

TYPE SPECIES OF CERTAIN GENERA OF BIRDS, DISCUSSED, BUT LEFT UNSETTLED, IN "OPINION" 16: SUPPORT FOR PROPOSALS SUBMITTED IN THE SECRETARY'S REPORT

By RICHARD MEINERTZHAGEN, D.S.O.

(London)

(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)274)

(Letter dated 20th August, 1952)

Thank you for your letter of 18th August enclosing a copy of your Report to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature on the question of the species to be accepted as the type species of the genera of birds which were discussed in the Commission's *Opinion* 16 but on which no decision was then taken.

I am very much in favour of decisions being taken by the Commission in regard to these generic names, for the present position is very unsatisfactory, there being at present no method by which to ascertain with certainty whether the type species of these genera were determined by Linnean tautonymy under the ruling given in *Opinion* 16. I therefore welcome the proposal that the seventeen generic names set out in your Report, where it is clear that the type species of the genera concerned were settled in this way and where the species so indicated are those which are currently as being the type species of the genera in question, should now be placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*. The position as regards the five other generic names will, as you say, need to be considered further in greater detail.

I see that in the case of the genus *Tringa* Linnaeus, 1758, you propose that the trivial name of the type species should be placed on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* in the form of the long-established emendation "ochropus" in place of the incorrect spelling "ocrophus" used by Linnaeus in 1758. This proposal is certainly right, for any other course would lead to pointless name-changing and would serve no useful purpose. Moreover, as is clear, Linnaeus himself would have used the emended spelling if it had not been for the fact that he made an error of copying when he took this word over from Gesner. As you know, this trivial name is one of the three such names, recognition of the emendations made for which has been asked for in the application Z.N.(S.)491, which the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature has submitted to the International Commission.



Meinertzhagen, R. 1952. "Type species of certain genera of birds, discussed, but left unsettled, in "Opinion" 16: support for proposals submitted in the Secretary's report." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 9, 76.

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