

**Systematic notes on Asian birds. 53.**  
**The authorship and date of publication of the**  
**“Catalogue of the Specimens and Drawings of**  
**Mammalia and Birds of Nepal and Thibet**  
**presented by B.H. Hodgson, Esq. to the British Museum”**

**E.C. Dickinson & M. Walters**

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The authorship of this work or at least the ornithological part of it, and of the subsequent 1863 report, is best attributed to both John Edward Gray, who signed the preface, and his brother George Robert Gray. The first report has an imprint date of 1846, but evidence shows that this was not available as a published work until January 1847. The potential for priority conflict between this Catalogue and papers by Hodgson and Blyth in 1844-46, and between the Catalogue and G.R. Gray (1844-49), is discussed; and the new names proposed by Gray & Gray in the Catalogue are examined to see which were immediately in synonymy when they were published. Attention is drawn to the correct authorship of the generic name *Aceros* as being Hodgson and not J.E. Gray.

### **Introduction**

The first collections that Brian Houghton Hodgson presented to the British Museum (BMNH) were listed in a British Museum catalogue in ‘1846’. In accordance with museum practice its authors were not named.

Here, some details are provided of the compilation and structure of the Catalogue. Evidence is presented to support the attribution of J.E. & G.R. Gray as authors and to correct the date of publication to 1847. A list of taxa described in this work is included to simplify corrections to authorship and date. Correcting the dates of these names appears to cause no problems in relation to the Principle of Priority although a number were from the outset synonyms of names proposed between 1844 and 1846.

This description of the ‘1846’ Catalogue, and comments on the 1863 supplement, are preliminary to planned work on the Hodgson drawings and type material held by the BMNH, and will help with this task.

### **A history of the original material involved**

In an accompanying paper, Dickinson (2006) has re-examined the evidence regarding how many specimens and drawings were provided to the British Museum.

He has also related how Hodgson provided a list of his drawings (Hodgson, 1844)<sup>1</sup> which, after he drafted it, was rearranged to follow the systematic arrangement of the museum's collection. This provided the foundation for the Catalogue, which the museum had promised Hodgson it would publish (Datta & Inskipp, 2004: 141). At the end of Hodgson's list or index it is stated that "The list consists of 652 species: 89 being Raptorial; 407 Passerine; 44 Gallinaceous; 77 Wading; and 35 Natatorial Birds". This, however, is a count of Hodgson's names and not a count of species, as explained below.

Once the drawings and Hodgson's list were available to the museum work could begin on the compilation of the promised Catalogue, and an essential preliminary task was to check the identity of each specimen in the collection presented, using help from complementary information on the drawings.<sup>2</sup> Lacking sufficient reference facilities in Nepal to do otherwise, Hodgson had used new names for each specimen whose physical appearance seemed sufficiently distinct.<sup>3</sup> Thus the entry for a single species in the museum Catalogue might need to treat several specimens, and their drawings, named differently according to age or sex.

Although Hodgson (1855) said that in 1844 he was "immediately asked how many of the species had been named and described, one or both, in print" it is far from clear whether Hodgson clarified for the museum which names in his 1844 list (or index) actually had been published with descriptions. Whether he did or not, the synonymy included in the Catalogue needed to address this and it should have distinguished between names published with descriptions and *nomina nuda* (many of those in the 1844 index being just that). But it did not.

Hodgson (1855) wrote, "a vast number of the new genera and species of Birds had been described in a paper sent from Nepal just before I left it"<sup>4</sup>. But that paper, it was replied to me, had not appeared, and I was requested to recast it, as well as I could, from rough notes, not having retained a copy of the MS. I did so, and the paper was printed." The implication is that this paper was published in London, and would seem to refer to his article in the *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* in 1845, which held the descriptions of 25 new genera or subgenera and 49 species thought to be new<sup>5</sup> (Hodgson,

<sup>1</sup> This appeared in Gray's *Zoological Miscellany* and is sometimes attributed to J.E. Gray, the editor of that publication, but it is evident that it was compiled by Hodgson himself. See later footnote regarding the generic name *Aceros*.

<sup>2</sup> But these were duplicate drawings and the extensive notes on the set that Hodgson retained until some 30 years later, when they were presented to the Zoological Society of London, was almost certainly unavailable.

<sup>3</sup> Except perhaps for common birds that showed dimorphism or where a pair was collected together or at the nest.

<sup>4</sup> This can only relate to what he sent to Blyth.

<sup>5</sup> *Stachyris nigriceps* (p. 22); *S. pyrops* (p. 23); *S. chrysaeus* (p. 23); *Mixornis ruficeps* (p. 23); *Erpornis xanthochlora* (p. 23); *Pyctoris rufifrons* (p. 24); *Pnoepyga albiventer* (p. 24); *P. rufiventer* (p. 25); *P. unicolor* (p. 25); *P. pusillus* (p. 25); *Oligura flaviventer* (p. 25); *O. cyaniiventer* (p. 25); *Dimorpha? monileger* (p. 26); *D.? rubrocyanea* (p. 26); *Digenea tricolor* (p. 26); *D. leucomelanura* (p. 26); *Synornis Joulaimus* (p. 27); *Muscisylvia leucura* (p. 27); *Nemura rufilatus* (p. 27); *N. flavolivacea* (p. 27); *N. cyanura* (p. 27); *Tarsiger chrysaeus* (p. 28); *Orthotomus Patia* (p. 29); *Prinia fusca* (p. 29); *Prinia brunnifrons* (p. 29); *Horeites pollicaris* (p. 30); *H. schistilatus* (p. 30); *Tribura luteiventris* (p. 30); *Horornis fortipes* (p. 31); *H. flaviventris* (p. 31); *H.? fulgiventris* (p. 31); *H.? fulviventris* (p. 31); *Temnoris atrifrons* (p. 31); *Temnoris fulvifrons* (p. 31); *Chelidorynx chrysochistos* (p. 32); *Hemiche-*

1845c). In fact, the 'missing' paper (Hodgson, 1845b) had appeared several months earlier.

