

Larus fuscus affinis Reinhardt.

10 adult males, wing 394–428 (412.3), tail 152–167 (160.3), tarsus 63–69 (65.9), toe without claw, 47–53 (50.3), culmen, 49–56 (52.9), depth of bill at base, 16–19 (17.3), at angle, 16–19 (17.8);

4 adult females, wing 382–407 (392.2), tail 151–158 (155.7), tarsus 57–66 (61), toe without claw, 42–51 (45.5), culmen, 44–50 (47.5), depth of bill at base, 14–15 (14.7), at angle, 15–16 (15.7).

FORSTER'S EDITION OF LEVAILLANT'S "*OISEAUX
D'AFRIQUE*."

BY CHARLES W. RICHMOND.

PUBLICATION of Levaillant's celebrated '*Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux d'Afrique*' was begun in Paris in 1796, and completed in six volumes in 1808. It was issued in folio, with two sets of plates, black and colored, also in 4°, with colored plates, and in 4°, with plain plates; there was also an edition in 12mo of two volumes.

In 1797 Bechstein began at Nürnberg a translation under the title '*Franz Le Vaillant's Naturgeschichte der Afrikanischen Vögel*,' but it was discontinued at the end of the "*Erster Band*" in 1802. It consisted of 8 parts, each with 6 plates and corresponding text; in all 48 plates, with pages i–xii, 13–210, 4°. It is uncommon, though met with occasionally in the second-hand book catalogues. Additional matter by Bechstein is given in footnotes, but this is of little interest concerning nomenclature, since the translator did not give any new scientific names to the species, except possibly that of *Falco lagopus* Varietas *africana*, described on p. 96 (note).

A very little known translation was begun in Halle in 1798 by a publisher named Dreyssig, who secured the cooperation of J. R.

Forster, already the translator into German of one of Levaillant's voyages to Africa. The Halle edition is very rare, and for nearly a century has remained almost unnoticed by ornithologists, though one or more of the new names given by Forster were cited in one of F. Boie's papers in Oken's *Isis* about 1820-26. It was omitted in Engelmann's *Bibliotheca Hist. Nat.* of 1846, but is mentioned, apparently at second hand, in the continuation by Carus and Engelmann, where the date is given as 1798. Suckow, in 1800, also quotes it as 1798, but his reference to it suggests that the work was autoptically unknown to him, since he mentions none of the new names introduced by Forster. Sherborn was unable to find a copy when compiling his '*Index Animalium*,' though it is duly listed among his "*libri desiderati*." Thus the case remained until 1905, when the writer had the good fortune to obtain a copy from a dealer in Leipzig. This copy has an engraved title page, in script style, running as follows: F. le Vaillant's | *Naturgeschichte* | der | Africanischen Vögel | mit Anmerkungen | von | D. Johann Reinhold Forster. | No. 3 [illustration of the "*Undatus*"] | Halle | bei Fried. Christoph Dreyssig. | The size is small octavo. There is no printed title page in this copy, and the plates are uncolored. Following the title is a "*Nachricht an die Käufer*" (pp. iii-vi), signed by Dreyssig, and a "*Vorrede*" (pp. vii-xiv), with a "*Nachschrift*" (p. xv), the latter signed by Forster. On the back of page xv is an "*Inhalt*," giving a list of the 18 plates, with a reference to the pages on which the subjects are treated. The plates are listed in three groups: Nos. 1-8 are "*Raubvögel*," the species of which are introduced without generic names; Nos. 9-14 are "*Geyer*," for which the generic name *Vultur* is used; Nos. 15-18 are "*Von den Bussarten*," or species of "*Falco*." Pages 1-64 constitute the remainder of the text, with the plates inserted at their proper places. There is no plate 3, as this subject is shown on the engraved title page.

Recently the writer secured a second copy¹ through the kind offices of Dr. T. S. Palmer (who obtained it from a Philadelphia book shop), which, upon comparison with the first, proved to be a colored edition (the illustration on the engraved title being

¹ Both copies are now in the library of the U. S. National Museum.

also colored), having a printed title page in addition to the engraved one. This reads: F. le Vaillant's | Naturgeschichte | der | afrikanischen Vögel | mit Anmerkungen | von | D. Johann Reinhold Forster. | — | Erstes Bändchen mit 18 Kupfern | Halle, | bey Friedrich Christoph Dreyssig. | On the back of the printed title is given a list of 35 book dealers, in as many places, chiefly, though not all, in Germany, from whom the book could be obtained, ending with the statement that it could be procured from any book dealer in Germany. The publisher intended to issue a part every few months, but the death of Forster, on December 9, 1798, probably caused the project to be abandoned, since no further installments were published. In addition to the two styles described above, the publisher referred to a third, more fully colored edition, that could be supplied at a somewhat higher price.

