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ETHNOLOGY.—*Powhatan Algonkian bird names: The Aushouetta (Topsell) or the Ahshowcutters (Strachey): Richmondia cardinalis.*¹ CHARLES EDGAR GILLIAM, Petersburg, Va. (Communicated by JOHN R. SWANTON.)

Bayard H. Christy, in an article in *The Auk*, July 1933, entitled *Topsell's 'Fowles of Heaven,'* suggests that the bird called Aushouetta by Topsell is the thrasher(?). John R. Swanton in *Newly discovered Powhatan bird names* (Jour. Washington Acad. Sci. 24 (2). Feb. 15, 1934), from an analogy to the Penobscot skunt·és, meaning "little fire" or "little flame," supplied by Speck, indicates the name Aushouetta refers to the redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*), pointing out that in Cuba the redstart is called candelita for the same reason.

The European redstart is a quite similar bird, but belongs to the family Sylviidae. It is known in Spain as candelita, suggesting the Cuban usage is of Old World rather than native New World origin. Smith gives the Powhatan Algonkian for "fire" as Poka-water and for "little" the words tanks and chawopo. Such considerations cast some doubt upon the Penobscot analogy furnishing a reliable clue of identity in this instance.

No trained ornithologist is known to have been in this colony during the period covered by the manuscripts involved. Topsell is not known to have been in America. One may assume that his drawing was made from a description furnished by some layman, who actually saw the bird.

Among those in this colony about that time was William Strachey. He came with the announced intention of observing and recording. He landed at Jamestown on June 10, 1610, and was back in his lodgings at Greyfriars, London, long enough before December 13, 1611, to complete and register

for publication on that date his little volume *Laws (for the Colony of Virginia)*. The important fact is that he was in Virginia and observed and recorded.

His few known manuscripts indicate that he was acquainted with many branches of knowledge, though far from a finished scholar in any. Where he possessed technical knowledge, he was fond of displaying it, however imperfect and faulty. He noted most birds he saw by what he believed their English names to be but recorded only a few native bird names. The inference is that he had no ornithological knowledge and asked for the native names of birds the like of which he had never heard of or seen at home. He saw a bird native to Powhatan lands notable for its "carnation-coloured wings," and preserved its Algonkian name as Ahshowcutters (also spelt Awshocutteis). There is no doubt that both he and Topsell tried with slightly different results to record in the phonetics of the English alphabet the same word.

The identify of this bird would seem to be most accurately arrived at by inquiring what bird common to Powhatan lands to a lay mind most nearly meets these specifications: (1) Not native in any form in England; (2) thrasherlike in over-all appearance; and (3) readily identified by carnation-colored wings.

Scientifically speaking *Setophaga ruticilla* and *Toxostoma rufum* are both native to America, but popularly speaking redstarts and so-called "thrashers" are both common in Europe. Topsell's drawing proves that the Aushouetta was not a redstart; Strachey's descriptive phrase, that it was not a thrasher. The layman would hardly

¹ Received June 14, 1946.

confuse *Setophaga ruticilla* with *Toxostoma rufum*. Nor would the layman be likely to say that either had red wings. The brown thrasher has no really red coloring in its feathers; it is brown. The redstart is mostly black with a few red feathers in wing and tail.

There is, however, a bird native to Powhatan lands and unknown as well by scientists as by laymen in any form in Europe. In sweep of tail, wings, size, and over-all appearance, a layman might well consider it thrasherlike. This is more true of the female than of the male. Almost any ornithologist would glance once at its beak, note the difference from the characteristic thrasher beak, and conclude it is not thrasherlike at all. But laymen are prone to overlook such scientifically conclusive identifying details.

This bird is migratory through and a year-round sojourner in Powhatan lands. It was first classified by English ornitholo-

gists as *Cardinalis virginianensis*; by modern American birdmen as *Richmondia cardinalis*. In winter it often flocks in groups of eight or more pairs. It is the carnation-colored winged bird of Powhatan countries. Accepting the Penobscot analogy as valid without the diminutive, it is the veritable flame of Virginia tidewater woodlands and lawns.

We are aware that our methods are based on practical rather than scientific and technical considerations. But the methods used are the same as those by which Topsell's drawing and Strachey's description most likely were arrived at in the first place. Although we acknowledge that we may not have established the identity beyond all possibility of rational dispute, we feel that properly construed, the available evidence justifies the assertion that the *Aushouetta* and the *Ahshowcutters* are one and the same bird, and that bird is the cardinal.

ENTOMOLOGY.—*Notes on Oecophoridae, with descriptions of new species.*¹ J. F.

GATES CLARKE, U. S. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

Since the publication of my revision of the North American Oecophoridae² much additional material and information have come to hand. The purpose of this paper is to bring this information together and publish it as a supplement to my former work. In December 1945 I was able to study certain types of Walker, Zeller, and Meyrick, in the British Museum. With information obtained from this study it is now possible for me to correct some erroneous conceptions and to place properly species formerly known only from descriptions. In this paper eight species are described as new, and notes on distribution, food plants, and synonymy are given on thirty others. I take this opportunity also to correct some errors that occurred in my revision.

The accompanying drawings were made

and the plates composed by Arthur D. Cushman, chief scientific illustrator, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

Unless otherwise indicated specimens were collected and reared by the author.

For purposes of brevity references to my revision in the text are given by page or plate numbers only.

Agonopterix fulva (Walsingham)

Depressaria fulva Walsingham, Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc. 10: 175. 1882.

Depressaria endryopa Meyrick, *Exotic Microlepidoptera* 2: 223. 1918. (New synonymy.)

I have studied the unique type in the British Museum. The strikingly distinct genitalia of this species are unmistakable, and I do not hesitate to reduce Meyrick's name to synonymy.

Agonopterix oregonensis Clarke

Since describing this species in my revision I have reared a series of over a hundred specimens, from several hosts listed below, from various localities in California and Washington.

¹ Received December 2, 1946.

² CLARKE, J. F. GATES, *Revision of the North American moths of the family Oecophoridae, with descriptions of new genera and species*. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 90: 33-286, pls. 1-48. 1941.



Gilliam, Charles Edgar. 1947. "Powhatan Algonkian bird names: The Aushouetta (Topsell) or the Ahshowcutters (Strachey): *Richmondia cardinalis*." *Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences* 37, 1-2.

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