Gray & Gray knew of three Hodgson papers in 1845. The first (Hodgson, 1845a) appeared in the 1844 volume of the *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal* and included sections written by Blyth. The second and third resulted from Hodgson being asked to recast what he had written and sent to Calcutta. All three are further discussed in our next section.

### The parallel work of Blyth on Hodgson material

Hodgson had published in the journals of the Asiatic Society of Bengal for a dozen years before Blyth arrived in Calcutta to take up the post of Curator. Hodgson's experience in that time had not been entirely happy; he had sent a description of a new pigeon in 1830, and in 1836 wrote that "it does not appear to have been published. It has since been described as new by the Zoological Society in 1832" (Hodgson, 1836a) when it was named *Columba hodgsonii* by Vigors (Inskipp, 2004: 175).

Hodgson may have hoped that with Blyth installed in Calcutta the publication of his papers would proceed more smoothly. But while Hodgson's work was original and his discoveries were important, he was still untutored in writing plumage descriptions and his accounts tended to be rambling<sup>6</sup> or technically untidy. Thus his 1841 description of the parrotbill *Conostoma aemodium* unintentionally offered three alternative spellings (Hodgson, 1841b).<sup>7</sup> In addition, his new names had been criticised; for the 30 or so that he had coined from native names in Newari or Nepali he later felt it necessary to provide new, classically purer, replacement generic names (Hodgson, 1841a).<sup>8</sup>

Very probably it was Blyth's arrival that triggered a generous gift from Hodgson, who in 1842 presented to the Asiatic Society of Bengal various diurnal raptors, owls and pheasants (Blyth, 1852) – and apparently supplied a draft paper intended as a catalogue of this material.<sup>9</sup> We know of no discussion between the editor of the *Journal* and Blyth, but the editor must have asked Blyth's opinions. Blyth was still new in his post and had an, as yet, limited acquaintance with the Indian avifauna but he must have found Hodgson's offerings wanting and have been reluctant to encourage the editor of the *Journal* to publish the novelties without careful review. In the event it seems to have been agreed that Blyth would take care of what Hodgson had submitted. The result was an unfortunate and confused paper (Hodgson, 1843). This purports to be authored by Hodgson;

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Cont. <sup>5</sup>:

*lidon fuliginosa* (p. 32); *Hemichelidon ferruginea* (p. 32); *Hemipus picaecolor* (p. 33); *Heterura sylvana* (p. 33); *Accentor Nipalensis* (p. 34); *Accentor Cacharensis* (p. 34); *Accentor immaculatus* (p. 34); *Accentor strophiatatus* (p. 34); *Emberiza oinops* (p. 35); *Loxia himalayana* (p. 35); *Pyrrhuloxia roseata* (p. 36); *Propyrrhula Rubeculoides* (p. 36); *Buteo leucocephalus* (p. 37); *Buteo plumipes* (p. 37).

<sup>6</sup> Where his descriptions detailed the results of his dissections Hodgson's writing seems much clearer and more comfortable.

<sup>7</sup> Of which the one used here was selected by Hartert (1907) acting as first reviser.

<sup>8</sup> Hodgson had secured a medal in Classics in his last term at Haileybury (Hunter, 1896: 22) and it was by choice that he used native names. His replacement names were required.

<sup>9</sup> Which seems to have included woodpeckers (Blyth, 1852: 62) and perhaps others not mentioned in the first draft that Hodgson sent (unless Blyth reduced the paper more drastically than suspected).

but a bracket follows his name and in that one reads "revised by the Society's Curator". The confusion is quickly obvious. The use of the first person singular by Hodgson on p. 301 is followed, four lines later, by a four-paragraph description evidently written by Blyth, and on p. 307 Blyth writes in the first person singular referring to "Mr. Hodgson". Indeed, Blyth must have totally changed the paper. On p. 301 a footnote states that Hodgson had wished this paper "published immediately"<sup>10</sup> and explains why Blyth, and presumably the editor of the *Journal*, did not agree to that. This appeared in issue 136 of the *Journal*, the April 1843 issue, probably published in May or later.<sup>11</sup> It would not have reached Hodgson in Kathmandu before he wrote to the Society again on 1<sup>st</sup> May. When he did see the April paper Hodgson could not have been pleased at how Blyth had changed things.

In his report to the December 1842 meeting of the Society's Committee, Blyth (1843b: 937 fn) mentioned the date 1<sup>st</sup> May 1843 in the context of a Hodgson description of a dove. This may have been in the "catalogue of Nepalese birds forwarded by Mr. Hodgson" to which Blyth (1843b: 944)<sup>12</sup> referred when discussing a cuckoo. Blyth's report, too long to insert in one issue of the *Journal*, was continued in the May 1844 issue and in this Blyth (1844: 378-379) dealt with some of Hodgson's babblers, putting the latter's generic diagnoses of these in quotation marks within his footnotes. Whether these babbler descriptions were in what Hodgson sent in May 1843 or were part of a further instalment is not clear.

We now come to the three 1845 papers of Hodgson and how they relate to what Blyth was publishing. The draft that Hodgson (1855) said was "sent from Nepal just before I left it" must have gone to Calcutta late in 1844 and could not have been the source of the 1844 papers. The content of this draft, and perhaps sections from earlier drafts put aside because they puzzled him, seems to have provided content for Blyth's work in 1845 and 1846 (Blyth, 1845a, b, c, 1846 a, b). The last four of these five citations refer to a long, four-part paper all of which must have appeared before Gray & Gray ('1846'),<sup>13</sup> but some birds that the latter described were named by Blyth in this (see Table I).

