

THE RICHMOND INDEX
TO THE GENERA AND SPECIES OF BIRDS

Guide to the Microfiche

G. K. Hall & Company
Boston, Massachusetts
1992

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Manufactured in the United States of America.
ISBN 0-8161-1795-0

The recommended citation for this work is: Richmond, Charles W. 1992. *The Richmond Index to the Genera and Species of Birds* (Robert J. O'Hara, ed.). Boston: G. K. Hall & Company.

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PREFACE

Scientific nomenclature lies at the very foundation of systematic ornithology. We must have names for the organisms we write about, and an elaborate set of formal rules (*The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*) exists for determining the proper scientific name to be applied to a given animal. But for numerous reasons many more names have appeared in the literature than there are actual taxa in existence. For example, early authors, often unaware of one another's works, would create different names for the same species. Keeping track of such synonyms is one of the necessary, if burdensome, tasks of the systematist.

Thus, over a century ago, Charles W. Richmond set out on the truly monumental task of compiling a card index of all the published scientific names of the genera, species, and subspecies of birds. Each card includes a scientific name, its author, bibliographic reference, and date of publication. Because Priority of a given name over another is often determined by date of publication, this information assumes considerable nomenclatural significance. Richmond devoted a great deal of effort to determining publication dates of various ornithological works, a subject on which he kept a separate detailed card file.

The *Richmond Index* occupies more than 75 file drawers in the Division of Birds at the National Museum of Natural History, and has been an indispensable reference for those able to consult it. A great deal of ornithological history is reflected by the names on these aging cards. Richmond's annotations not infrequently provide unexpected nuggets to reward the diligent researcher. For example, we find that Capt. F. D. Bennett's narrative of a whaling voyage mentions that the original specimens of the Hawaiian Goose (*Branta sandvicensis*), upon which the scientific name was based, were sent to England by the renowned botanical explorer David Douglas, this being the only connection between Douglas and Hawaiian ornithology (Olson, 1989).

The arrangement of the *Index* is alphabetical, with each species listed *in the genus in which it was original described*. This can make certain information difficult to retrieve but is of great practical benefit in another respect. The rules of nomenclature proscribe the creation of new scientific names that are homonyms of

existing names. Thus, if one wished to describe a new species of duck in the genus *Anas* as *Anas minuta*, say, it is not sufficient to check in a modern checklist under the genus *Anas* to see if the name *minuta* has already been used. Many species of ducks were originally described in the broad Linnaean genus *Anas* but were subsequently transferred to other genera. Checking the *Richmond Index* we find that *Anas minuta* has already been used, by Linnaeus no less. It makes no difference that the name is now considered to be a synonym of *Histrionicus histrionicus*, the name *minuta* is nonetheless unavailable in the genus *Anas*.

The *Richmond Index* is thus an especially useful source to prevent the creation of homonyms. In fact, wider use of this source will probably reveal homonyms already in existence that need to be replaced. Richmond must have found many of these that he never had time to deal with. For instance, he indexed both the fossil rail *Rallus dubius* Portis, 1887, and its senior homonym *Rallus dubius* Piller and Mitterpacher, 1783, without ever publishing a replacement name for the former. This was subsequently renamed *Rallus richmondi* (Olson, 1977) in recognition of the importance of Richmond's *Index*.

Richmond died in 1932, but his contributions to the *Index* had probably diminished well prior to that. Stone (1933) relates that Richmond's health began to fail about the onset of the First World War, after which his work on the *Index* was only desultory. In the years since Richmond's death various staff of the Division of Birds and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service were detailed to add overlooked or newly described taxa, but this was attended to with varying degrees of competence and dedication. More diligence has been applied in recent years, but there remains a period for which the *Index* is certain to be recognizable incomplete.

Nevertheless, it is for the older and more obscure literature that such a compilation is most needed in any case, and for this we can truly be grateful to Richmond for his tireless bibliographic efforts. Considerable credit must also reflect on Robert O'Hara, who conceived the idea of making the *Richmond Index* more generally available and who negotiated its publication.

Olson, Storrs L. 1977. A synopsis of the fossil Rallidae. Pages 339–373 in: S. D. Ripley, *Rails of the World*. Boston: David R. Godine.

