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A LIST

OF

BRITISH BIRDS.

THE GENERA

ARRANGED ACCORDING TO SUNDEVALL'S METHOD.

The Nomenclature revised by

HENRY THORNTON WHARTON,

M.A., M.R.C.S., F.Z.S.

LONDON:

JOHN VAN VOORST, 1, PATERNOSTER ROW.

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I N D E X.

Accentor, 8
Auk, 17
Avocet, 15

Bee-eater, 11
Bittern, 13
Blackbird, 5
Blackcap, 6
Bluethroat, 5
Brambling, 8
Bullfinch, 8
Bunting, 8, 9
Bustard, 15
Buzzard, 11, 12

Capercaillie, 12
Chaffinch, 8
Chiffchaff, 6
Chough, 9
Colin, 13
Coot, 16
Cormorant, 18
Courser, 15
Crake, 16
Crane, 15
Creeper, 9
Crossbill, 8
Crow, 9
Cuckoo, 10
Curlew, 13, 15

Dipper, 6
Diver, 18
Dotterel, 15
Dove, 11
Duck, 19, 20
Dunlin, 14

Eagle, 12
Egret, 13
Eider, 20

Falcon, 12
Fieldfare, 5

Firecrest, 6
Flycatcher, 7
Fulmar, 18

Gadwall, 19
Gannet, 18
Garganey, 19
Godwit, 13, 14
Goldcrest, 6
Golden-eye, 20
Goldfinch, 8
Goosander, 20
Goose, 18, 19
Grebe, 18
Greenfinch, 8
Greenshank, 14
Grey Lag, 18
Grosbeak, 8
Grouse, 12
Guillemot, 17
Gull, 16, 17

Hammer, 9
Harrier, 11
Hawfinch, 8
Hawk, 11
Hemipode, 13
Heron, 13
Hobby, 12
Hoopoe, 10

Ibis, 13

Jackdaw, 9
Jay, 9

Kestrel, 12
Kingfisher, 11
Kite, 12
Kittiwake, 17
Knot, 14

Lapwing, 15
Lark, 10

Linnet, 8

Magpie, 9
Martin, 10
Merganser, 20
Merlin, 12
Moorhen, 16

Nightjar, 10
Noddy, 16
Nuthatch, 9
Nuthatch, 9

Oriole, 7
Ortolan, 9
Osprey, 12
Owl, 11
Oyster-catcher, 15

Partridge, 12, 13
Pastor, 9
Petrel, 18
Phalarope, 15
Pheasant, 12
Pigeon, 11
Pintail, 19
Pipit, 7, 8
Plover, 15
Pochard, 19
Pratincole, 15
Ptarmigan, 12
Puffin, 17

Quail, 13

Rail, 16
Raven, 9
Razorbill, 17
Redbreast, 5
Redpoll, 8
Redshank, 14
Redstart, 5
Redwing, 5
Roller, 10

Rook, 9
Ruff, 14

Sanderling, 14
Sand Grouse, 12
Sandpiper, 14
Scaup, 20
Scoter, 20
Serin, 8
Shag, 18
Shearwater, 18
Sheldrake, 19
Shoveller, 19
Shrike, 7
Siskin, 8
Skua, 17
Smew, 20
Snipe, 13, 15

Sparrow, 8
Spoonbill, 13
Starling, 9
Stilt, 15
Stint, 14
Stonechat, 5
Stork, 13
Swallow, 9
Swan, 19
Swift, 10

Teal, 19
Tern, 16
Thrush, 5, 7
Titmouse, 6, 7, 8
Turnstone, 15
Twite, 8

Vulture, 12

Wagtail, 7
Warbler, 6, 7
Waxwing, 7
Wheatear, 5
Whimbrel, 13
Whinchat, 5
Whitethroat, 6
Whooper, 19
Widgeon, 19
Woodchat, 7
Woodcock, 14
Woodpecker, 10
Wren, 6
Wryneck, 10

Yellowshank, 14

A decorative border at the top of the page features several small, stylized illustrations of birds in flight, arranged in a symmetrical pattern.