Hodgson (1845a)<sup>14</sup>, from the 1844 volume of the *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, is said to be by Hodgson but contains 'additions and annotations' by Blyth and is followed by a section, better cited as a separate paper, by Blyth on the "Indian Fringillidae". Prior to this section are found the 'Hodgson' names *Proparus chrysotis* (p. 938, inserted in Hodgson's section of text but placed in square brackets), *Parus seriophrys* (p. 942, seen to be a synonym of *Sylviparus modestus* Burton), *Parus dichrous* (p. 943), and *Parus iouschistos* (p. 943)<sup>15</sup>. The last three are in Blyth's part of this section of the paper.

<sup>10</sup> Blyth's note that "the delay has enabled Mr. Hodgson to improve the nomenclature considerably" does not sit happily alongside the way Hodgson's work was changed by Blyth.

<sup>11</sup> On p. 830 a member writing from Benares reported that he received this issue only in August (this letter was traced thanks to unpublished notes by C.W. Richmond held by the Smithsonian Institution).

<sup>12</sup> In the November 1843 issue of the *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*.

<sup>13</sup> Actually 1847 as shown later in this paper, after which point referred to as Gray & Gray, 1847.

<sup>14</sup> This, issue No. 156, appeared as the December 1844 issue. In it on p. cxxxix are the minutes of a meeting held on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Earlier, on p. 885 of the November issue (No. 155), there is a list of meteorites dated 1<sup>st</sup> January 1845. Thus that issue and, one must assume, No. 156 will have appeared in 1845.

<sup>15</sup> Spelled *jouschistos* in Hodgson (1845b).

These four plus *Oreocincl*a *rostrata* and *Ianthocincl*a (*Trochalopteron*) *subunicolor* make up the six species that are described by Hodgson (1845b)<sup>16</sup>. All six are synonyms because *Oreocincl*a *rostrata* had been described as *Turdus mollissimus* by Blyth (1842: 188) and *Ianthocincl*a (*Trochalopteron*) *subunicolor*, based on a nestling, by Blyth (1843b: 952).

Hodgson (1845c)<sup>17</sup> named 49 species he thought new (see Dickinson & Walters, 2006, this issue). Gray & Gray ('1846') listed most of these with mention of 'PZS, 1845', usually with a "p." and a space left for the page number. They made a similar entry under *Orthotomus* on p. 63, but seem not to have known that Hodgson was naming it *O. patia*. At least two names introduced by Hodgson (1845c) (*Dimorpha* ? *monileger*, and *Chelidorynx chrysoschistus*) were not included by Gray & Gray ('1846'). The Grays must have seen Hodgson's paper soon after its publication, or perhaps they assumed it contained only what they expected! However, for whatever reason, they did not modify their text to include these Hodgson names.

### The nature and content of this first Catalogue

There is a brief Preface of about two pages by John Edward Gray which is followed by seven pages listing Hodgson's papers – those that "occurred to" Gray, rather than a bibliography supplied by Hodgson himself. A list of mammals (pp. 1-36) precedes the list of birds (pp. 37-149), which is followed by an "Appendix" (pp. 150-156) that deals with birds alone. Only in this appendix are there any descriptions.

In sequence the list entries reflect the 1844 index quite closely; they are arranged by order, tribe, subtribe, family, subfamily and genus. Each entry begins with an English vernacular name; then follows the scientific name beginning, presumably, with the one considered valid. For example, the first entry, for 'The Bearded Vulture' has *Gypaetos barbatus* attributed to Cuvier<sup>18</sup> and following this appears the original name *Vultur barbatus* Linnaeus, and then a list of synonyms. The synonymy is not complete. In a few cases a published description by Hodgson is ignored (e.g., *Phasianus nipalensis* Hodgson, 1827, is not listed in the synonymy of *Gallophasis leucomelanos*).<sup>19</sup> In addition, volume numbers are often absent from citations, and for the names that appeared in Hodgson (1845b) page numbers are lacking.<sup>20</sup>

There are two difficulties in using the synonymy. First, in that they were sometimes

<sup>16</sup> The descriptions employed by Blyth in Hodgson (1845a) can be compared with those by Hodgson (1845b). They differ considerably; Blyth presents his as if they come from him, and although they could have been those in the draft that Hodgson sent from Nepal it would have been in character for Blyth to place such descriptions in quotation marks had they been used.

<sup>17</sup> Date of delivery from printers, August 1845 (Duncan, 1937).

<sup>18</sup> Peters (1931: 263) attributed the name, spelled *Gypaëtus*, to 'Storr, 1784'. This would antedate usage by Cuvier by about 15 years. The students of Cuvier often ascribed authorship to Cuvier of the names that he used in his lectures and for some time it was not discovered that he was not the original author (J.-F. Voisin pers. comm.).

<sup>19</sup> Indicating that Hodgson and the Grays did not compile a complete list of all that Hodgson had already described and that types that may have been present, but unmarked as such, could have been ignored and might even now remain in museum holdings, although probably not safely separable.

<sup>20</sup> Indeed, sometimes, names that the authors thought would appear in Hodgson (1845b) did not do so.

listed first (or indeed alone), Hodgson names supplied with drawings were treated by Gray and Gray as names already validly introduced, yet the drawings were unpublished. The rule in nomenclature requiring that the supporting drawing be a published one to validate the introduction of a name took root later. Second, the start date for nomenclature was taken as Linnaeus (1766), the 12<sup>th</sup> Edition.<sup>21</sup>

After the synonymy one line gives the provenance of the material; usually this is just 'Nepal' but occasionally there is added detail and in a few cases, such as "The Crossophtilon", "Lady Amherst's Pheasant" and the "Painted Pheasant" (p. 124), the origin is given as Tibet, or is not stated.<sup>22</sup>

