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This application is designed to preserve the long established and generally used specific names of Carphophaga aurorae Peale, 1848 (U.S. Expl. Exped., Birds vol. 8, p. 201) (type locality Aurora Island = Makatea, Tuamotu Archipelago), a fruit pigeon from Tahiti (Society Islands) and Makatea, and Serresius galeatus Bonaparte, 1855 (C.R. Acad. Sci. Paris vol. 41, p. 1110) (type locality Nuku Hiva, Marquesas Islands), a fruit pigeon from the Marquesas Islands. Both are currently placed in the genus Ducula (Goodwin, 1983, Pigeons and doves of the World, 3rd. ed., p. 320).

2. Columba R. Forsteri Wagler, 1829 (Isis von Oken col. 739) (based on Columba globicera var. ? of Reinhold Forster MS., from Tahiti) has been variously identified as a senior subjective synonym of both Carphophaga aurorae Peale, 1848 (see paragraph 5 below) and Serresius galeatus Bonaparte, 1855 (see paragraph 4 below).

3. According to Art. 26(d) of the Code as amended as Monaco (Bull. zool. Nomencl. vol. 29, pp. 72–73 & 188, 1972, approving Declaration 42, 1966, Bull. zool. Nomencl. vol. 23, pp. 198–200), an abbreviation in a compound name is to be written out in full. Hence Wagler’s name would become either reinholdiforsteri if the given name is put in the genitive case or reinholdforsteri if not. Subsequent authors have mostly quoted the name as ‘Columba forsteri Wagler, 1829’ which is technically incorrect. This usage invites confusion with Columba Forsteri Desmarest, 1826 (Dict. Sci. nat. ed. Levrault vol. 11, p. 340), which was proposed as a new name for Columba porphyracea Temminck, 1821 (Trans. Linn. Soc. London vol. 13, p. 130) from Tongatabu and Ulietea. Columba Forsteri Desmarest, 1826 has usually been regarded as an objective synonym of Ptilinopus porphyraceus (Temminck, 1821). The name Columba forsterii was also used by Prévost (in Knip, 1838–1843 Les Pigeons 2nd edition, vol. 2, p. 87, pl. 47) for the bird later named as Hemiphaga forsteni ‘Temminck’ Bonaparte, 1854 (C.R. Acad. Sci. Paris vol. 39, p. 1077).

4. Columba R. Forsteri Wagler, 1829 was identified as a senior subjective synonym of Serresius galeatus Bonaparte, 1855 by the following authors:

3. Lysaght, 1957. *Ibis* vol. 99, pp. 118–120 (as 'Ducula forsteri (Wagler), 1829', with recommendation that this name should be used to replace *Serresius galeata* [sic] Bonaparte).

5. *Columba R. Forsteri* Wagler, 1829 was identified as a senior subjective synonym of *Carpophaga aurorae* Peale, 1848 by the following authors:


3. Stresemann, 1950. *Auk* vol. 67, pp. 84–87 (as 'Ducula forsteri (Wagler, 1829), with a recommendation that this name should not be adopted, 'for the benefit of uniformity and stability').

We believe that the latter is the correct identification because *Ducula aurorae* is the only large fruit pigeon on Tahiti and the locality of Forster's bird is given as Tahiti. However, others contend that there may formerly have been a second large species on Tahiti identical with *D. galeata* of the Marquesas Islands.

7. The fruit-pigeon of Tahiti and Makatea has been universally known as *Carpophaga aurorae* Peale, 1848. A sample list of the literature mainly of the last fifty years but including some earlier standard works that were relied on for nomenclature is given in Appendix 1.

8. With the few exceptions noted in paragraph 4 above, the fruit-pigeon of the Marquesas Islands has been universally known as *Serresius galeatus* Bonaparte, 1855. A sample list of the literature, mainly of the last fifty years but including some earlier standard works that were relied on for nomenclature, is given in Appendix 2.

9. While a proposal to accept *Columba* R. *Forsteri* Wagler, 1829 in place of either *aurorae* or *galeata* (depending on which identification were accepted), would be in accordance with the Principle of Priority, either replacement would disturb stability and universality of usage and cause confusion because of the disparate views as to its identity. Art. 79 of the Code allows that a junior name may be validated in the interest of promoting stability and universality of usage or avoiding confusion. As noted in paragraph 5 above, Wagler’s name has not been adopted in place of *Carpophaga aurorae* Peale, 1848 by any recent author, whereas numerous authors have used Peale’s name as indicated under paragraph 7 above. Intolerable confusion could arise if *Columba* R. *Forsteri* Wagler, 1829 were now adopted in place of *Carpophaga aurorae* Peale, 1848 or *Serresius galeatus* Bonaparte, 1855. Even if Wagler’s name (following Lysaght’s view) is interpreted as a senior synonym of *Serresius galeatus* Bonaparte, 1855 (which we consider would be incorrect), usage of *galeatus* has been almost universal, as indicated in paragraph 8 above. The suppression of Wagler’s name (of uncertain applicability to one or other) is preferable to a ruling that Peale’s or Bonaparte’s names should merely be given precedence over it, as it must apply to one or the other of the species currently known as *Ducula aurorae* or *D. galeata*. The birds of the Society Islands and the Marquesas Islands are now sufficiently well known for it to be extremely improbable that a second species of large pigeon exists in either archipelago.

10. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is, therefore, requested:

(1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *R. Forsteri* Wagler, 1829, as published in the binomen *Columba R. Forsteri* Wagler, 1829, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not the Principle of Homonymy;

(2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
(a) *aurorae* Peale, 1848, as published in the binomen *Carpophaga aurorae*;
(b) *galeatus* Bonaparte, 1855, as published in the binomen *Serresius galeatus*;

(3) to place the specific name *R. Forsteri* Wagler, 1829, as published in the binomen *Columba R. Forsteri* and suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above, on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.
APPENDIX 1

Recent and major books and papers using the specific name *aurorae* for the fruit-pigeon of the Society Islands:


APPENDIX 2

Recent and major books and papers using the specific name *galeatus* for the fruit-pigeon of the Marquesas Islands:

MATHEWS, 1927. *Syst. Av. Australia.* vol. 1, p. 44.

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