———. 1989. David Douglas and the original description of the Hawaiian Goose. *Elepaio*, 49: 49–51.

Stone, Witmer. 1933. In memoriam: Charles Wallace Richmond 1868–1932. *Auk*, 50: 1–22.

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INTRODUCTION

On the 29th of January in 1897, Charles Wallace Richmond, then Assistant Curator of Birds in the United States National Museum, wrote to his friend Witmer Stone telling him of a great task he had undertaken.

I am employing my spare time (what little I get) in making a card catalogue of described species of birds, both living and extinct, and genera, giving the names, as originally spelled, complete reference and date of publication, type locality; also data for the type specimen when given. During the past year I have compiled about 1500 of these cards, going through works where the date of publication was more or less certain. [Stone, 1933: 10]

Begun in 1889, when Richmond was 21, the card catalog of birds became his life's work. Every evening at his apartment on 9th Street N.W., across from where the National Portrait Gallery now stands in Washington, Richmond would edit and extend the list of names, and print the blank forms he used for the common journals on his own small printing press. Stone visited this nomenclatural laboratory on many occasions, and described its arrangement and the working style of its director:

The printing press and type cases stood in one corner of the room and his book case in another. After the table had been cleared and a reading lamp adjusted, he removed his coat, for he, like many another man who has accomplished great things, could not satisfactorily carry on his work either at home or at the museum unless he were in his shirt sleeves; then he would get out his box of cards and the volume upon which he happened to be working, light a cigar, wind up an early variety of phonograph in which he took great delight, and begin the compilation. [Stone, 1933: 11-12]

By 1912 Richmond considered the catalog three-fifths complete, with 30,000 finished cards and 10,000 more containing fragmentary information. At this time he devised a publication plan, under which individuals or institutions would subscribe and receive printed copies of all the new cards as they were completed, much in the same way as libraries could subscribe to the catalog cards of the Library of Congress. This plan was described in an editorial in the *Auk* (Stone, 1912), and Richmond printed several sets of sample cards, but for whatever reason the plan was not carried through. Another publication plan, to print a new list of all the generic names of birds as a replacement for the earlier work of Waterhouse (1889), had the misfortune of being sponsored by a German zoological society on the eve of the First World

War, and it fell through as well (Stone, 1933: 14). The card catalog continued to serve as the basis for some important nomenclatural publications of the National Museum (Richmond, 1902, 1908, 1917, 1927), but its overall usefulness remained restricted to those few specialists who could consult it in Washington, or who were on close enough terms with Richmond—his friends C. Davies Sherborn and Gregory M. Mathews (1925, 1932), for example—to ask Richmond to consult it for them. Now at last the fruits of Richmond's labor are available to the whole ornithological community, just as he had always wished.

To those who have never known bibliographic compulsions of the kind that fired Richmond, the compilation of a catalog such as this must appear inexpressibly tedious. But the true bibliographer knows otherwise. The thrill of pursuing obscure and fragmentary references, the satisfaction of correcting ancient errors, the delightful encounters with the all-too-human enterprise of publishing that make one laugh out loud while all alone in the library—these are the joys of the bibliographer. Witmer Stone recalled one such encounter to which Richmond himself had been a party.

A set of corrections [by Richmond] to a paper published in the Proceedings of the North China Branch of the Asiatic Society arrived too late for inclusion in the main text and the authors decided to publish it as an appendix but, through some misunderstanding on the part of the printer, only the title and author's name appeared. Richmond in writing to me about it said: "The 'appendix' as it appeared is a perfect blank, and therefore, constitutes the shortest paper in my bibliography." [Stone, 1933: 14]

If Charles Wallace Richmond once held the record for the shortest publication in systematic ornithology, he now without doubt holds the record for the longest. *The Richmond Index to the Genera and Species of Birds*, 70,000 cards long and the product of forty years' work, will, as Witmer Stone declared (1932: 392), "ever be a monument to his knowledge and industry."

Mathews, Gregory M. 1925. *The Birds of Australia. Supplement No. 4. Bibliography of the Birds of Australia. Part 1.* London: H. F. & G. Witherby.

———. 1932. Charles Wallace Richmond. *Ibis*, 13th series, 2: 691–693.