Next, the material received is listed, beginning with the skins<sup>23</sup>, followed by the anatomical specimens and then the drawings. Hodgson's drawing number usually appears alongside the skins, and two or more such numbers may appear, either on separate lines so that the number of specimens relating to individual drawing numbers is clear, or lumped on one line, when it is not. The grouping of these drawings under one specific name was apparently not always acceptable to Hodgson; Datta & Inskipp (2004: 142) reported an annotation by Hodgson in his own copy of this Catalogue, on p. 149, reading "A great many species are lumped together in this catalogue".<sup>24</sup> If there was no specimen then the Hodgson drawing number appears after the details of a drawing and the new number assigned by the museum (see for example *Horornis fortipes* p. 64). Occasionally, Hodgson's drawing number is accidentally omitted (as for *Syrnium nivicola* p. 52<sup>25</sup>; *Pitta cyanoptera* p. 78<sup>26</sup>, *Buceros cinerascens* p. 112<sup>27</sup> and *Pseudornis dicruroides* p. 119<sup>28</sup>) or is tucked away in a different location (as for *Falco tinnunculoides* p. 45). There are also cases when there was no drawing. The museum's new drawing numbers<sup>29</sup> are usually, but not always, given after dealing with specimen material.

As an example, in the case of *Gypaetos barbatus*, the first species listed, after three skins (a-c 'No. 604') and two anatomical specimens (d, e) three drawings were listed as f-h with their new museum numbers (t.1, t.1\* and v.t.<sup>30</sup> 1 f. 1, and mention of 'cop. App. t. 1' after f suggests a fourth). In their original state, since just the one Hodgson drawing number is given, one would expect to find that all these drawings would have Hodgson's No. 604 on them (as would any originals that Hodgson retained).

<sup>21</sup> Quite a few names appearing in this changed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when those found in the 10<sup>th</sup> Edition (Linnaeus, 1758) were brought into use.

<sup>22</sup> The Painted Pheasant, which we now call the Golden Pheasant, is Chinese and was presumably a cage bird brought to Nepal, where it was perhaps presented to the king (and by him to Hodgson).

<sup>23</sup> In at least one case (*Turdus mollissimus* on p. 80) the drawing is listed first and the specimens on the next line.

<sup>24</sup> This will be discussed further when the drawings have all been examined and Hodgson's MS notes checked to see whether the roots of this allegation are apparent.

<sup>25</sup> For which Hodgson (1844: 82) gave No. 827.

<sup>26</sup> For which Hodgson (1844: 83) gave No. 454.

<sup>27</sup> For which Hodgson (1844: 85) gave No. 58.

<sup>28</sup> The number 502 can be supplied by reference to Hodgson (1844), as noted by Benson (1999).

<sup>29</sup> Evidently arranged in time for inclusion in the Catalogue.

<sup>30</sup> There is no given explanation of the distinction between "t." alone and "v.t" and we have not yet found a logical interpretation of the "v".

In the appendix (pp. 150-156) there are some corrections, and some of Hodgson's names are provided with their first descriptions.

It would have been better if the task of drafting the Catalogue had not proceeded virtually without further reference to Hodgson, yet due to distance, and some rivalry, it did. Blyth was publishing in Calcutta based on material that Hodgson had sent in 1842-44, drawing on a draft paper that Hodgson had sent him, apparently in parts, and to the extent that Blyth's work arrived in time the Catalogue reported Blyth's names. Strangely, the already-published 're-cast' work by Hodgson (1845b) in the *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* was not mentioned, and Hodgson either did not advise the museum that the publication was very different from the draft that the museum must have seen<sup>31</sup> or was ignored. Thus, apparently, the Grays were unaware of some of the names that Hodgson (1845b) had introduced. The content of that paper is examined by Dickinson & Walters (2006, this issue) with a discussion of issues of priority.

The task facing the museum was considerable for references and synonymy had to be worked out, yet within two years of Hodgson's return to India the British Museum duly published the *Catalogue of the Specimens and Drawings of Mammalia and Birds of Nepal and Thibet presented by B.H. Hodgson, Esq. to the British Museum*.

Current workers in Indian ornithology may well be confused by references to this work. The title that we cite above is that of the first Catalogue, which has an imprint date of 1846. The second Catalogue (it is not a second edition) was published by Gray & Gray (1863) with a slightly different title: *Catalogue of the specimens and drawings of the mammals, birds, reptiles and fishes of Nepal and Tibet presented by B.H. Hodgson, Esq., to the British Museum*. This is a disappointing document. It claims that "[here] is added to the matter of the former edition, now out of print, a list of the additional specimens ... and of drawings made ... under his supervision, which were presented to the Museum in May 1858". No mention is made of corrections to previous identifications yet, leaving aside simple changes in nomenclature, many indeed were made.<sup>32</sup> More importantly, "the additional specimens"<sup>33</sup> mentioned are selected ones, relating almost entirely to cases where the taxon was not mentioned in the first Catalogue.

### The authorship of the Catalogue

John Edward Gray became 'Keeper' in 1840 giving him overall responsibility for natural history at the BMNH, and he retained direct responsibility for the mammals (Sharpe, 1906: 82-83). By 1846 his brother, George Robert Gray, who joined the staff in 1831 some seven years after him, was the ornithological assistant – but he was almost certainly the sole permanent staff member of the 'ornithological section' at the time. Although Sharpe (1906: 83) and others considered him no more than a clerk or com-

<sup>31</sup> Which, of course, does not absolve the Grays from acting on what was published.

<sup>32</sup> These often resulted from the work of Horsfield & Moore (1854, 1858). Notes, probably by Moore, mention comparisons between specimens and Hodgson drawings that led to such corrections. From Horsfield & Moore (1854, 1858) it is apparent that donations by Hodgson to the East India Company Museum in 1853 contained a majority of the novelties that had been presented to the British Museum in about 1844.

<sup>33</sup> In the second Catalogue 86 specimens are mentioned and these relate to only 38 of the species listed.

piler of lists, by 1846 he had already published several useful works (see Zimmer, 1926: 267-269).<sup>34</sup> Nonetheless, he had little or no experience of birds in the field.