A LIST OF BRITISH BIRDS.

INTRODUCTION.

§ I.—OF THE USES OF THE PRESENT LIST.

THE uses of a Catalogue such as the following are manifold. The names can be cut out and used as labels; it shows at a glance what birds may rightly be considered British, their proper scientific designation, and to a certain extent their affinities; it can be compared with similar lists of the birds of other countries; and it can conveniently be marked as an index to a collection either of skins or eggs, or to show species desired in exchange, or to record the occurrence or nesting of birds in particular localities.

§ II.—OF THE LIMITS OF THE BRITISH AVI-FAUNA.

The present list is meant to comprise those birds only which have at least once, beyond doubt, occurred in a truly wild state within the area of the British Isles. No other definition of a British bird is strictly tenable. Ornithological literature teems with records of alien species, the validity of whose occurrence may possibly have been overlooked; but here it is advisable not to recognize any authority which can be impugned,—to follow, as far as may be, in the steps of Professor Newton in his current revision of the new edition of Yarrell's standard 'History of British Birds.'

§ III.—OF NOMENCLATURE.

In view of the importance of a scientifically accurate use of names, the British Association, in 1842, appointed a Committee of some of the most eminent biologists of the day "to consider the rules by which the nomenclature of zoology might be established on a uniform and permanent basis." In an elaborate explanatory report they enunciated fourteen principles, the majority of which may well be reprinted here verbatim:—

"§ 1.—The name originally given by the founder of a group or the describer of a species should be permanently retained, to the exclusion of all subsequent synonyms (with the exceptions about to be noticed).

"§ 2.—The binomial nomenclature having originated with Linnæus, the law of priority, in respect of that nomenclature, is not to extend to the writings of antecedent authors.

"§ 3.—A generic name when once established should never be cancelled in any subsequent subdivision of the group, but retained in a restricted sense for one of the constituent portions.

"§ 4.—The generic name should always be retained for that portion of the original genus which was considered typical by the author.

"§ 6.—When two authors define and name the same genus, *both making it exactly of the same extent*, the later name should be cancelled *in toto*, and not retained in a modified sense.

"§ 9.—In compounding a genus out of several smaller ones, the earliest of them, if otherwise unobjectionable, should be selected, and its former generic name be extended over the new genus so compounded.

"§ 10.—A name should be changed which has before been proposed for some other genus in zoology or botany, or for some other species in the same genus, when still retained for such genus or species.

"§ 12.—A name which has never been clearly defined in some published work should be changed for the earliest name by which the object shall have been so defined.

"§ 13.—A new specific name must be given to a species when its old name has been adopted for a genus which includes that species.

"§ 14.—In writing zoological names the rules of Latin orthography must be adhered to."

These rules are almost universally accepted by modern zoologists, and in the present list their principles are violated only where biographical information has been incomplete. But it must be remarked that, while no private judgment ought to be exercised in the case of specific names, the grouping of species into genera must always be more or less arbitrary; for such groups can never be of co-equal value, and their existence and comprehensiveness must mainly depend upon convenience.

The authority for every specific name is given; it is included in parentheses when it does not apply to the generic name also. The names of authors of frequent occurrence are abbreviated: thus L. = Linnæus, Gm. = Gmelin, Temm. = Temminck, &c.

§ IV.—OF CLASSIFICATION.

The difficulty of satisfactorily classifying birds is apparent from the variety of "systems" that have been proposed. Few have been more artificial than that of the illustrious Cuvier, but, through its modified adoption in the successive editions of Yarrell's well-known work, none is unfortunately more familiar. The one perhaps most in accordance with modern scientific methods was proposed by Professor Huxley in 1866. He groups all birds mainly on the basis of their osseous structure, more particularly regarding that of the palate, since it is perhaps these parts which are the least modified by diverse conditions of life; but until his views have been more matured and popularised, it is unlikely that ornithologists will adopt them.