Richmond, Charles W. 1902. List of generic terms proposed for birds during the years 1890 to 1900, inclusive, to which are added names omitted by Waterhouse in his "Index Generum Avium." *Proceeding of the United States National Museum*, 24: 663–729.

———. 1908. Generic names applied to birds during the years 1901 to 1905, inclusive, with further additions to Waterhouse's "Index Generum Avium." *Proceedings of the United States National Museum*, 35: 583–655.

———. 1917. Generic names applied to birds during the years 1906 to 1915, inclusive, with additions and corrections to Waterhouse's "Index Generum Avium." *Proceedings of the United States National Museum*, 53: 565–636.

———. 1927. Generic names applied to birds during the years 1916 to 1922, inclusive, with additions to Waterhouse's "Index Generum Avium." *Proceedings of the United States National Museum*, 70: 1–44.

Stone, Witmer. 1912. [Publication plan for the *Richmond Index*.] *Auk*, 29: 279.

———. 1932. [Obituary of Richmond.] *Auk*, 49: 392.

———. 1933. In memoriam: Charles Wallace Richmond 1868–1932. *Auk*, 50: 1–22.

Waterhouse, Frederick H. 1889. *Index Generum Avium. A List of the Genera and Subgenera of Birds*. London: R. H. Porter.

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LIST OF FICHE HEADINGS

Note: Richmond commonly interfiled orthographic variants of the same name, and this practice accounts for occasional departures from strict alphabetical order among the cards. For example, *Odontophorus Vieillot, 1816*, was emended by Bonaparte in 1831 to *Odonthophorus*, but because Richmond considered these orthographic variants of the same name *Odonthophorus, 1831*, is filed after *Odontophorus, 1816* (Fiche Nos. 12–13). Similarly, the variant *Vulcur jota* appears between *Vultur isabellinus* and *Vultur kernensis* (Fiche Nos. 105–106).