The first Catalogue is often attributed, as currently in the on-line library list of the BMNH (now the Natural History Museum), to J.E. Gray who signed the Preface which, as Keeper, he was bound to do. In that preface Gray wrote: "Great care has been taken by Mr. G.R. Gray to compare the specimens of Birds received from Mr. Hodgson with specimens received from other habitats in the British Museum collection, and with the descriptions in the publications by the different authors, and thus to make the synonyms [sic] as perfect as possible, and also to refer to where they have been noticed or described by Mr. Hodgson in his numerous valuable contributions towards the Zoology of India."<sup>35</sup>

At the back of the 1863 Catalogue is an 8-page list of British Museum catalogues for sale<sup>36</sup> and in the first page of that the "1846" Catalogue is listed as "By Dr. J.E. Gray and G.R. Gray" (Biswas, 1964). Understandably therefore the 1903 published catalogue of the library of the BMNH credited authorship to J.E. & G.R. Gray. Watson et al. (1986) ascribed each of the relevant warbler names included to J.E. Gray & G.R. Gray.

It is probably impossible today to know what each of the brothers actually did, but it is apparent that in the considerable and complex process of checking synonyms, and, in particular, which names Hodgson had actually published and which he had not, George will have identified the names that seemed to lack descriptions.<sup>37</sup> By 1846 George Gray's experience was such that there is sufficient reason to assume that J.E. Gray would delegate the descriptions to his brother; his own workload being cause enough to recommend this to him.<sup>38</sup>

Warren & Harrison (1971) ascribed the names in the first Catalogue to J.E. Gray. However, we agree with Watson et al. (1986) who cited both authors, and we believe that J.E. Gray's remarks about his brother in the Preface justify that authorship, at least of new bird names, be given as 'J.E. & G.R. Gray'. Some may prefer to place these names in square brackets, or to refer to "[Anon. = J.E. & G.R. Gray]" as per Recommendation 51D in the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (I.C.Z.N.,<sup>39</sup> 1999) (hereinafter "the Code"). John Gray's visible, overall responsibility for publication is, in our opinion, sufficient to sustain his share of the credit. It can be argued, with some reason, that George Gray may have had nothing to do with the mammal section and we would not insist that he be seen as a joint author of any new mammal names.

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<sup>34</sup> Including the first parts of G.R. Gray's "Genera of birds ...." (1844-1849); illustrated by David Mitchell.

<sup>35</sup> Blyth (1850: 319) considered the Catalogue to be by G.R. Gray.

<sup>36</sup> From this same source we find Nepal rendered as Nepaul which may have led to some erroneous citations of the title, and we note that it sold for two shillings.

<sup>37</sup> And did a less than thorough job of this!

<sup>38</sup> Kluge (1971) reported that J.E. Gray published "over 1162 papers and books".

<sup>39</sup> I.C.Z.N. = International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.



### The date of publication of the '1846' Catalogue

The imprint date on the title page is 1846; the Preface is dated "December 10<sup>th</sup> 1846" on p. xi. However Sherborn (1926) mentioned January 9, 1847. An extract from the minutes of the meeting on that date of the Standing Committee [of the Museum Trustees] reads as follows: "Mr Gray reported that the catalogue of Mr Hodgson's Collection was

