, *Fuligulam* (*Lampronettam*) *Fischeri* novam Avium Rossicarum speciem praemissis observationibus ad Fuligularum generis sectionum, 1847, pp. 18, 19, and plate. Type, by monotypy, *Fuligula* (*Lampronetta*) *fischeri* Brandt. See Parkes, Auk, 72, no. 1, Jan., 1955, pp. 85-86.
105. *Charadrius hiaticula semipalmatus* is again treated as a distinct species, *Charadrius semipalmatus*. Both birds concerned, *Charadrius hiaticula hiaticula* and *C. semipalmatus*, nest through an extensive area on Baffin Island with no indication of intergradation or hybridization.
125. *Limosa limosa limosa* (Linnaeus) becomes *Limosa limosa islandica* Brehm, from *Limosa Islandica* C. L. Brehm, Handb. Naturg. Vögel Deutschl., 1831, p. 626. (die . . . Wiesen Islands = Iceland.) See Salomonsen, Grønlands Fugle, pt. 3, 1951, p. 567.
133. *Larus crassirostris* Vieillot. Black-tailed Gull. [54.1.] *Larus crassirostris* Vieillot, Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat., nouv. éd., vol. 21, May, 1818, p. 508. (Nagasaki, Japan.) Additional species. Coasts of Japan and of China to lat. 22° S. Accidental, San Diego, California, Nov., 1954. See Monroe, Auk, 72, no. 2, April, 1955, p. 208.
178. *Apus apus* (Linnaeus). Common Swift. *Hirundo Apus* Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, vol. 1, 1758, p. 192. (in Europae altis = Sweden.)  
*Apus apus pekinensis* (Swinhoe). [424.2.] *Cypselus pekinensis* Swinhoe, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1870, p. 435. (Pekin, China.) Additional form (which adds a species to the list). Breeds from Cyprus, Iran, Mongolia, and southern Manchuria south to Palestine, the Himalayas, and northern China; in winter to eastern Africa and India. Female, collected June 28, 1950, on St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska, by K. W. Kenyon, U. S. Nat. Mus. cat. no. 458,824. (Included here by permission of K. W. Kenyon, from MS. report.)
210. *Contopus richardsonii* (Swainson), the species name for the Western Wood Pewee, based on *Tyrannula richardsonii* Swainson, 1832, becomes *Contopus sordidulus* Sclater, 1859, from *Contopus sordidulus* Sclater, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 27, June, 1859, p. 43. (In Mexico meridionali et Guatemala = Orizaba, Veracruz.) Swainson's description does not apply to the species to which it has been assigned. See Phillips and Parkes, Condor, 57, no. 4, July 29, 1955, pp. 244-246.
210. The race that has been known as *Contopus richardsonii richardsonii* will bear the name *Contopus sordidulus veliei* Coues, from *Contopus Veliei* Coues, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, 18, March, 1866, p. 61. (Fort Whipple, Arizona.) See Phillips and Parkes, *loc. cit.*
210. *Contopus richardsonii peninsulae* (Brewster), from the above, becomes *Contopus sordidulus peninsulae* (Brewster).
210. *Contopus sordidulus saturatus* Bishop. [462b.] *Contopus richardsonii saturatus* Bishop, Auk, 17, no. 2, April, 1900, p. 116. (Haines, Alaska.) Additional subspecies. Southeastern Alaska and western British Columbia to western Oregon; recorded in migration in Sonora. See Aldrich, in Jewett, Taylor, Shaw, and Aldrich, Birds Washington State, 1953, p. 433; Phillips and Parkes, Condor, 57, no. 4, July 29, 1955, p. 246.
219. *Progne subis cryptoleuca* again becomes *Progne cryptoleuca*, as it is considered

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- to be a distinct species. See Zimmer, Amer. Mus. Nov., no. 1723, April 29, 1955, pp. 3-4.
262. *Luscinia svecica awatcha* becomes *Luscinia svecica svecica* (Linnaeus), from *Motacilla svecica* Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, vol. 1, 1758, p. 187. (in *Europae alpinis* = Sweden.) See Deméntiev and Gladkov, Ptitsy Sovetskogo Soiuza, vol. 6, 1954, pp. 599-604; Vaurie, Amer. Mus. Nov., no. 1731, June 10, 1955, p. 9.
275. *Vireo huttoni carolinae* Brandt. [632f.] *Vireo huttoni carolinae* H. W. Brandt, Auk, 55, no. 2, April, 1938, p. 269. (Boot Canyon, altitude 7000 feet, Chisos Mountains, Brewster County, Texas.) Additional subspecies. Chisos Mountains, Texas, to southern Coahuila and southwestern Tamaulipas.
279. *Coereba bahamensis* becomes *Coereba bahamensis bahamensis* through recognition of *C. b. sharpei*, an extralimital subspecies.
306. *Icterus pectoralis pectoralis* (Wagler). Spotted-breasted Oriole. [503.1.] *Psarocolius pectoralis* Wagler, in Isis von Oken, Heft 7, 1829, col. 755. (Mexico.) Additional species. Oaxaca to Guatemala and eastern Nicaragua. Introduced and nesting in southeastern Florida. See Wetmore and Duvall, in Brookfield and Griswold, Nat. Geogr. Mag., 109, no. 2, Feb., 1956, pp. 261-262.
349. *Spizella passerina boreophila* Oberholser. [560b.] *Spizella passerina boreophila* Oberholser, Journ. Washington Acad. Sci., 45, no. 2, Feb. [March 14], 1955, p. 59. (Fort Simpson, Mackenzie.) Additional subspecies. Eastern Alaska and northeastern Manitoba south to northern Utah, northern Colorado, and western Nebraska.

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IMPORTANT DECISIONS BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION  
ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

The Commission has decided to suppress the generic name *Colymbus* Linnaeus, 1758, and to accept the generic names *Gavia* Forster, 1788, for the loons and *Podiceps* Latham, 1787, for the typical grebes (*Opinion* 401). This action should end one of the most confusing situations in the nomenclature of birds—the use of the generic, family, and ordinal names, *Colymbus*, Colymbidae, and Colymbiformes, for the loons in the Old World and at the same time for the grebes in the New World. The Taxonomic Subcommittee of the British Ornithologists' Union has already recommended the use of *Gavia* for the loons in their publications (*Ibis*, 98: 158, 1956).

Other decisions by the Commission which affect the nomenclature of North American birds include the validation of the name *Columba migratoria* Linnaeus, 1766, for the Passenger Pigeon (*Direction* 18); validation of the generic names *Bubo* Duméril, 1806, and *Egretta* Forster, 1817, by the suppression of older homonyms (*Direction* 21); and the acceptance of the generic name *Gallinago* Brisson, 1760, for the snipe (*Direction* 39).