



An assessment of three little-noticed papers on avian nomenclature by G. N. Kashin during 1978–1982

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Abstract

Overlooked and unanswered nomenclatural observations from 30 years ago, mostly based on perceived shortcomings in the *Check-list of Birds of the World* by J. L. Peters and his successors, are examined. Many are rebutted, a number endorsed and recommended.

Key words: Original spellings, authorship, dates of publication, citations

Introduction

G. N. Kashin published three papers on avian nomenclature, in Russian, from 1978 to 1982. These have been largely ignored due primarily to difficulties in both distribution and translation, but they should not have been because they contain a variety of proposed corrections, mainly to generic names in those volumes of the *Check-list of Birds of the World* by J. L. Peters and his successors published prior to 1978.

Here we examine and confirm or reject Kashin's conclusions on matters of simple priority, of homonymy and of authorship.

Kashin dealt with the content of the volumes from the *Check-list* in the order in which they appeared in each volume; we retain his sequence but rather than mention Kashin in every paragraph we have sometimes left it to the reader to infer that 'he' refers to Kashin or that we otherwise refer to him. In general we accept Kashin's views unless we say otherwise.

Kashin's 1978 paper

Peters Vol. I.

- (1) The generic name *Tinamus*: Peters (1931: 12) gave the author as Latham, 1790. Kashin (1978) pointed out that *Tinamus* Hermann, 1783 had priority. Blake (1979: 12) made the change to Hermann.
- (2) In his discussion Kashin noted that *Crypturus* Illiger, 1811, had many years priority over *Crypturellus* Braubourne & Chubb, 1914. Although true, the name *Crypturus* is based on two species of the genus *Tinamus*, neither of which fall within the currently defined genus *Crypturellus*. Blake made no change or comment.
- (3) The dual existence of the family name Hydrobatidae was discussed. This has been resolved by Opinion 1696 (ICZN 1992), which conserved that of Mathews (1912) based on *Hydrobates* Boie, 1822, and suppressed that of Degland, 1849, based on *Hydrobata* Vieillot, 1816.
- (4) Kashin drew attention to the apparent availability of *Nyctherodius* Reichenbach, 1852, a prior name for *Nyctanassa* Stejneger, 1887. *Nyctanassa* was introduced as a new name on the grounds of presumed homonymy of *Nyctherodius* with *Nyctherodius* MacGillivray, 1842, but due to the one letter difference this is not now considered a homonym. MacGillivray's name is an objective synonym of *Nycticorax* T. Forster, 1817. Since Kashin (1978), the fourth edition of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999: hereafter 'the Code'), Art. 23.9, would allow the retention of *Nyctanassa* if Reichenbach's