The correct Gender of Generic Names Ending in *-rhynchus*, *-rhamphus*, *-gnathus*.—The Copenhagen International Zoological Congress unwisely adopted a ruling that generic names with the above listed endings take the original gender of the Greek nouns from which the endings were derived [1953, Copenhagen Decisions on Zoological Nomenclature, p. 51, Decision 84 (7) (b, c)]. This would have given words with the ending *-gnathus* the feminine gender, and words with the endings *-rhynchus* and *-rhamphus* the neuter gender—although the original Greek nouns ended in *-os*, not the Latin *-us*. This decision was at once attacked from all sides, since generic names with these endings have been nearly universally treated as of masculine gender. Proposals were therefore made that the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature exercise its Plenary Powers to preserve, for the sake of stability, the masculine gender of such names. This would have required a complicated, time consuming procedure for every single name so involved. In two letters to the Secretary of the International Commission (January 25, 1955, and December 5, 1956), I called attention to the fact that the Copenhagen Decision was based on an error and that it is grammatically correct to treat fully Latinized Greek nouns as of the gender indicated by their Latin endings. I had been advised by specialists of Latin and Neo-Latin that Latinized words ending with *-us* are to be treated as of masculine gender regardless of the gender of the Greek word from which they are derived. This interpretation of the Latin grammar was confirmed on October 23, 1957, by Professor L. W. Grensted, the Classical Adviser of the International Commission. Copenhagen Decision 85, p. 51 expressly authorized modification of the gender provisions of Decision 84 by the International Commission after consultation with its Classical Advisers. As a consequence, the International Commission has adopted a Declaration which corrects the erroneous ruling adopted at the Copenhagen Congress. All words with the endings *-rhynchus*, *-rhamphus*, and *-gnathus* are to be treated as of masculine gender, as they always have been.—ERNST MAYR, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge 38, Mass.*

Ed. Note. The A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds (1957), following Copenhagen Decision 84, treated as of neuter gender all generic names ending in *-rhamphus* (or its variant *-ramphus*) and *-rhynchus*, by changing from *-us* to *-um* the terminations of adjectival specific and subspecific names in such genera. Among A.O.U. Check-list genera affected are *Camptorhynchus, Sarcoramphus, Eurynorhynchus, Brachyramphus, Synthliboramphus, Ptychoramphus, Cyclorrhynchus, Campylorhynchus.*

Spittle Insects as Food of the Red-winged Blackbird.—In a field of common biennial white blossom sweetclover (*Melilotus alba*) at Bryant, Jay County, Indiana were large numbers of breeding Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). The sweetclover varied from three to six feet tall and was heavily infested with the Meadow Spittle Bugs [*Philaenus leucophthalmus* (L.)], upon which the Red-wings of both sexes fed consistently during June 1–July 8, 1954.

The method of taking the insects was quite different from that of the Prairie Warbler, as described by Val Nolan, Jr. (Auk, 73: 557, 1956). The leaves or small stems were taken into the beak, crosswise, then the beak was moved forward slowly and (seemingly) carefully over and past the froth. The Red-wings fed clinging to clover plants or perched on barbed wire, which divided the field, and which was overhung by sweetclover growing from both sides. This was a favored feeding site, as it formed a firmer perch than the swaying branches of clover. PAUL R. MACKLIN, *P.O. Box 281, Bryant, Indiana.*