

## Important Decisions on the Names for Certain Birds Recently Adopted by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E., Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

Notice is given (as at April 18, 1956) that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature has recently taken a series of important decisions on the names for certain birds regarding which applications to the Commission were published in October 1952 in part 1/3 of volume 9 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*. Among the decisions so taken the following are of wide general interest.

(1) suppression of the generic name *Colymbus* Linnaeus, 1758, and acceptance of the generic name *Gavia* Forster, 1788, for the divers (loons) and of *Podiceps* Latham, 1787, for the grebes (*Opinion* 401),

(2) validation of the generic name *Pyrhocorax* [Tunstall], 1771, for the Chough by the suppression of the name *Coracia* Brisson, 1760 (*Opinion* 404),

(3) suppression of the specific name *ericetorum* Turton, 1807, and acceptance of the name *philomelos* Brehm, 1831, for the Song Thrush (*Opinion* 405),

(4) suppression for nomenclatorial purposes of the names by Linnaeus published in 1776 in the "Catalogue of Birds, Beasts, . . . in Edwards' Natural History" (*Opinion* 412),

(5) validation of the name *Columba migratoria* Linnaeus, 1766, for the Passenger Pigeon (*Direction* 18),

(6) validation of the generic names *Bubo* Duméril, 1806, *Coturnix* Bonnaterre, 1790, *Egretta* Forster, 1817, and *Oriolus* Linnaeus, 1766, by the suppression of older homonyms (*Direction* 21).

(7) acceptance of *Gallinago* Brisson, 1760, and rejection of *Capella* Frenzel, 1801, as the generic name for the Snipe (*Direction* 39).

The foregoing *Opinions* and *Directions* are now in the press and will be published at an early date. All enquiries should be addressed to the Publications Officer, International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature (address: 41 Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7).

Under date June 2, 1956, notice is given of the further possible use by the Commission of its plenary powers involving, *inter alia*—

(2) *Munda* Kuhl, 1820 (*Proc. [ellaria]* and *Nectris*) (Class Aves), suppression of (Z.N. (S.) 704).

(7) *punctata*, *Querquedula*, validation of, as from Sclater (P.L.), 1880, as the name for the Hottentot Teal (Class Aves) (Z.N. (S.) 926).