

News and Notes

A substitute plate for plate 32 is issued with this part and should be used when binding. The blockmaker's proof showing the picture too light, the block was returned for re-etching, whence it went direct to the printer, and the Editor had no opportunity of checking the placing of the legend.

Obituary

The death occurred, on March 8, of Mr. F. L. Berney, an original member of the R.A.O.U., and an ex-president, and, on March 27, of Mr. Gregory M. Mathews, C.B.E., well-known ornithologist and systematist. Material for fitting obituary notices is being collected and will be published later.

Review

North Queensland Birds.—All regional lists are useful, those of ecological aspect particularly so. The 'List of Birds occurring in North Queensland,' publication no. 5 of the North Queensland Naturalists' Club, may not quite aspire to the latter, but in dealing with that part of Queensland north of and including certain pastoral districts therein named, it does take in areas with a definite faunal/floral association. The list is "prepared with the assistance of Major H. M. Whittell," whose influence is apparent. The recent reviews of Mayr, Delacour, and others, the acceptances of Peters, and the suggestions of other taxonomic writers are taken into account even to the adoption of 'tribes' within the Anatidae. Whilst we do not criticize the desire to be as up-to-date as possible, it does appear somewhat incongruous that every 'outside' worker may please himself as to the nomenclature he adopts, but contributors to *The Emu* are required to be conservative and follow the *Checklist*.—C.E.B.

Correspondence

NOMENCLATURE

To the Editor,
Sir,

Now that some countries are bringing out new lists, could we not get uniformity of nomenclature? Do we all admit the Rules of 1905 and page priority and reject doubtful names?

Should the original description agree with the species to which the name has been designated, or, having made a choice, do we persist, even in error?

When a type locality has been designated for a species name is this binding, unless *proved* wrong? An opinion

that the designation is wrong is not sufficient, proof must be produced. When a type locality of a species has been designated should not this always be quoted, rather than the wrong locality or 'no locality'?

The admission of genera and subspecies is a matter of opinion, as we prove when we find some admitting, some rejecting, certain names for the same genus, race or even a species.

On the Australian List there are a few names that should be stabilized — *Capella* or *Gallinago*, *Circus juxta* or *C. approximans*, *Calyptorhynchus magnificus* or *C. banksii*, some of the cuckoo names (*Ibis*, 1947, p. 126) and the genus *Misocalius*.

Is *Pardalotus luctuosus* Pucheran 1853 an older name than *Petroica cerviniventris* Gould 1857?

Is *Smicrornis occidentalis* Sharpe 1879 used only as a synonym of *S. brevirostris* Gould 1843?

Is *Certhia atricapilla* Latham 1801 an older name for *Melithrepus brevirostris* V. & H. 1827?

If *Myzantha flavigula* Gould 1840 and *M. obscura* Gould 1841 are races, should not many other so called species be treated in the same way?

As pointed out by Salvin, in Rowley's *Miscellany*, May 1876, vol. I, p. 236, the description and the drawing of the bill of *Puffinus munda* does not fit any known species with certainty.

The type drawing "is too stout for *P. assimilis* or its near allies." As the type drawing is in existence we are quite sure of our ground. It also certainly does not 'fit' with *P. reinholdi*.

It is claimed that *Proc. munda* Kuhl 1820, indeterminate where the name was first introduced, is recognizable from a later description. If that is so the type *Cuculus palliolatus* Latham 1801, has been figured in colour at a later date. The genus *Misocalius* Cabanis and Heine 1863 is founded on this name. If the bird is determinable well and good, if not the genus is also indeterminate.

Also the type of *Turdus volitans* Latham 1801 has been figured and is determinable and the name is the first one given to the Willie Wagtail. G. R. Gray pointed out, in March 1843, that Latham's bird was not the '*Seisura Volitans*' of V. & H.

The same applies to the type of *Certhia atricapilla* Latham 1801. The type has been figured in colour.

Yours, etc.,

Winchester,
September, 1948.

G. M. MATHEWS.

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