Genus Catalog

Fiche No. 1

Aaptus — *Apatelosia*

Fiche No. 2

Apatema — *Blacipus*

Fiche No. 3

Blacops — *Catherpes*

Fiche No. 4

Catherpes — *Cittocichla*

Fiche No. 5

Cittocinclla — *Cyanosylvia*

Fiche No. 6

Cyanothrus — *Endomychura*

Fiche No. 7

Endomychura — *Gelastes*

Fiche No. 8

Gelastes — *Heterococcyx*

Fiche No. 9

Heterocorax — *Lagonosticta*

Fiche No. 10

Lagophus — *Maculocantor*

Fiche No. 11

Madanga — *Monarchanax*

Fiche No. 12

Monarcharses — *Odontophorus*

Fiche No. 13

Odonthophorus — *Parvifregata*

Fiche No. 14

Parvipsitta — *Pipis*

Fiche No. 15

Pipiscus — *Psilopus*

Fiche No. 16

Psilopus — *Richmondia*

Fiche No. 17

Richmondica — *Stachyrhis*

Fiche No. 18

Stachyris — *Thryorchilus*

Fiche No. 19

Thryospiza — *Zanthornis*

Fiche No. 20

Zapornia — *Zygodactylus*

Species Catalog

Fiche No. 21

[———] *Cafer* — *Aegithalus castaneus*

Fiche No. 22

Aegithalus caucasicus — *Alauda melanocephala*

Fiche No. 23

Alauda migratoria — *Amazilius cerviniiventris*

Fiche No. 24

Amazilius cerviniiventris — *Anas muscaria*

Fiche No. 25

Anas milleri — *Anthus maximus*

Fiche No. 26

Anthus medius — *Aquila occidentalis*

Fiche No. 27

Aquila orientalis — *Arremon aurantirostris*

Fiche No. 28

Arremon aurantirostris occidentalis — *Bambusicola fytchii*

Fiche No. 29

Bambusicola fytchii rincheni — *Bradypterus ruficoccyx*

Fiche No. 30

Bradypterus rufiflavus — *Buteo circoides*

Fiche No. 31

Buteo communis — *Callocorydon fimbriatus superior*

Fiche No. 32

Callolophus miniatus dayak — *Caprimulgus vociferans*

Fiche No. 33

Caprimulgus vociferans — *Centropus lignator*

Fiche No. 34

Centropus medius — *Certhiola caboti*

Fiche No. 35

Certhiola chloropyga — *Charmosynopsis pulchella rothschildi*

Fiche No. 36

Chasiempis dolei — *Chrysotis prisca*

Fiche No. 37

Chrysotis rhodocorytha — *Circus umbrinus*

Fiche No. 38

Circus umbrinus — *Colinus ridgwayi*

Fiche No. 39

Colinus salvini — *Columba rodericana*

Fiche No. 40

Columba rodericana — *Corvus afer*

Fiche No. 41

Corvus affinis — *Cotinga simoni*

Fiche No. 42

Cotinga speciosa — *Crypturus occidentalis*

Fiche No. 43

Crypturus parvirostris — *Cyanomitra olivacea chyulu*

Fiche No. 44

Cyanomitra olivacea granti — *Dendrocincla lafresnaye*

Fiche No. 45

Dendrocincla lafresnaye christiani — *Dicruopsis guillemardi*

Fiche No. 46

Dicruopsis montana — *Dryobates major beicki*

Fiche No. 47

Dryobates major bulgarensis — *Emberiza citriniventris*

Fiche No. 48

Emberiza citriniventris — *Erionotus cearensis*

Fiche No. 49 [See also Errata Fiche below.]

Erionotus punctatus magnirostris — *Eurylaimus cucullatus*

Fiche No. 50

Eurylaimus cucullatus — *Falco micrurus*

Fiche No. 51

Falco micrurus "Hodgson" — *Francolinus squamatus usambarae*

Fiche No. 52

Francolinus squamatus uzungwensis — *Fulica pisana*

Fiche No. 53

Fulica platyuros — *Garrulus japonicus hiugaensis*

Fiche No. 54

Garrulus japonicus kakes — *Glyciphilia albifrons lavertoni*

Fiche No. 55

Glyciphilia fasciata — *Habropyga oenochroa*

Fiche No. 56

Habropyga oenochroa — *Henicorhina pittieri*

Fiche No. 57

Henicorhina prosthaleuca albilateralis — *Hydrochelidon meridionalis*

Fiche No. 58

Hydrochelidon nigricans — *Icterus pectoralis espinachi*

Fiche No. 59

Icterus pectoralis espinachi — *Lalage maculosa vanikorensis*

Fiche No. 60

Lalage maculosa vauana — *Lanius passerinus*

Fiche No. 61

Lanius peli — *Leptosomus discolor* var. *gracilis*

Fiche No. 62

Leptosomus discolor intermedius — *Loxia bicolor*

Fiche No. 63

Loxia bicolor — *Malaconotus manningi*

Fiche No. 64

Malaconotus manningi — *Meleagris celer*

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Meleagris crassipes — *Merula simensis*

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Merula subalaris — *Mitrephorus ochraceiventris*

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Muscicapa muscipeta — *Myiobius villosus peruvianus*

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Nectarinia congensis — *Nucifraga caryocatactes pachyrhynchus*

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Oreotrochilus melanogaster — *Oryzoborus nuttingi*

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Phylloscopus pseudes — *Picus leucomelanus*

Fiche No. 81

Picus leucomelas "mihi" — *Pipra superciliosa*

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Pipra torquata — *Ploceus dubius*

Fiche No. 83

Ploceus duboisi — *Polioptila crocopygia*

Fiche No. 84

Polioptila dimidiata — *Pristorhamphus versteri meeki*

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Pristorhamphus versteri meeki — *Psittacus aterrimus*

Fiche No. 86

Psittacus aterrimus — *Pterocles [Eremialector] burchelli*

Fiche No. 87

Pterocles canatus — *Puffinus parvus*

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Spizella monticola ochracea — *Streptopelia risoria alba*

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Fiche No. 99

Tetrao tetrix pinetorum — *Thryothorus felix pallidus*

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Thryothorus galbraithii — *Trichas leuteoviridis*

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Trochilus lamprus — *Turacus donaldsoni*

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Turacus emini — *Turdus obsoletus parambanus*

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Fiche No. 105

Tyto tenebricosa magna — *Vulcur jota*

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Vultur kernensis — *Zosterops flavissima*

Fiche No. 107

Zosterops flavogularis — *Zygodactylus ignotus*

Errata

Errata Fiche

Eudromia elegans wetmorei — *Eudromus variegatus*; *Merula politaria*