**LARIUS BODDAERT, 1783 (AVES): PROPOSED SUPPRESSION UNDER
THE PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1833**

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The nectar feeding brush-tongued parrots or lorries is one of the most interesting groups of parrots. Its principal area of distribution is the New Guinea region, but extending west to the Philippines and eastward to Polynesia. There are 56 species in this island region, and only 8 species in Australia. The name of this important family (or subfamily) has been LORIIDAE (or LORIINAE) for about 130 years, based on the generic name *Lorius*. This name was first introduced into the ornithological literature by Brisson (1760, *Ornithologie*, 4 : 215) and to him most ornithologists credited authorship of *Lorius* for the next 100 years. After Salvadori (1891, *Cat. Birds Brit. Museum* 20 : 31) had pointed out the unavailability of certain Brisson names (recently discussed in detail by Eisenmann, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 22 : 156-161), Vigors was subsequently cited as the author of *Lorius*. He gave an excellent diagnosis (1825, *Zool. Jour.* 2 : 400) and designated *Psittacus domicella* Linnaeus as type species. The majority of specialists on the birds of the Papuan Region are still using the name *Lorius* Vigors for the type genus of the lory family. It is the name used in virtually all classical books on parrots. However, since so many authors, particularly in the 19th century credited the name *Lorius* to Brisson, the late Mr. Hemming stated quite rightly that a special action of the Commission would be desirable (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 19 : 14).

2. In 1832 Wagler (*Abh. K.-bayer. Akad. Wiss., München* 1 : 495) introduced the name *Eclectus* for a very different group of parrots, often referred to as Eclect Parrots, celebrated for their unusual sexual dimorphism. Gray (1840, *List Genera Birds* (ed. 1) : 52) designated *Psittacus grandis* Gmelin = *P. roratus* P. L. S. Müller as the type species. Sclater in 1858 (*Proc. zool. Soc. London* 1857 : 226) proposed the generic synonym *Polychlorus* for the same group of birds. (Type, by original designation, *Psittacus magnus* Gmelin = *P. roratus pectoralis* P. L. S. Müller), being unaware of the name *Eclectus*. Subsequent authors, until 1915, uniformly used the name *Eclectus*.

3. In 1915 Mathews and Iredale (*Austral. Av. Rec.* 3 : 45-46) called attention to a generic name *Larius*, published by Boddaert (1783, *Tabl. Pl. enlum. Hist. nat. Daubenton* : 42 (ref. to Pl. 683) in the combination *Psittacus (Larius) Ceclanensis* mihi. (The specific name being a junior synonym of *Psittacus roratus* P. L. S. Müller 1776.)

The combination *Psittacus (Larius)*, as well as a specific reference to Brisson's *Ornithologie*, makes it rather evident that Boddaert was merely copying Brisson. To make matters worse, Boddaert not only modified the spelling of *Lorius*, but he applied it also to a genus in an entirely different family of the order Psittaciformes from that to which *Lorius* Brisson belongs. It is therefore not surprising that ornithologists ignored Boddaert's name *Larius* for the 132 years between

1783 and 1915. Boddaert, in fact, had a deservedly poor reputation owing to the numerous errors throughout his work.

Unfortunately, instead of asking the Commission to suppress the confusing and totally forgotten name *Larius* Boddaert, Mathews and Iredale (l.c.) in 1915 proposed to emend it to *Lorius* and consequently to change the names of two of the best known genera of parrots. They proposed to replace *Eclectus* Wagler 1832 by *Lorius* (emend.) Boddaert 1783, and *Lorius* Vigors 1825 (this pre-occupied) by *Domicella* Wagler, 1832.

In the years immediately following 1915 the changes proposed by Mathews and Iredale were adopted by a few authors, particularly those who were not specialists in the Papuan area. Peters (1937) adopted them in vol. III of his *Check-List of Birds* (pp. 153, 231). Most specialists, however, either maintained the classical nomenclature of *Lorius* Vigors [or Brisson] for the lories and *Eclectus* Wagler for the eclect parrots, or they adopted *Larius* Boddaert for the eclects retaining *Lorius* for the lories. Those who used *Larius* for the eclect parrots pointed out that it corresponded to *Eclectus*, and those who used *Domicella* for the lories pointed out that it was the same as *Lorius*. This is how Rand and Gilliard handled it in their *Handbook of New Guinea birds* (1967, pp. 199, 221). It is obvious that the names *Eclectus* for the eclects, and *Lorius* for the lories are still far better known than the replacement names adopted by some recent authors.

Of the species and subspecies of *Lorius* Vigors described since 1800 no less than 12 were described under *Lorius* and only 2 under *Domicella*. In the case of *Eclectus* 9 were described under *Eclectus* (or as *Psittacus* and subsequently transferred to *Eclectus*), 2 as *Larius* and 1 as *Lorius*.

4. The confusion is even greater on the family level. A family-group name for the lories was first proposed by Swainson (1837, *Nat. Hist. Classif. Birds* 2 : 303): LORIANAE Swainson for *Lorius* Brisson and related genera (= *Lorius* Vigors). G. R. Gray (1840, *List Gen. Birds*: 52) corrected this to LORINAE, later authors to LORIINAE or LORIIDAE. Family group names based on *Lorius* have been consistently in use for the lories since 1837, except for a few authors who used TRICHOGLOSSINAE Bonaparte (1851, *Consp. Gen. Avium*: 31) for the genera near *Trichoglossus*.

Curiously even those authors who adopted *Larius* Boddaert, in the arbitrarily emended form *Lorius*, continued to use for the lories the name *Loriidae* as family name (even though in their nomenclature the family no longer contained a valid genus *Lorius*). Peters (1937, *Checklist of Birds*) uses (p. 143) the name LORIINAE for the lories (including *Domicella* Wagler), while he uses (p. 179) the name PSITTACINAE for the regular parrots including the genus *Eclectus* for which he used the name *Lorius* (emend.) Boddaert. Mathews (1927, *Syst. Av. Australas.*) went one further. He uses the name LORIIDAE on p. 283 for the lories (pp. 283–304), and again the same name LORIIDAE on p. 322 for the eclect parrots and relatives (pp. 322–329), separated from the lories by the OPOPSITTIDAE (304–308), PROBOSCIGERIDAE (308–309), KAKATOEIDAE (309–318), and MICROPSITTACIDAE (319–322). Apparently no other author ever used the name LORIIDAE for any other group of parrots than the lories.

5. To end all this confusion and lack of uniformity, and to restore the usage uniformly employed in the entire classical literature on parrots, we ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the name *Lorius* Boddaert 1783 for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy;
- (2) to place the following names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Lorius* Vigors 1825 (gender: masculine), type-species by original designation, *Psittacus domicella* Linnaeus, 1758;
 - (b) *Eclectus* Wagler 1832 (gender: masculine), type-species by subsequent designation (G. R. Gray, 1840, *List Gen. Birds* (ed. 1): 52), *Psittacus grandis* Gmelin 1789 = *Psittacus roratus* P. L. S. Müller, 1776;
- (3) to place the following names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *domicella* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Psittacus domicella* (1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 100) (type-species of *Lorius* Vigors, 1825);
 - (b) *roratus* Müller, 1776, as published in the binomen *Psittacus roratus* (1776, *Natursyst. Suppl.* : 77);
- (4) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the name LORIINAE (correction of LORIANAE) Swainson, 1837, *Nat. Hist. Classif. Birds* 2 : 303 (type-genus *Lorius* Vigors 1825);
- (5) to place the name *Lorius* Boddaert, 1783 (as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above) on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

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