For a classification to have a scientific value, it is not enough to associate such species as bear only obvious marks of external resemblance; characters must also be found which point to genetic relationships in remote periods of the earth's history, the presence of which connotes the co-existence of many others. Even Linnæus fell into errors which all modern science rejects; the grallatorial *pratincole* can no longer be regarded as a kind of *swallow*, nor the accipitrine *carriama* of South America as allied to the rail-like *jacana*.

The most recent and elaborate exposition of the affinities of birds on some such solid foundation as this was given by the late Professor Sundevall in his 'Methodi Naturalis avium disponendarum Tentamen' (Stockholm, 1872-3), and it is for this reason that his views, which, in their outcome at least, have received a wide acceptance from modern ornithologists of all countries, have been adopted here. It would be obviously unfair to criticize this or any classification as a whole from its application to any smaller collection of birds than those of the entire globe. Suffice it, however, to say that no one can study Sundevall's observations without materially adding to his store of knowledge.

When the impossibility of a linear series of any living creatures bearing complex relationships on every side is fully recognized, it is clear that the first step in classification is to define certain groups. The old division into Land and Water birds is a familiar instance,—a division, however, too vague to be of any use. But if the young of a great variety of birds are observed from their earliest existence, some are seen to begin life in a much less developed state than others. One group, called thence *Gymnopædes*, are hatched, in a more or less elaborately-constructed nest, nearly naked, helpless, and utterly unable to seek their own food, or even to support themselves upon their legs; the other, called *Dasypædes*, are hatched, in a nest often of the simplest form, wholly covered with down, and able to move about and feed themselves from their very first exclusion from the egg. Here is at once the first step towards a scientific dichotomy; it remains, in the next place, to subdivide these groups into orders.

Taking now the *Gymnopædes*, for instance, on one side can be placed the order *Oscines*, with a strong hind-toe separately movable, its claw longer than any other, and the greater wing-coverts not reaching to the middle of the secondary quills; on the other the order *Volucres*, with a hind-toe weak (or even absent), not separately movable, its claw small, and the greater wing-coverts (except in some woodpeckers) reaching well beyond the middle of the secondaries.

Then, regarding the *Oscines*, which order contains about a quarter of all known species of birds, the majority have a double horny entire plate at the back of each tarsus; while the rest, of which the larks and the hoopoe alone are British, have the same part of the tarsus covered with separate scutella or scales. The possession of nine cubital quills, or of ten, constitutes another important distinction.

The *Volucres*, again, are divided according to whether the fourth (or outer) toe can be turned backwards or not.

The morphological value of such assemblages as these is obvious to the comparative anatomist, when he sees how many other independent

characters are correlated with them, such as the possession or not of a special apparatus for singing, and the existence or not of one common carotid artery or of two, besides numerous peculiarities of muscles and of bones.

When more minute subdivisions can no longer thus be made, certain well-defined types have to be chosen; and all the birds with the clearest affinities to these are grouped about them. Thus the first or greater division of the Oscines comprises some five more or less well-marked types among British birds: warblers and thrushes characterize one "cohort;" finches and buntings, another; crows, a third; creepers, a fourth; swallows, a fifth. Of course each cohort contains forms more or less divergent from the type, but in every case such apparent anomalies bear closer relationships to the type associated with each than to the type of any other.

In a similar way the birds with independent young—*Dasypædes*—fall into four orders, *viz.*, birds of prey, fowl-like birds, waders, and swimming birds. In the first order, Accipitres, most have the head feathered, and these seek their prey either by night, as owls, or by day, as hawks and eagles; while others, the vultures, have the head bare.

Thus group after group is treated, and so the affinity of one species or genus to another is shown in a far clearer way than any simply linear arrangement could possibly effect; just as, to use an illustration employed by the late J. S. Mill, all towns could be arranged according to their respective distances from the poles, but it is much more convenient to regard them as situated in such and such a continent or country.