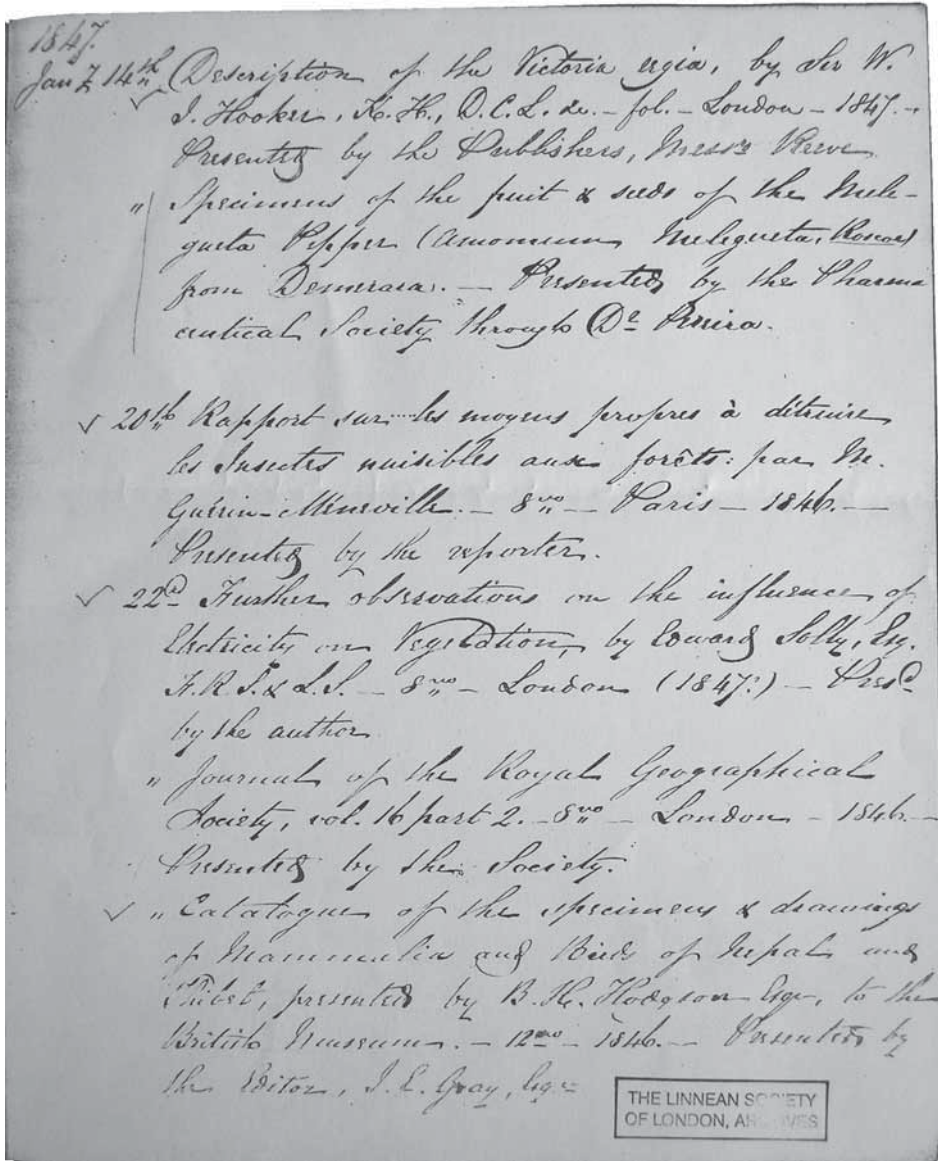


Fig. 1. Page from 'Presents to Linnean Society 1 October 1840 to 6 February 1852' (reproduced with the kind permission of The Linnean Society of London).

completed, and had been received from the printer. Mr Gray suggested that some copies should be sent to Mr Hodgson, and that a copy should be transmitted to each of the Collections to which Mr Hodgson's duplicate specimens were distributed. The Trustees ordered that twenty five copies should be presented to Mr Hodgson, and a copy to each of the institutions referred to by Mr Gray." It may reasonably be concluded from this, as Sherborn inferred, that publication, i.e., issuance of copies, did not precede the meeting. Sherborn's contribution has been almost entirely overlooked<sup>40</sup> and almost all authorities citing dates from this work have cited 1846 (e.g., Oates, 1889; Hartert, 1903-1910; Baker, 1930; Vaurie, 1959; Ripley, 1961, 1982; Cheng, 1987).

Article 21.4 of the Code (I.C.Z.N., 1999: 22-23) reads "if the date of publication specified in a work is found to be incorrect, the earliest day on which the work is demonstrated to be in existence as a published work is to be adopted". Supporting the view that distribution did not occur earlier, the records (see Fig. 1.) show that this work was received by the Linnean Society on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1847 (G. Douglass *in litt.*).

### Application of the corrected date

In proposing this date correction we checked all the new names bestowed in this work (Table 1.) and their status and examined 'competing' names (see below). We see no effect upon the priority of these names and thus no obstacle to adopting "1847 (Jan. 22)" as the date of publication.

### Related issues of priority

When referring to this Catalogue in the past, most authors have usually referred just to Gray or J.E. Gray; more importantly almost all authors have dated this work on the basis of the imprint date of 1846 that appears on the title page. Our decision to take 1847 as the date of publication still requires priority to be considered. If we consider the period 1845-46 there are about eight publications which contain names that derive from Hodgson at about this time. The first two were those by Hodgson himself. In Hodgson (1845b) some of the six names he gave found themselves in synonymy because Blyth included the same names in Hodgson (1845a). We have also mentioned above that some new names in Hodgson (1845c) were not included by Gray & Gray (1847), leaving their new names in synonymy.

The next five publications are those by Blyth. From the synonymies in Gray & Gray (1847) it is apparent that names which Blyth (1845a) published in issue No. 156 of the *Journal* were reported by them, but that those in Blyth (1845 b, c and 1846 a, b) were not.

Although Blyth's papers in 1845 and 1846 should all be prior to Gray & Gray (1847) in 1846 the *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal* was in financial difficulties. Problems had started earlier and the last issue in volume 14 (notionally the 1845 volume) did not appear until about May 1846. Volume 15 was cut to just five issues but on present evidence (see Dickinson & Pittie, 2006, this volume) we believe that the last of these was published before the year's end.

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<sup>40</sup> Although 1847 appears in Kinnear (1931: 776).

Finally, G.R. Gray (1844-49) must be considered because he mentioned many of Hodgson's names. Here, the only serious potential for a conflict of priority lies with the captions for Gray's plates (which are by Mitchell), because the depictions validate names that otherwise, in the lists that Gray furnished, would, if as yet undescribed, have been *nomina nuda*. Gray included 12 plates that depict birds captioned with names attributed to Hodgson. Eight of these depict birds described in earlier years: *Aceros nipalensis* (Hodgson, 1829)<sup>41</sup>; *Cochoa viridis* Hodgson, 1836b; *Coccothraustes melanoxanthos* Hodgson, 1836c; *Strix leptogrammica newarensis* (Hodgson, 1836d); *Serilophus rubropygius* (Hodgson, 1839)<sup>42</sup>; *Grandala coelicolar* [sic] Hodgson, 1843; *Myzornis pyrrhoura* Blyth, 1843; *Accentor strophiatius* Blyth, 1843.

Turning to Hodgson names that Blyth (1845c) used first, when Gray's 'The genera of birds ...' (1844-49) was already under way, three more of the 12 Mitchell plates are accounted for:

- *Dumeticola affinis* Blyth, 1845c, depicted as *Calamodyta affinis* in August, 1848<sup>43</sup> – now a synonym of *Bradypterus thoracicus thoracicus* (Blyth, 1845c);
- *Abrornis castaniceps* Blyth, 1845c, depicted as *Regulus castaneoceps* in August, 1848 – now *Seicercus castaniceps* (Blyth, 1845c);
- *Hemixos flava* Blyth, 1845c, depicted as *Pycnonotus flavula* in December, 1846<sup>44</sup>.

All these names were in the appendix of Gray & Gray (1847), and were preceded by Blyth's descriptions. In the case of the last of these, Mitchell's December 1846<sup>45</sup> plate, the name used in the appendix in Gray & Gray (1847) was *Hemipus flavula* (a further synonym).

The twelfth Mitchell plate of relevance is that of *Gyps tenuirostris* a name attributed by Gray (1846) to Hodgson, but now attributed to G.R. Gray and cited from this plate. That is because Hodgson's name had not been published, although it appeared as a *nomen nudum* in Gray & Gray (1847: 38) where it was associated with *Vultur tenuirostris* Hodgs. MSS and with Hodgson's drawing No. 806, which Hodgson (1844) had listed with the name *Vultur tenuiceps* (also a *nomen nudum*)<sup>46</sup>.

