

or by reputation, the owners of the names in question, they should at once convey a knowledge of the geographical areas in which the bird so named is found. Even this, however, is not always the case. Birds are often named as a compliment to others who have worked on special groups, though the bird itself may only be found in an area never visited by the person after whom it is called. I have, therefore, eliminated these names altogether. In giving the bird a new trivial name I have tried to find some character in each species which differentiates it from other species of the same genera. This character I use throughout as the specific name, qualified by geographical additions to the names of the subspecies.

"Thus the species *Stachyridopsis rufifrons* I call the Red-fronted Babbler, the red forehead being the specific character separating it from its nearest ally, the Red-headed Babbler. Then its geographical subspecies I call the Burmese Red-fronted Babbler, instead of Harrington's Babbler. In this way the trivial name at once conveys to the hearer its important specific character and the area where it is found."

I select to illustrate Stuart Baker's system, from his volume I, vernacular names as follows: The Sikkim Yellow-billed Magpie, The Western Yellow-billed Magpie, The Hooded Racket-tailed Magpie, The Western Himalayan Red-crowned Jay, The Western Cinnamon-bellied Nuthatch, The Eastern Himalayan White-crested Laughing-Thrush, The Simla Streaked Laughing-Thrush, The Ceylon Yellow-eyed Babbler, The Shan States Short-tailed Wren-Babbler, The Assam Red-headed Babbler, The Assam Red-throated Tit-Babbler, The Bengal Red-whiskered Bulbul, The Malay Blue-bellied Bulbul, The Manipur Brown-throated Tree-Creeper, The Nepal Scaly-breasted Wren.

It looks to me as though Stuart Baker's way of forming common names of birds, so as to be really informative to the amateur type of bird student, might well be studied seriously by the committee who has in charge preparation of the next edition of the A. O. U. Check-list. The article "The" could be omitted, perhaps. But the replacement of personal names, meaningless to most amateurs, with descriptive or geographic terms, would alone quite surely be welcomed by most of the young generation.

As examples, among the Paridae in the last Check-list (pp. 229-235), I suggest emendations as follows. The four main groups of chickadees could be called the Black-capped Chickadees, the White-browed Chickadees, the Brown-capped Chickadees, and the Chestnut-backed Chickadees. Then the combinations for some of the subspecies would be: Oregon Black-capped Chickadee (for "Oregon Chickadee" in the current A. O. U. Check-list), Idaho White-browed Chickadee (for "Grinnell's Chickadee"), Southern California White-browed Chickadee (for "Bailey's Chickadee"), Rocky Mountain White-browed Chickadee (for "Mountain Chickadee"), Columbian Brown-capped Chickadee (for "Columbian Chickadee"), Santa Cruz Chestnut-backed Chickadee (for "Barlow's Chickadee"), etc.

Then these names would mean something intrinsically to the user of check-lists just as those vernaculars of Indian birds cited from Stuart Baker instantly gave me information as to chief features of the races and as to the places of main occurrence. May it not prove possible for the next A. O. U. Committee thus to contribute more helpfully toward the needs of the beginner in bird-study?—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, May 7, 1934.*

**The Black Pigeon Hawk in Santa Clara County, California.**—A Black Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius suckleyi*) was secured by the writer about eight miles west of Gilroy on February 13, 1934. This bird was a female and there was a male present which seemed to be of the same form but unfortunately it could not be secured.

Thanks are due to Dr. Joseph Grinnell for the identification of the skin and for the suggestion that it be recorded. There are very few records for California and this appears to be the first record for the San Francisco Bay counties.—W. E. UNGLISH, *Gilroy, California, April 10, 1934.*

**Fossil Bird Remains from the Manix Lake Deposits of California.**—In cataloging the collections of the University of California Museum of Paleontology, Mr. C. J. Hesse recently discovered five unidentified fossil bird bones in the vertebrate remains from the Manix beds in San Bernardino County, California. These have been turned