But, it may be asked, since in such a series of groups one must be placed first and another last, how is it to be determined which has the claim to the higher place and which to the lower? Of the two primary divisions, that which undergoes the greatest variety of changes subsequent to birth seems naturally to take precedence in the all-important matter of development. Hence the orders Oscines and Volucres come to head the list, and of these the Oscines are regarded as the higher type, because among them occur the most highly specialised of birds; while in the other great division the birds of prey have the priority, partly by reason of the nearer accord of their nesting habits to those of the higher class, partly by reason of their great specialisation; and the swimmers are placed last, because they include some of the simplest of birds. Every animal is necessarily more or less fully adapted to its environment; but it is clear that, in the struggle for life, a nightingale must needs be prepared for an infinitely more varied range of circumstances than a petrel or a penguin.

HENRY T. WHARTON.

A LIST OF BRITISH BIRDS.

OSCINES.

- Daulias luscinia* (Linnæus).
Nightingale.
- Cyanecula suecica* (L.)
Bluethroat.
- Ruticilla phœnicurus* (L.)
Redstart.
- Ruticilla titys* (Scopoli).
Black Redstart.
- Erithacus rubecula* (L.)
Redbreast.
- Pratincola rubicola* (L.)
Stonechat.
- Pratincola rubetra* (L.)
Whinchat.
- Saxicola œnanthe* (L.)
Wheatear.
- Monticola saxatilis* (L.)
Rock Thrush.
- Turdus varius*, Pallas.
White's Thrush.
- Turdus viscivorus*, L.
Missel Thrush.
- Turdus musicus*, L.
Song Thrush.
- Turdus iliacus*, L.
Redwing.
- Turdus pilaris*, L.
Fieldfare.
- Turdus atrigularis*, Temminck.
Black-throated Thrush.
- Turdus merula*, L.
Blackbird.

- Turdus torquatus*, L.
Ring Ouzel.
- Cinclus aquaticus*, Bechstein.
Dipper.
- Melizophilus undatus* (Boddaert).
Dartford Warbler.
- Troglodytes parvulus*, Koch.
Wren.
- Regulus cristatus*, Koch.
Gold-crest.
- Regulus ignicapillus* (Brehm).
Fire-crest.
- Phylloscopus superciliosus* (Gmelin).
Yellow-browed Warbler.
- Phylloscopus collybita* (Vieillot).
Chiffchaff.
- Phylloscopus trochilus* (L.)
Willow Wren.
- Phylloscopus sibilatrix* (Bechstein).
Wood Wren.
- Sylvia rufa* (Boddaert).
Whitethroat.
- Sylvia curruca* (L.)
Lesser Whitethroat.
- Sylvia salicaria* (L.)
Garden Warbler.
- Sylvia atricapilla* (L.)
Blackcap.
- Sylvia orphea*, Temm.
Orphean Warbler.
- Aëdon galactodes* (Temmm.)
Rufous Warbler.
- Acrocephalus arundinaceus* (L.)
Great Reed Warbler.
- Acrocephalus streperus* (Vieillot).
Reed Warbler.
- Acrocephalus palustris* (Bechstein).
Marsh Warbler.
- Calamodus schænobænus* (L.)
Sedge Warbler.
- Calamodus aquaticus* (Gm.)
Aquatic Warbler.
- Locustella nævia* (Boddaert).
Grasshopper Warbler.
- Potamodus luscinioides* (Savi).
Savi's Warbler.
- Parus major*, L.
Great Titmouse.
- Parus cæruleus*, L.
Blue Titmouse.

