

of this law by the United States Department of Agriculture, which has the matter in charge, and the proposed extension of the warden system, will in a very short time break down the whole plume trade so far as it lives upon the birds of the United States.

In addition to the special protection given to the birds by wardens, the American Ornithologists' Union, through its Protection Committee, is taking very active steps in a large number of States to improve the bird laws by amendments, or through the enactment of entirely new and effective statutes.

In view of the urgent need for a continuance of the work, and of the encouraging results of the first year's systematic efforts, the undersigned committee of the Union feel justified in making a second urgent appeal to every bird lover, and to every one who desires the preservation of these beautiful and economically valuable birds, to contribute to the fund necessary for continuing the work on a more extended scale.

Contributions should be sent to the treasurer, Mr. William Dutcher, No. 525 Manhattan Avenue, New York City.

[Signed.] Abbott H. Thayer; William Brewster, President Mass. Audubon Society; Witmer Stone, Chairman A. O. U. Com. on Bird Protection; Robert Ridgway, Curator of Birds, U. S. Nat. Mus.; C. Hart Merriam, Chief U. S. Biological Survey, Pres. A. O. U.; A. K. Fisher, Ass't Biologist, U. S. Biological Survey; J. A. Allen, Curator Vertebrate Zoology, Am. Mus. Nat. His.; Frank M. Chapman, Ass't Curator Ver. Zoology, Am. Mus. Nat. His.; William Dutcher, Treasurer, A. O. U.

SHORTER ARTICLES.

THE PROPER NAMES OF THE ALPINE CHOUGH AND OF THE EGYPTIAN CROCODILE.

In a recent number of SCIENCE attention was called to some names of animals proposed by Osbeck (*Reise nach Ostindien und China*, 1765), which had been overlooked by subsequent writers and should replace several names in common use. Since then I have had the opportunity of examining a copy of the German translation * of Hasselquist's *Iter Palæ-*

* 'Reise nach Palästina.' Rostock, 1762.

stinum eller Resa til Heliga Landet, etc., 1757; and among the many interesting questions of synonymy that are opened by this book there are two to which I desire to call attention at the present time, viz., the proper names of the Alpine Chough and of the Egyptian Crocodile.

In the first edition (1757) of Hasselquist that author describes the Alpine Chough as *Monedula pyrrhacorax* (p. 238), which was referred to the genus *Upupa* by Linné in his 10th edition (1758), and subsequently, in the 12th edition (1766), described as *Corvus pyrrhacorax*. As the German translation of Hasselquist's work appeared in 1762, in which the name *Monedula pyrrhacorax* occurs with a full description on pages 238, 239, that author must be credited with first removing the Alpine Chough from *Upupa*, and restricting it under the name *Monedula pyrrhacorax* which is the proper name of the bird. Several changes in the synonymy of the species are necessary which should stand as follows:

MONEDULA PYRRHOCORAX (L.) Hass.

Upupa pyrrhacorax Linné. 1758.

Monedula pyrrhacorax Hass. 1762.

Corvus pyrrhacorax Linné. 1766.

Pyrrhacorax alpinus Viell. 1816.

Pyrrhacorax pyrrhacorax (L.) Temm. 1820.

Monedula Brehm (1828), being preoccupied by *Monedula* Latr. (1802), has been replaced by *Colæus* Kaup. Latreille's generic name must likewise fall in view of Hasselquist's prior use of *Monedula*.

The use by Hasselquist of Linné's name, *Lacerta crocodilus*, for the Egyptian crocodile has an important bearing as to the proper name of that animal. The *Lacerta crocodilus* of both editions of Linné was a composite species, and for that reason the name has been dropped by recent writers, the Egyptian species generally carrying the name *Crocodilus niloticus* Laur. 1769. It seems evident that its proper name is *Crocodilus crocodilus* (Linné), 1758, in consequence of Hasselquist's restriction of *Lacerta crocodilus* to the Egyptian animal in 1762.

I am indebted to Mr. Witmer Stone for suggestions regarding the synonymy of the Alpine Chough.

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