

Type Description.

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As there seems to be some misunderstanding on this subject, I am putting forward the correct forms of type designation as followed by all ornithologists to-day. Type by elimination is no longer allowed by the International Rules. Only the four following ways are legal:—

(1) Type by Original Designation.—When in the original publication of a genus one of the species is definitely designated as type, this species shall be accepted as type regardless of any other consideration.

(2) Monotypical Genera.—A genus proposed with a single original species takes that species as its type.

(3) Type by Tautonomy.—If a genus without originally designated or indicated type contains among its original species one possessing the generic name as its specific or subspecific name, either as valid name or synonym, that species or subspecies becomes *ipso facto* type of the genus.

(4) Type by Subsequent Designation.—If an author, in publishing a genus with more than one valid species, fails to designate or to indicate its type, any subsequent author may select the type, and such designation is not subject to change. The meaning of the expression "select a type" is to be rigidly construed. Mention of a species as to an illustration or example of a genus does not constitute a selection of a type.

Now that type designation can thus be clearly understood, I should like to define a homonym. "A homonym is one and the same name for two or more different things." That is to say, the second use of the same combination of genus and species or subspecies must be rejected because it is preoccupied. This is called a rejected homonym, and as such can never again be used. Examples.—*Casuarinus australis* Gould 1857 is a rejected homonym because of its previous use by Shaw and Nodder 1792. *Acanthiza pyrrhopygia* Gould 1847 is also a rejected homonym, because Vigors and Horsfield used the same combination in 1827.

A case where a combination becomes a homonym through subsequent change of nomenclature is that of *Sterna melanorhyncha* Gould 1848. If the genus *Sternula* be not admitted, then Lesson's *Sternula melanorhyncha* 1847 becomes *Sterna*

melanorhyncha Lesson 1847, and so Gould's combination cannot stand. But if the genus *Sternula* be admitted, then both Gould's and Lesson's names stand. Another example is with the genera *Burhinus*, *Orthorhamphus* and *Oedicnemus*. If only the former is admitted, then *Charadrius magnirostris* Latham 1801 and *Oedicnemus magnirostris* Vieillot 1818 both become *Burhinus magnirostris*, and Vieillot's name becomes for the time a homonym. But when all three genera are used, Vieillot's name ceases to be a homonym and comes into use.

Now we have come to this, that preoccupied names are rejected as homonyms. Names that become homonyms owing to change of genus *may* be again used, if different genera are used.

Another point that should be agreed upon is one-letterism. At a meeting of the "Systema Avium" Committee, held at the British Museum, a resolution was passed that words ending in us, a, um, as, os, is, es, e, on, were to be considered the same, and words with the same derivation (presumed in most cases) and differing in only one letter should also be considered the same. Acting on this I have made many changes. Now, I notice in "The Auk," Vol. XL, p. 516, that the American Ornithologists' Union is to use my genus *Pagolla* to replace *Ochthodromus* Reichenbach, which is preoccupied by *Ochthodromus* Le Conte. This is a case of one-letterism, so that the Committee on Nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union is following the resolution of the "Systema Avium," thus showing the same train of thought.

This one-letterism concerns all workers, and should be settled. If the R.A.O. Union decides that words differing in one letter are different it will have *Stagonoplura* for *guttata* (Spotted-sided Finch), and *Steganoplura* for *bichenovii* (Banded Finch), which some workers may consider foolish. The unscientific way of putting *guttata* in *Zonaeginthus* shows a slovenly worker, and does not tend to make ornithology a very exact science.

The British Ornithologists' Union is using more genera, because the more careful a man is the more he must examine his birds, and all workers who look carefully at their birds tend to use more and more genera.