- Parus ater*, L.
 Coal Titmouse.
- Parus palustris*, L.
 Marsh Titmouse.
- Parus cristatus*, L.
 Crested Titmouse.
- Acredula caudata* (L.)
 Long-tailed Titmouse.
- Lanius excubitor*, L.
 Great Gray Shrike.
- Lanius minor*, Gm.
 Lesser Gray Shrike.
- Lanius collurio*, L.
 Red-backed Shrike.
- Lanius auriculatus*, P. L. S. Müller.
 Woodchat.
- Ampelis garrulus*, L.
 Waxwing.
- Pycnonotus capensis* (L.)
 Gold-vented Thrush.
- Oriolus galbula*, L.
 Golden Oriole.
- Muscicapa atricapilla*, L.
 Pied Flycatcher.
- Muscicapa parva*, Bechstein.
 Red-breasted Flycatcher.
- Muscicapa grisola*, L.
 Spotted Flycatcher.
- Hypolais icterina* (Vieillot.)
 Icterine Warbler.
- Motacilla lugubris*, Temm.
 Pied Wagtail.
- Motacilla alba*, L.
 White Wagtail.
- Motacilla sulphurea*, Bechst.
 Gray Wagtail.
- Motacilla flava*, L.
 Blue-headed Wagtail.
- Motacilla raii* (Bonaparte).
 Yellow Wagtail.
- Anthus trivialis* (L.)
 Tree Pipit.
- Anthus pratensis* (L.)
 Meadow Pipit.
- Anthus spipoletta* (L.)
 Water Pipit.
- Anthus obscurus* (Latham.)
 Rock Pipit.
- Anthus campestris* (L.)
 Tawny Pipit.

- Anthus richardi*, Vieillot.
Richard's Pipit.
- Panurus biarmicus* (L.)
Bearded Titmouse.
- Accentor collaris* (Scopoli).
Alpine Accentor.
- Accentor modularis* (L.)
Hedge Sparrow.
- Pinicola enucleator* (L.)
Pine Grosbeak.
- Pyrrhula europæa*, Vieillot.
Bullfinch.
- Carpodacus erythrinus* (Pallas).
Rosy Bullfinch.
- Serinus hortulanus*, Koch.
Serin.
- Ligurinus chloris* (L.)
Greenfinch.
- Carduelis elegans*, Stephens.
Goldfinch.
- Carduelis spinus* (L.)
Siskin.
- Linota linaria* (L.)
Mealy Redpoll.
- Linota rufescens* (Vieillot).
Lesser Redpoll.
- Linota cannabina* (L.)
Linnet.
- Linota flavirostris* (L.)
Twite.
- Coccothraustes vulgaris*, Pallas.
Hawfinch.
- Fringilla cœlebs*, L.
Chaffinch.
- Fringilla montifringilla*, L.
Brambling.
- Passer montanus* (L.)
Tree Sparrow.
- Passer domesticus* (L.)
House Sparrow.
- Loxia curvirostra*, L.
Crossbill.
- Loxia pityopsittacus*, Bechstein.
Parrot Crossbill.
- Loxia bifasciata* (Brehm).
Two-barred Crossbill.
- Loxia leucoptera*, Gm.
White-winged Crossbill.
- Emberiza miliaria*, L.
Bunting.

- Emberiza citrinella*, L.
Yellow Hammer.
- Emberiza cirrus*, L.
Cirl Bunting.
- Emberiza hortulana*, L.
Ortolan.
- Emberiza rustica*, Pallas.
Rustic Bunting.
- Emberiza pusilla*, Pallas.
Little Bunting.
- Emberiza schœniclus*, L.
Reed Bunting.
- Emberiza melanocephala*, Scopoli.
Black-headed Bunting.
- Plectrophanes nivalis* (L.)
Snow Bunting.
- Plectrophanes lapponicus* (L.)
Lapland Bunting.
- Agelæus phœniceus* (L.)
Red-winged Starling.
- Sturnella magna* (L.)
American Meadow Starling.
- Sturnus vulgaris*, L.
Starling.
- Pastor roseus* (L.)
Rose-coloured Pastor.
- Fregilus graculus* (L.)
Chough.
- Nucifraga caryocatactes* (L.)
Nutteracker.
- Pica rustica* (Scopoli).
Magpie.
- Garrulus glandarius* (L.)
Jay.
- Corvus monedula*, L.
Jackdaw.
- Corvus frugilegus*, L.
Rook.
- Corvus corax*, L.
Raven.
- Corvus corone*, L.
Carrion Crow.
- Corvus cornix*, L.
Hooded Crow.
- Certhia familiaris*, L.
Tree Creeper.
- Sitta cæsia*, Wolf.
Nuthatch.
- Hirundo rustica*, L.
Swallow.