A list of the species figured and described, with the names given by Forster and Levaillant, and the pages on which they occur, is added, together with the equivalent names of Daudin and earlier writers.

"Raubvögel."

Pl. 1. <i>Harpacter</i> . Griffard.	p. 1. <i>Falco bellicosus</i> Daudin, 1800.
2. <i>Eulophos</i> . Huppard.	7. <i>F. occipitalis</i> Daudin, 1800.
3. <i>Undatus</i> . Blanchard.	10. <i>F. coronatus</i> Linnæus, 1766.
4. <i>Vociferator</i> . Vocifer.	14. <i>F. vocifer</i> Daudin, 1800.
5. <i>Ichthyotheres</i> . Blagre.	18. <i>F. leucogaster</i> Gmelin, 1788.
6. <i>Cafer</i> . Caffre.	23. <i>F. vulturinus</i> Daudin, 1800.
7, 8. <i>Platages</i> . Bateleur.	25. <i>F. ecaudatus</i> Daudin, 1800.

"Geyer."

Pl. 9. <i>Vultur Tracheliotos</i> . Oricou.	p. 29. <i>Vultur tracheliotus</i> Forster, 1791. ²
10. <i>V. Coprotheres</i> . Chassefiente.	35. <i>V. kolbii</i> Daudin, 1800.
11. <i>Vultur indus</i> . ¹ Chaugoun.	40. <i>V. bengalensis</i> Gmelin, 1788.
12. <i>Vultur sinensis</i> . Chincou.	42. <i>V. monachus</i> Linnæus, 1766.
13. <i>Vultur Papa</i> L. Roi des Vautours.	48. <i>V. papa</i> Linnæus, 1758.
14. <i>Vultur Hierax</i> . Ourigourap.	50. <i>V. percnopterus</i> Linnæus, 1758.

¹ *Vultur indus* Forster, 1795 (Faunula Indica, p. 5), is an emendation of *Vultur indicus* Scopoli, 1786, and refers to another species.

² Also *Vultur auriculatus* Daudin, 1800.

"Von den Bussarten."

- | | | | | | |
|---------|-------------------------|--------------|--------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Pl. 15. | <i>Falco Bassus</i> . | Bacha. | p. 55. | <i>Falco bacha</i> | Daudin, 1800. |
| 16. | <i>F. Rufofuscus</i> . | Rounoir. | 59. | <i>Buteo jakal</i> | Daudin, 1800. |
| 17. | <i>F. Rufocanus</i> . | Rougre. | 62. | <i>Falco desertorum</i> | Daudin,
1800. |
| 18. | <i>Falco ocreatus</i> . | Buse gantée. | 63. | <i>F. lagopus</i> | Gmelin, 1788. |

The specific names given to nos. 10, 15, 16, and 17 appear to be the earliest for their respective species, and should be adopted.

NOTES ON THE RACES OF *QUISCALUS QUISCALUS* (LINNÆUS).

BY HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

ACCORDING to the views of current authors there are three subspecies of our common Grackle, *Quiscalus quiscula* (Linnæus). Since, as Mr. A. T. Wayne has recently shown,¹ the *Gracula quiscula* of Linnæus² is properly applicable to the Florida Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula aglæus*), and the Purple Grackle needs another name, it may be worth while to present a few notes on all the forms of the species, with a revised statement of the geographic distribution of each.

Quiscalus quiscula quiscula (Linnæus).

[*Gracula*] *quiscula* LINNÆUS, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, I, 1758, p. 109 (based on *Monedula purpurea* Catesby, Nat. Hist. Carolina, Florida, and Bahama Islands, I, 1731, p. 12, pl. XII; and *Merops niger, viridi-argentea* Brown, Nat. Hist. Jamaica, 1756, p. 476) ("Habitat in America septentrionali").

[*Oriolus*] *ludovicianus* GMELIN, Syst. Nat., I, i, 1788, p. 387 (based on *Cassique de la Louisiane*, Buffon, Hist. Nat. des Ois. [original edition], III, p. 242; Planch. Enlum., No. 646) (partial albino) (Louisiana).

¹ The Auk, XXXV, No. 4, October, 1918, p. 440.

² Syst. Nat., ed. 10, I, 1758, p. 109.



Richmond, Charles Wallace. 1919. "Forster's Edition of Levaillant's "Oiseaux d'Afrique"." *The Auk* 36, 546–549. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4073351>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/54107>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/4073351>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/85978>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Smithsonian

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.