Jerdon's (1845) "Second Supplement to the Catalogue of the Birds of Southern India"<sup>47</sup> also appeared after Hodgson's collection arrived in London; however Jerdon was only dealing with birds found in peninsular India. Hodgson does not seem to have sent him any material and thus a conflict in priority between a Hodgson name and a

<sup>41</sup> It should be noted that Hodgson (1844) validly introduced the generic name *Aceros*; in Peters (1945: 263) the page cited for this is correct but Gray was editor of the journal and Hodgson author of the list and thus of this name.

<sup>42</sup> *Serilophus rubropygius* is in fact re-described in Gray & Gray (1847: 150).

<sup>43</sup> August 1848 is the date of the relevant part. In the references we cite the whole work as "1844-49".

<sup>44</sup> Ripley (1982: 318) called this *Hypsipetes flavalus*.

<sup>45</sup> Like August 1848, see above, this is a part date.

<sup>46</sup> This number is visible on the drawing (at least in the set belonging to the Zoological Society of London).

<sup>47</sup> The dating of this remains unsubstantiated. It has been discussed twice (Dickinson et al., 2001: 94 fn. 13 and Dickinson et al., 2002: 124 fn. 35) but it has needed to be re-examined in the context of a fuller and clearer understanding of the dating of issues of the *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*. That has now been done by Dickinson & Gregory (2006) (this volume).

Jerdon name would be accidental, and only likely to involve migrants. Gray & Gray (1847) named one of Hodgson's flycatchers *Muscicapa hemileucura* but Jerdon (1840) had earlier, from its wintering range, named it *Muscicapula superciliaris*.

### Concluding comments

We have focused this paper on the dates and authorship of the Catalogue and thus of all the names introduced by Gray & Gray (1847). One of us (ECD) has largely completed the compilation of Hodgson drawings in his numerical order, from Hodgson (1844), Gray & Gray (1847) and other sources. This is to be cross-checked to the sets of Hodgson's drawings in the BMNH and the Zoological Society of London and will then be published.

Further work is planned on Hodgson and on Blyth, especially in relation to type material. Dickinson & Walters (2006, this volume) examine the names introduced by Hodgson (1845c), especially but not only in the context of their priority. Because much remains to be done it is expected that the historical background can still be amplified and may need correction. Specific future outputs intended are:

- a sequential list of Hodgson's drawings, probably with current names of the birds depicted and comments on the cases where Hodgson used the same numbers for two or more different species (one of these cases comes up in Table I here). This list should also clarify which Hodgson names were published by he himself, which were MS names taken up and published by others, and which still remain *nomina nuda*.
- a review of the related type material in the BMNH with implications for the duplicate material sent to other institutions.

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We thank Marek Kuziemko for pointing out the need to correct the authorship of *Aceros*, Gary Thorn for providing the extract from the 1847 minutes of the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Trustees of the British Museum, Gina Douglas for finding the date of receipt of the Catalogue at the Linnean Society, Aasheesh Pittie for help with related work on the *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, and Steven Gregory for making it possible for us to check entries relating to Hodgson in Gray's *Genera of Birds*. Professors Jon Fjeldså and L.B. Friis were extremely helpful over the Gunnerus citation. Special thanks go to Tim and Carol Inskipp whose careful work as referees led to several vital corrections.

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<sup>48</sup> Most of these pages are to be found at the beginning of volume 1.

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<sup>49</sup> The notes of Bishop Gunnerus are within Leem's text; Jessen's treatise is separately paginated.

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<sup>50</sup> We have previously dated this 1801, although with reservations. There is no proof that this was delayed from the imprint date of 1801. The evidence put forward by Browning & Monroe (1991) offered evidence, some of it erroneous, in favour of 1802, but it did not amount to proof. As observed by Gerlof Mees (pers. comm.) the French text of Art. 21.3 of the Code (I.C.Z.N., 1999: 150) makes clear, as the English text fails to do, that *proof* is required.

Table 1. Current status of names proposed by Gray &amp; Gray (1847), with comments on their appearance in Gray (1844-49)

