

bullockoides, *M. pusillus* and *M. nubicus nubicoides* in 70% ethanol for 9, 4 and 4 months respectively. One series of immersed skins was exposed to sunlight for up to 4 hours daily, and another was kept in the dark. Plumage colours of both series and of all 3 species was greatly affected and in similar respects, so that all changes were clearly wrought by spirit immersion and none by light. As with the *M. persicus* material, greens became blue-greens on exposed ends of feathers but not on their bases, producing an effect very like that of sun-bleached living bee-eaters long after their last moult; yellows and reds were totally suppressed, pure yellow (throat of *M. pusillus*) becoming ivory, scarlet (throat of *M. bullockoides*) becoming pale buff, bright pink (underparts, mantle and back of *M. nubicus*) becoming buffy white, and carmine (wings and tail of *M. nubicus*) changing to gingery brown. Other colours – blues, orange-buffs and black – were unaffected.

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IN BRIEF

Replacement name for *Acrocephalus aedon rufescens* (Stegmann)

by George E. Watson

Received 20 November 1984

The broadened concept of some sylviid genera to be adopted in Volume 11 of Peters' *Check-list of Birds of the World* has resulted in some homonymy in the genus *Acrocephalus*. The Rufous Swamp or Rufous Cane Warbler, formerly known as *Calamoecetor rufescens*, was originally described as *Bradypterus rufescens* Sharpe & Bouvier, 1876, *Bull. Soc. Zool. France*, 1: 307. The Thick-billed Reed Warbler of extreme eastern Siberia and northeast China, originally described as *Phragamaticola aëdon rufescens* Stegmann, 1929, *Journ. f. Ornith.* 77: 250, becomes a junior homonym when both are placed in the genus *Acrocephalus*. I propose *Acrocephalus aedon stegmanni* as a replacement name for *Phragamaticola aëdon rufescens* Stegmann. If the generic name, *Phragamaticola*, is used it should be amended to *Phragmaticola* (see Bond 1975, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 95: 50–51).

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1985. "Replacement name for *Acrocephalus aedon rufescens* (Stegmann)."
Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club 105, 79–79.

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