

The Generic Name of the White-bellied Wren of Mexico.—Until recently the White-bellied Wren of México was little known as a living entity and was seldom mentioned in the literature. Sutton's account (Condor, 50, 1948:101-112) of its nesting has brought it wider notice. Since the species is likely to figure regularly in future study of the birds of México, it seems desirable, without further delay, to call attention to a nomenclatural change required under the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature. Since 1904 the White-bellied Wren has gone by the name of *Nannorchilus leucogaster*, the genus being monotypic. Originally the genus was recognized and named *Uropsila* by Sclater and Salvin (Nomencl. Avium Neotrop., 1873:155). Ridgway in 1888 (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 10:511) pointed out that under the practices then current with respect to priority the generic name *Uropsila* was preoccupied by *Uropsilus* Edwards 1871 [1872?], a name for an insectivore mammal, and he substituted *Hemiura*. For similar reasons in 1904 (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 17:102) he substituted *Nannorchilus* for *Hemiura* (preoccupied by *Hemiurus* Rudolphi 1809). Since the International Rules adopted in 1901 do not consider generic names to be identical that differ by but one letter or in the form of ending and since the American Ornithologists' Union Code of Nomenclature has been changed in this particular (Auk, 64, 1947:445) to coincide with the International Rules, *Uropsila* should not be rejected and thus appears to be the valid generic name for this wren.

Monotypic genera that are but slightly differentiated morphologically have little to recommend them, and *Uropsila leucogastra* might appropriately be investigated to see if it does not belong in another genus. However, Sutton's review (*op. cit.*) of this matter both on the basis of habits and structure and my own partial examination of the characters of *Uropsila* lead to no clear conclusion regarding the closest relatives among other wrens. Until it becomes certain which group of wrens the White-bellied Wren should be merged with, the species may properly be referred to as *Uropsila leucogastra* (Gould).—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, September 5, 1952.*