

# The introduction and correct typification of *Oxyura* Bonaparte, 1828

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ABSTRACT: It is shown that *Oxyura* Bonaparte, 1828, when introduced, had four originally included nominal species, and that, therefore, typification by monotypy, as usually cited, is unsupported by the ICZN Code (1999). The first to subsequently designate one of the four was G. R. Gray, 1840, who designated *Anas mersa* Pallas, 1773 as the type of the replacement name *Erismatura* Bonaparte, 1832, which becomes the type of *Oxyura* Bonaparte, 1828, under Article 67.8 of the ICZN Code.

KEYWORDS: *Oxyura*, *Erismatura*, Bonaparte, type species, *rubidus*, *mersa*, *leucocephala*, *jamaicensis*, G. R. Gray.

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Charles L. Bonaparte, in the second part of his 'The Genera of North American Birds, and a Synopsis of the Species found in the United States', in volume two of the *Annals of the Lyceum of Natural History of New-York*, 1828, named *Oxyura* as a subgenus of *Fuligula* Stephens, 1824, on p. 390.

The usual citation for this, as a genus, can be found in J. L. Peters, *Check-list of Birds of the World*, volume I (1931: 184), and was repeated by P. A. Johnsgard, in the continuation of James L. Peters, *Check-list of Birds of the World*, volume I, second edition (1979: 501) as:

*Oxyura* Bonaparte, 1828, Ann. Lyceum Nat. Hist. New York, 2, p. 390. Type, by monotypy, *Anas rubidus* Wilson.

While it is true that species 336, 'FULIGULA RUBIDA, Nob.' and 'Ruddy Duck, *Anas rubida*, Wils. Am. Orn. viii. p. 137.' occur on p. 390, there is directly following Bonaparte's new subgenus, on p. 391, and within the account, the following statement: 'Closely allied to *F[uligula]. leucocephala*, of the old continent, and apparently also to *A[nas]. jamaicensis*. Lath[am]. with which it is perhaps identical.', a footnote then described '*Fuligula leucocephala*, Nob.' to which Bonaparte also gave the names '*White-headed Duck, Lath[am].*' and '*Anas mersa et leucocephala, Gm[elin].*'

It would appear, therefore, that there were four originally included nominal species:

*Anas rubidus* A. Wilson, 1814

*Anas mersa* Pallas, 1773 = *Anas leucocephala* Scopoli, 1769

*Anas leucocephala* J. F. Gmelin, 1789 = *Anas leucocephala* Scopoli, 1769

*Anas jamaicensis* Latham, 1790 = *Anas jamaicensis* J. F. Gmelin, 1789

Because *Anas leucocephala* Scopoli, 1769, and *Anas jamaicensis* J. F. Gmelin, 1789, have never been considered to be synonyms or subspecies of each other, monotypy, as defined in Article 68.3 (1999: 71) cannot be cited as the method of typification. Article 67.2.1 (1999: 67) defines "originally included nominal species" as those having been cited in the original publication

by an available name (see table, 1999: 123), which all four are, and none are doubtfully or conditionally included, and cannot, on those grounds, be excluded, Article 67.2.5 (1999: 67). It follows, therefore, that a type must be selected from within these originally included nominal species.

Before that could occur, however, Bonaparte concluded that his new subgenus was too close to *Oxyurus* Swainson, 1827, a genus in the Furnariidae, which in turn is preoccupied by *Oxyurus* Rafinesque, 1810, a genus of Teleost fish. Believing his name to be a homonym, Bonaparte, in the *Giornale Arcadico di Scienze, Lettere, ed Arti, Roma*, 52 (1831) [= 1832], p. 208, and again in the repaginated separate, *Saggio di una distribuzione metodica degli animali vertebrati*, p. 143, introduced a new replacement name *Erismatura* Bonaparte, 1832.

It should be clearly noted that Article 67.8 (1999: 68) states that both the prior nominal taxon and its replacement have the same type species, and that type fixation for either applies also to the other. Article 67.8.1 further states that the type species must be a nominal species eligible for fixation as the type species of the prior nominal genus-group taxon, i.e., those identified as being originally included, as defined in Article 67.2, already alluded to above.

George R. Gray, in *A List of the Genera of Birds*, 1840, on p. 75, clearly designated *E[rismatura]. mersa*, (Pall[as].) as the type, being one of the originally included species in *Oxyura* Bonaparte, 1828, and by extension under Article 67.8, *Erismatura* Bonaparte, 1832. The last sentence of the example given in the Code on pp. 68 and 69 confirms this conclusion.

The Code compliant citation for *Oxyura* Bonaparte, 1828, would therefore be:

### ***Oxyura***

*Oxyura* Bonaparte, 1828      gender feminine

Ann. Lyceum Nat. Hist. New-York, 2 (1828), nos. 12–14, p. 390.

Type by subsequent designation, G. R. Gray, 1840, *A List of the Genera of Birds*, p. 75.

*E[rismatura]. mersa*, (Pall[as].) = *Anas mersa* Pallas, 1773 = *Anas leucocephala* Scopoli, 1769

*Oxyura leucocephala* (Scopoli, 1769)

Type fixation under Article 67.8 new replacement names.

The reason this has been especially researched is that the family-group name based on *Oxyura* Bonaparte, 1828, *Oxyurinae* J. C. Phillips, 1926, is a homonym of *Oxyuridae* Cobbold, 1864, a family of parasitic nematode worms. This will involve an application to the ICZN to remove the homonymy, and unavoidably, the correct type species of *Oxyura* Bonaparte, 1828.

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