

### Catalogue Systématique des Noms de Genres de Poissons Actuels

By YVES-J. GOLVAN. Masson et Cie, Editeurs, Paris. 1965. 227 pp.

This catalogue attempts to summarize all the subgeneric and generic names applied to living species of fishes, from 1758 to the end of 1959. The genera are listed alphabetically under family; the families are arranged according to the classification in the *Traité de Zoologie*. The author(s) and date of publication are given for each genus. Genera believed to be valid are printed in boldface, while genera which are junior synonyms, homonyms, or emendations are printed in italics, and are followed by the valid name. At the end of the volume is an index to the genera included in the volume. Three new names are published: *Paraclinidae* (p. 129), *Scytaliscidae* (p. 133), and *Aeschynichthyidae* (p. 173).

The volume includes about 9000 generic names for living fishes, valid and invalid. This represents a considerable increase over the about 7000 generic names for both living and fossil fishes, valid and invalid, in Jordan's *The classification of fishes*, published in 1923 (Linnaeus used only about 50 genera). It also represents a considerable portion of the generic names applied to all the vertebrates — about 17,000 (Y. J. Golvan, 1965, *Répertoire des noms de genres de vertébrés*). A sampling of 11 half pages of Golvan shows 205 out of 297 genera, or 69% to be valid. If this sample was representative, there would have been about 6,200 valid generic names for fishes in 1959.

The value of the volume is readily apparent. If one wishes to know who published a generic name at what time, where a genus is placed or how it is properly spelled, the answer can readily be found in Golvan. Criticisms are that the classification is oversplit, there are omissions (*Pomadasys*, *Plectobranthus*, etc.) and archaisms (*Uranidia* is not synonymized with *Cottus*). Many errors

could have been avoided had taxonomic ichthyologists been involved. On the other hand we are indebted to a parasitologist, Golvan, for a valuable handbook that no recent ichthyologist has been brave enough to prepare.

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### Raccoons and Eagles

By POLLY REDFORD. E. P. Dutton and Co. Inc., New York, 1965. Clarke, Irwin and Company Limited, Toronto. 254 pp. \$5.50.

In his foreword Carl Buchheister, President of the National Audubon Society points out that raccoons and eagles are uniquely American, which is the reason they are included in one book.

The two species are separately treated in the book with more than 100 pages devoted to each one. In the last few pages the two are brought together as part of a forceful message on conservation.

The author has combined up-to-date biological information, which has rather surprising gaps, with the history, politics, symbolism and folklore in which the two species are involved.

Her story ranges from her personal experiences in raccoon raising and eagle watching, through the vagaries of the fur industry, to the decline in eagle numbers through pesticide poisoning. There are warnings of future problems of species decline and true stories of wildlife research by earnest professionals and eager amateurs. Through it all the book is uniformly well written and attractive to read.

Mrs. Redford's closing paragraph deserves our careful attention.

"Long ago it was said that not even a sparrow was too small or too worthless to fall unnoticed. No living thing is worthless just because we happen to





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