but the waves as received were too weak to visibly affect the neon, although we tried every arrangement of the limited apparatus at our command. The electric wave sent out by the *Baltic's* apparatus was, according to Mr. Bates about 800 feet long.

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Fundulus luciæ again in New Jersey

On July 28, 1909, I secured a single small example of this species in a little inlet, which empties into Barnegat Bay several miles below Seaside Park, on Island Beach in Ocean County. The inlet was well choked up with grass, so that the water was perfectly still and formed a little brackish pond. Only multitudes of *Cyprinodon variegatus* and many young *Fundulus majalis* were found associated. I mention this record simply as it is the most northern at which *Fundulus luciæ* is known to occur.

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The Burden of Nomenclature

The scientific white man's burden is largely one of names and no one knows better than the zoologist how great the incubus has become. Names in boundless profusion are heaped upon him—many of them needless synonyms—and, worst of all, no two zoologists can agree upon any one particular name for any one particular genus or species. The efforts of individuals, of committees and of conventions to enforce agreement according to rule have failed and it is not surprising that widespread disgust prevails because of the nomenclatural confusion which exists. No code of rules yet devised for the purpose of fixing a single name on each entity has proved adequate to check the changes which go merrily on year after year. In fact zoological nomenclature to-day seems to be little more than an intricate game of names, fascinating sport for its faithful devotees, but an intolerable nuisance for the uninitiated many! A few specialists interested in the game have made all the rules and done all the playing, and they are directly responsible for the changes. Nothing has been let alone long enough to become stable, not even the codes.

One of the principal reasons why codes fail is because individual opinion interprets them. Conventions bark up the wrong tree—it is not rules for "eliminating" genera that are needed so much as rules for eliminating individual opinion. The zoologist consumer would seem to be in the clutches of a word-trust that furnishes him not with what he needs but with what he can get according to canon X, Y or Z; and we all know what a fertile field for the exploitation of rules and canons ornithology has been. In the latest code of nomenclature—that published by the American Ornithologists' Union in July, 1908—the same ponderous machinery constructed in 1842 is made to do duty. The wheels and cogs have been repaired and repolished several times during the intervening years but as a machine for grinding out stable names it has proved signally inadequate. A check-list of North American birds issued in 1886 has already been revised and corrected, according to code, in no less than fifteen supplements and the end is not in sight. This is but a sample of the instability to be found in all branches of zoology.

Now, as a matter of fact, unpractical zoologists have long put up with a nuisance that business men would not have tolerated a moment. Practical business men settled telegraphic nomenclature, for instance, by publishing a code of over a thousand million pronounceable words with at least two letters difference between them, and surely zoological nomenclature, with but a small fraction of that number of names, should not be a hopeless proposition. We all know how many things are standardized—even the languages of France and of Spain. If a national academy sets the standard for language, are zoologists unable to establish a standard for zoological language by an international academy of their own? Something of this sort is urgently needed, for nomenclature is an art and not a science. Codes do not evolve but are made for convenience and we should quit bowing down to precedent and burning incense before the shrine of priority if we seek stability. Priority is rather a bog from which