| Name in Gray & Gray (1847)         | Page | Comments on the status of each name; scientific names, where given, taken from Ripley (1982) unless otherwise stated   |
|------------------------------------|------|--|
| <i>Serilophus rubropygius</i>      | 150  | Previously described by Hodgson (1839: 36) as <i>Raya rubropygia</i> . In current use. Appeared in Gray's Genera of Birds in 'January, 1847' with a plate labelled <i>Eurylaimus rubropygius</i> that must be dated from January 31.   |
| <i>Merops viridis</i> (?)          | 151  | A junior synonym of <i>Merops orientalis</i> Latham, 1801, but identified with <i>Merops viridis</i> Linnaeus (1766) in Sharpe (1892: 74); but that name then used for what we now call <i>Merops orientalis</i> Latham, 1801 (see Hartert, 1912: 863 footnote).   |
| <i>Merops torquatus</i>            | 151  | See <i>Merops viridis</i> above.   |
| <i>Troglodytes subhemalayanus</i>  | 151  | A junior synonym of <i>Troglodytes troglodytes nipalensis</i> Blyth, 1845c. Appeared in Gray's Genera of Birds in March 1847, with a reference to Gray & Gray's appendix.  |
| <i>Salicaria affinis</i>           | 151  | A junior synonym of <i>Bradypterus thoracicus thoracicus</i> (Blyth, 1845c). The name <i>affinis</i> appeared in Gray's Genera of Birds in August 1848 with a colour plate labelled <i>Calamodyta affinis</i> and a reference to Gray & Gray's appendix.   |
| <i>Phyllopneste xanthoschistos</i> | 151  | New and in current use; now in <i>Seicercus</i> . Appeared in Gray's Genera of Birds in August 1848, but without a link to Gray & Gray's appendix.   |
| <i>Abrornis erochroa</i>           | 152  | A junior synonym of <i>Phylloscopus pulcher pulcher</i> Blyth, 1845c. Appeared in Gray's Genera of Birds in August 1848, but without reference to Gray & Gray's appendix.  |
| <i>Abrornis castaneoceps</i>       | 152  | Probably an emendation of <i>Seicercus castaneiceps</i> (Blyth, 1845c) but situation confused and requires further study. Watson et al. (1986: 260) wrongly ascribed this name to Hodgson (as did Dickinson, 2003), but it is Blyth's description. Appeared in Gray's Genera of Birds in August 1848 with a plate labelled <i>Regulus castaneoceps</i> .   |
| <i>Abrornis chloronotus</i>        | 152  | New and in use, Watson et al. (1986: 239) treated this as a form of <i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i> and it has since been separated as <i>Phylloscopus chloronotus</i> by Alstrom & Olsson (1990). It was reported by Seebohm (1881) and Kinnear (1931) that Hodgson used the same drawing number on specimens of two species, the second being <i>Phylloscopus maculipennis</i> Blyth, 1867. However both were satisfied that Gray & Gray had described <i>chloronotus</i> and, by implication, had ignored the other specimens with the same Hodgson drawing number. Appeared in Gray's Genera of Birds in August 1848, with a reference to Gray & Gray's appendix. |
| <i>Neornis ? flavolivacea</i>      | 152  | A junior synonym of <i>Cettia flavolivacea flavolivacea</i> (Blyth, 1845a); both based on the same Hodgson MS name but on different specimens. Appeared in Gray's Genera of Birds in August 1848 with a reference to Gray & Gray's appendix.   |
| <i>Culipeta schisticeps</i>        | 153  | New and in current use; now in <i>Abroscopus</i> . Watson et al. (1986: 264), following Horsfield & Moore (1854) and others, mis-cited the generic name used by Gray & Gray as <i>Culicipeta</i> . This may have been the intended spelling and <i>Culipeta a lapsus</i> . In Gray's Genera of Birds appeared in the Appendix (1849), with no reference to Gray & Gray's appendix.   |



|                                   |     |  |
|-----------------------------------|-----|--|
| <i>Ruticilla schisticeps</i>      | 153 | New and in current use; now in <i>Phoenicurus</i> . Appeared in Gray's Genera of Birds in the Appendix (1849), with reference to Gray & Gray's appendix.   |
| <i>Bradypterus phaenicuroides</i> | 153 | New and in current use; now in <i>Hodgsonius</i> . But see note below on correct spelling.   |
| <i>Saxicola ferrea</i>            | 153 | New and in current use. In the 1849 Appendix to Gray's Genera of Birds appeared with reference to Gray & Gray's appendix.  |
| <i>Saxicola insignis</i>          | 153 | New and in current use. In the 1849 Appendix in Gray's Genera of Birds appeared with reference to Gray & Gray's appendix.  |
| <i>Accentor immaculatus</i>       | 153 | Described by Hodgson (1845a); now in <i>Prunella</i> .   |
| <i>Anthus pelopus</i>             | 154 | A senior synonym of <i>Anthus roseatus</i> Blyth, 1847; not a <i>nomen nudum</i> as suggested by Ripley (1982: 516), but suppressed by Opinion 803 (I. C.Z.N., 1967). To see why this is not a <i>nomen nudum</i> examine Deignan (1960) and the evidence to which he referred. In Gray's Genera of Birds this name appeared with reference to Gray & Gray's appendix. |
| <i>Turdus micropus</i>            | 154 | A junior synonym of <i>Zoothera wardii</i> (Blyth, 1843a). Not 1842. Appeared in Gray's Genera of Birds in June 1847 with reference to Gray & Gray's appendix.   |
| <i>Hemipus flavula</i>            | 154 | A synonym of <i>Hypsipetes flavalus flavalus</i> (Blyth, 1845a). The generic name <i>Hemixus</i> , spelled <i>Hemixos</i> by Blyth (1845a), is now often used, e.g., in Dickinson (2003). Appeared in Gray's Genera of Birds in October 1847 with a colour plate and with reference to Gray & Gray's appendix.   |
| <i>Muscicapa aestigma</i>         | 155 | New and in current used (by Ripley, 1982, as <i>Muscicapa superciliaris aestigma</i> ); usually now treated in the genus <i>Ficedula</i> (e.g., in Dickinson, 2003). In Gray's Genera of Birds appeared in the appendix (1849), with a reference to Gray & Gray's appendix.  |
| <i>Muscicapa hemileucura</i>      | 155 | A junior synonym of <i>Muscicapa superciliaris superciliaris</i> Jerdon, 1840; usually now treated in the genus <i>Ficedula</i> . In Gray's Genera of Birds appeared in the appendix (1849), with reference to Gray & Gray's appendix.   |
| <i>Pteruthius xanthochlorus</i>   | 155 | New and in current use. In Gray's Genera of Birds appeared, spelled <i>xanthochloris</i> , in the appendix (1849), with reference to Gray & Gray's appendix.   |
| <i>Picus majoroides</i>           | 155 | A junior synonym of <i>Picoides darjellensis</i> (Blyth, 1845b). Not located in Gray's Genera of Birds.  |
| <i>Glottis nivigula</i>           | 156 | A junior synonym of <i>Tringa nebularia</i> Gunnerus, 1767. In Gray's Genera of Birds appeared in the appendix (1849) with reference to Gray & Gray's appendix.  |

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Note: close comparison of the orthography of the names *Bradypterus phaenicuroides* and *Muscicapa aestigma* show that the former definitely includes an oe diphthong and the latter an ae diphthong. Usage of the spelling *phaenicuroides* (e.g., by Dickinson, 2003) is mistaken.

