

of the *Athenaeum* for 1850 and not in volume 19 of the *Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* The genus *Balaeniceps* Rex, 1850, was monotypical with the above species as type species, just as was also the genus *Balaeniceps* Gould, [1852].

5. It is proposed to incorporate the foregoing correction in the *Official List*.

**SUGGESTED REVIEW OF THE ENTRIES ON THE
"OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES IN ZOOLOGY"
OF THE ENTRIES RELATING TO THE NAMES "OEDIC-
NEMUS" TEMMINCK, 1815, AND "BURHINUS" ILLIGER,
1811 (CLASS AVES)**

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(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)591)

In the course of the routine checking of the entries made in the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* undertaken as part of the preparations for the publication of the first instalment of the *Official List* in book-form, I encountered an anomaly in regard to the names of two genera in the Class Aves, which calls for further consideration by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. The facts of this case are accordingly now laid before the Commission for decision.

2. The names with which the present application is concerned were both placed on the *Official List* in *Opinion* 67 (1916, *Smithson. Publ.* 2409 : 175-182). The names in question are :—

- (1) *Burhinus* Illiger, 1811, *Prodr. Syst. Mamm. Avium* : 250 (type species, by monotypy : *Charadrius magnirostris* Latham, 1801, *Index ornith. Suppl.* : lxvi) (Name No. 30)
- (2) *Oedicnemus* Temminck, 1815, *Manuel Ornith.* : 321 (type species, by monotypy : *Oedicnemus crepitans* Temminck, 1815, *Manuel Ornith.* : 322 (stated in *Opinion* 67 to be the same species as *Charadrius oedicnemus* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 151) (Name No. 76).

3. Both the above names are available names in the sense that neither (1) is a junior homonym of an older generic name consisting of the same word nor (2) has, as its type species, a species which is also the type species of another nominal genus of older date.

4. The difficulty which arises in the present case is of a taxonomic character, for, according to Peters (J. L.) (1934, *Check-List Birds World* 2: 293-297) the taxonomic species represented by the nominal species *Oedicnemus crepitans* Temminck, 1815 (= *Charadrius oedicnemus* Linnaeus, 1758), the type species of *Oedicnemus* Temminck, 1815, is congeneric with the taxonomic species represented by the nominal species *Charadrius magnirostris* Latham, 1801, the type species of the genus *Burhinus* Illiger, 1811. According to this taxonomic view, the nominal genera *Oedicnemus* Temminck, 1815, and *Burhinus* Illiger, 1811, are subjectively identical with one another, and the name *Oedicnemus* Temminck, 1815, is a junior subjective synonym of the name *Burhinus* Illiger, 1811.

5. The purpose of the *Official List* is to give formal official recognition to generic names which are not only nomenclatorially available names but are also, in the opinion of specialists in the group concerned, the names of taxonomically valid genera. It is quite inappropriate that a name that is universally regarded by specialists as a subjective junior synonym of another name should find a place on the *Official List*. Clearly, therefore, any such name which by an oversight has been placed on the *Official List* should be removed therefrom. Accordingly, the name *Oedicnemus* Temminck, 1815, should now be removed from the *Official List*, if ornithologists generally are agreed that the nominal genera *Oedicnemus* Temminck, 1815, and *Burhinus* Illiger, 1811, as defined by their respective type species, are taxonomically identical with one another. If, however, specialists were not agreed on this subject, some recognising the genus *Oedicnemus* Temminck as the name of a taxonomically valid genus in addition to so recognising the name *Burhinus* Illiger, the most suitable solution would be to leave the name *Oedicnemus* Temminck on the *Official List*, but to add to the entry relating to that name a note stating that this name has been placed on the *Official List* for use by specialists who may consider that the type species of this genus is generically distinct from the type species of the genus *Burhinus* Illiger. It will be recalled that a procedure of this kind was deliberately adopted by the International Commission in *Opinion* 104, when dealing with the names of the genera published for the human malaria parasites (the generic name *Laverania* being then placed on the *Official List* with a note of the kind indicated above, in addition to the older name *Plasmodium* Marchiafava & Celli, 1885), and that the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology expressly enjoined the International Commission to follow this course when considering the addition to the *Official List* of names which were available and well known but not accepted by all specialists as being taxonomically required (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4: 237). It will be appreciated that this procedure serves the twofold purpose of stabilising well-known names, without, in cases where specialists are divided on the question of the taxonomic status of allied nominal genera, involving the International Commission in expressing or implying (through the *Official List*) any view on the taxonomic issue involved.

6. The International Ornithological Congress at its meeting held at Uppsala in 1950 appointed a Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature to co-operate with the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, on questions affecting the names of birds; it appeared to me, therefore, that it would be helpful to seek the views of the Standing Committee on the question whether the name *Oedictes* Temminck, 1815, should be removed from the *Official List* or alternatively whether it should be retained thereon, subject to the addition of a note that this name had been placed on the *List* for use only by authors who considered that the taxonomic species represented by the nominal species *Oedictes crepitans* Temminck, 1815, was generically distinct from that represented by *Charadrius magnirostris* Latham, 1801, the type species of *Burhinus* Illiger, 1811. I accordingly asked Colonel Richard Meinertzhagen, Chairman of the Standing Committee, if he would be so good as to obtain the views of his Committee on the relative merits of the alternative courses set out above. Colonel Meinertzhagen kindly consented to put this matter to the Standing Committee and on 2nd September, 1951, wrote me the following letter: "I have consulted the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature on the names *Oedictes* and *Burhinus* with reference to the *Official List*. M. Berlioz has not replied, but I am taking a majority vote by which we are agreed that *Oedictes* Temminck, 1815, should be sunk to *Burhinus* Illiger, 1811, the respective type species being congeneric."

7. In view of the consensus of opinion regarding the relative status of the two nominal genera concerned and of the recommendation received from the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature, I submit, for consideration, the proposal that the name *Oedictes* Temminck, 1815, should now be removed from the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*.



Hemming, Francis. 1952. "Suggested review of the entries on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology of the entries relating to the names Oedicnemus Temminck, 1815, and Burhinus Illiger, 1811 (Class Aves)." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 9, 86–88. <https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.10239>.

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