

On the nomenclatural status of the generic name *Myioborus*.—Parkes (*Wilson Bull.*, 73: 374–379, 1961) presented evidence for the removal of the Painted Redstart, *Setophaga picta* Swainson (*Zool. Illus.*, ser. 2, 1: plate 3 and text, 1829), from the genus *Setophaga* and its transference to the genus *Myioborus*. Unfortunately, this action, while certainly sound from a taxonomic viewpoint and correct in light of our present knowledge, has created a nomenclatorial problem. Swainson (*in* Swainson and Richardson, *Fauna Bor.-Amer.*, 2: 201, 1832) described the genus *Erythrosoma* with *Setophaga picta* as the type species; to my knowledge, the name *Erythrosoma* has not been used again since Swainson's description. *Erythrosoma*, of course, antedates the well-known generic name *Myioborus* Baird (*Rev. Amer. Birds*, 1: 237, 257, 1865), which is currently employed for some nine species of tropical redstarts in addition to *pictus*.

The purpose of this discussion is to point out that *Erythrosoma* should not and legally cannot be used to supplant *Myioborus* as a generic name; it qualifies in this case as a *nomen oblitum* since it would become a senior synonym of *Myioborus* and it has not been used for over 50 years (*Int. Code of Zool. Nomen.*, 1961, art. 23b). This case provides one example in which the rule of the *nomen oblitum* is superior to strict priority in preserving stability in our taxonomic system.

One further comment is desirable at this point. In order to qualify as a *nomen oblitum*, a name must be a "senior synonym" of some other name subsequently adopted for the same taxon. Should the species *pictus* be removed from *Myioborus* and placed in a monotypic genus, the name *Erythrosoma* would again be available for *pictus* since it would no longer be in competition with any other generic name and therefore would not be a "senior synonym," hence not a *nomen oblitum* as defined by the Code.—BURT L. MONROE, JR., *Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana*.

Sight records of color-marked Sandhill Cranes.—In January, 1959, a cooperative crane-banding effort took place on the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, in Socorro County, west-central New Mexico, 16 miles south of Socorro. Participating were the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish as a contribution to Federal Aid Project W-91-R, and the United States Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. This effort resulted in the capture of nine cranes which, from measurements, were considered to be "greater" Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis tabida*), and two which were subsequently identified as "lesser" Sandhill Cranes (*Grus c. canadensis*). In addition to leg banding with serially numbered metal bands, the birds were color marked with yellow plexiglass collars.

From measurements taken in the field while banding, and from specimens collected, the composition of crane populations on New Mexico wintering areas has been defined by Aldrich, Burleigh, Boeker, and Huey ("Distinctions and distribution of wintering crane races in the southwest," paper read before the Cooper Ornithological Society at Tucson, Arizona, 8 April 1961).

In southeastern New Mexico, principally along the Pecos River, the crane population is of the lesser subspecies. No specimens of the greater race have been taken there.

In west-central New Mexico along the Rio Grande, the crane population is mainly of the greater subspecies. Of 66 specimens examined, 3 were *G. c. canadensis* and 1 was intermediate *G. c. tabida* × *G. c. canadensis*.

In addition to the markings made in January, 48 cranes were marked at the