- Chelidon urbica* (L.)
Martin.
- Cotyle riparia* (L.)
Sand Martin.
- Progne purpurea* (L.)
Purple Martin.
- Otocorys alpestris* (L.)
Shore Lark.
- Alauda arvensis*, L.
Sky Lark.
- Alauda arborea*, L.
Wood Lark.
- Alauda cristata*, L.
Crested Lark.
- Calandrella brachydactyla* (Leisler).
Short-toed Lark.
- Melanocorypha sibirica* (Gm.)
White-winged Lark.
- Upupa epops*, L.
Hoopoe.

VOLUCRES.

- Picus martius*, L.
Great Black Woodpecker.
- Picus major*, L.
Greater Spotted Woodpecker.
- Picus minor*, L.
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.
- Gecinus viridis* (L.)
Green Woodpecker.
- Jynx torquilla*, L.
Wryneck.
- Cuculus canorus*, L.
Cuckoo.
- Coccytes glandarius* (L.)
Great Spotted Cuckoo.
- Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (Wilson).
Black-billed Cuckoo.
- Coccyzus americanus* (L.)
Yellow-billed Cuckoo.
- Coracias garrula*, L.
Roller.
- Caprimulgus europæus*, L.
Nightjar.
- Caprimulgus ruficollis*, Temm.
Red-necked Nightjar.
- Cypselus apus* (L.)
Swift.
- Cypselus melba* (L.)
White-bellied Swift.

Merops apiaster, L.
Bee-eater.

Alcedo ispida, L.
Kingfisher.

Ectopistes migratorius (L.)
Passenger Pigeon.

Columba palumbus, L.
Ring Dove.

Columba ænas, L.
Stock Dove.

Columba livia, Brisson.
Rock Dove.

Turtur auritus, Gray.
Turtle Dove.

ACCIPITRES.

Aluco flammeus (L.)
Barn Owl.

Asio otus (L.)
Long-eared Owl.

Asio accipitrinus (Pallas).
Short-eared Owl.

Strix stridula, L.
Tawny Owl.

Nyctala tengmalmi (Gm.)
Tengmalm's Owl.

Nyctea scandiaca (L.)
Snowy Owl.

Bubo ignavus, Forster.
Eagle Owl.

Scops giu (Scopoli).
Scops Owl.

Carine noctua (Scopoli).
Little Owl.

Surnia ulula (L.)
Hawk Owl.

Accipiter nisus (L.)
Sparrow Hawk.

Astur palumbarius (L.)
Gos-Hawk.

Circus æruginosus (L.)
Marsh Harrier.

Circus cyaneus (L.)
Hen-Harrier.

Circus cineraceus (Montagu).
Montagu's Harrier.

Buteo vulgaris, Leach.
Buzzard.

Buteo lagopus (Gm.)
Rough-legged Buzzard.

- Falco candicans*, Gm.
Greenland Falcon.
- Falco islandus*, Gm.
Iceland Falcon.
- Falco peregrinus*, Tunstall.
Peregrine Falcon.
- Falco æsalon*, Tunstall.
Merlin.
- Falco subbuteo*, L.
Hobby.
- Falco vespertinus*, L.
Red-footed Falcon.
- Falco tinnunculus*, L.
Kestrel.
- Nauclerus furcatus* (L.)
Swallow-tailed Kite.
- Aquila chrysaëtus* (L.)
Golden Eagle.
- Aquila clanga* (Pallas).
Greater Spotted Eagle.
- Haliaëtus albicilla* (L.)
White-tailed Eagle.
- Milvus ictinus* (Savigny).
Kite.
- Milvus migrans* (Boddaert).
Black Kite.
- Pernis apivorus* (L.)
Honey Buzzard.
- Pandion haliaëtus* (L.)
Osprey.
- Neophron percnopterus* (L.)
Egyptian Vulture.
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