

The correct introduction and type species of *Fringillaria* Swainson, 1837

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ABSTRACT: The publication in which the genus-group name *Fringillaria* was introduced, is correctly identified as Swainson (1837a), and the type species, wrongly cited in W. L. Sclater (1930) and R. A. Paynter, Jr. (1970) as *Emberiza capensis* Linnaeus, 1766, is correctly identified as *Fringillaria capensis* Swainson, 1837, a junior subjective synonym of *Emberiza flavigaster* Cretzschmar, 1828. The realignment of the genus or subgenus by this action is not considered to cause any instability.

KEYWORDS: *Fringillaria*, Swainson, West Africa, type species, *capensis*, *flavigaster*, J. Latham, J. F. Gmelin, Cretzschmar, Linnaeus.

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The authors W. L. Sclater in the *Systema Avium Æthiopicarum*, part II (1930: 830) and R. A. Paynter Jr. (1970: 5), in volume XIII of the *Check-list of Birds of the World*, a continuation of the work of J. L. Peters, both cited the second volume of Swainson's *On the Natural History and Classification of Birds* (1837b) as the work in which the genus-group name *Fringillaria* was introduced. These, in turn, were probably influenced by Anton Reichenow's *Die Vogel Africas*, dritter band, hälfte 1 (1904: 287), which also gave 'Sw. Classif. B. II. 1837'. Swainson is well known as the author and describer of many generic names throughout a published career spanning the years 1820–1841, and the dates of his later works are well documented. We have discovered an earlier publication where Swainson introduced the genus *Fringillaria*, which in turn allows reappraisal of the type species of this genus.

Charles W. Richmond, in the *Auk*, vol. 17 (1900: 197) gave 'July, 1837' as the date for volume two of the *Natural History and Classification*, which is confirmed by a Richmond Index card (*in litt.* A. P. Peterson, 2011) as 'July 1, 1837' (figure 1). This date is taken from the *Literary Gazette* no. 1067 for July 1st, 1837, 'list of new books'. Charles D. Sherborn, in the first part of the *Index Animalium* (1922: cxxi) gave 'June'. The generic name *Fringillaria* occurs on p. 289 of volume two of the *Natural History and Classification*, but this was not the first use of this name by Swainson. This can be found in volume one of *The Natural History of the Birds of western Africa* (Swainson 1837a), which was vol. VII of the Ornithological Series of Jardine's *The Naturalist's Library*' (vol. 17 as issued) published by W. H. Lizars. Richmond (1900: 197) gave 'March, 1837' and on the hand-written Richmond Index card as 'Mah. 18, 1837', the '7' being clearly given as a correction to a '6'. The notice of publication under 'list of new books' in the *Literary Gazette* no. 1052 for March 18th, 1837, confirms this date. Sherborn (1922: cxxi) cites the overall volume number (XVII) and 'May'. Note, J. T. Zimmer (1926: 326) gave a table of the various volume numbers used for the original issue and subsequent re-issues. It should be clearly noted that the Biodiversity Heritage Library copy of vol. VII of Jardine's *The Naturalist's Library*' is of a later re-issue by H. G. Bohn and is called volume XI (column *d* in Zimmer). While it is true to say that the *Literary Gazette* is not of the same standing and

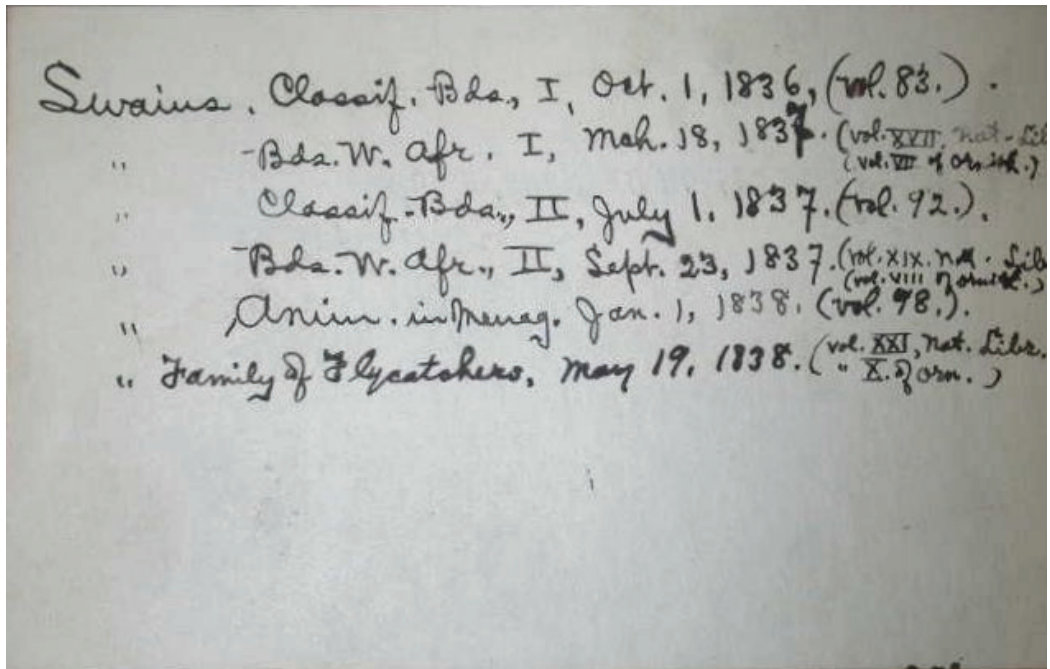


Figure 1. Richmond Index card showing the relative dates of the volumes of Swainson's *Classification of Birds*, *Birds of western Africa* and *Flycatchers*. Card scanned by Alan P. Peterson and provided *in litt*. Not currently available from www.zoonomen.net.

precision as the *Bibliographie de la France*, it is inconceivable that a book said to be available in March was delayed until after June. The sequence, at least, of these two works has been accepted by such noted commentators as Richmond and Sherborn, with no obvious evidence to the contrary.

In volume one of Swainson's *The Natural History of the Birds of western Africa*, the binomen *Fringillaria capensis* appears first on p. xiv, and was associated there with the account of the 'Yellow-bellied, or Cape Bunting', pl. XVIII, and p. 211. On p. 211, the binomen was repeated, this time as *Fringillaria capensis* Swains[on]. Plate XVIII. This plate (figure 2), captioned YELLOW-BELLIED OR CAPE BUNTING, depicts a bird with bright yellow underparts. The text on p. 211 then continues with a brief description of the bird and a synonymy, which is repeated here verbatim:

Ortolan a ventre Jaune du Cap. de Bonne Esperance, Buffon.—
Emberiza Capensis, Pl. Enl. 664. Fig. 2. Latham.—Omit-
ting synonyms.—Emberiza flavigaster, Ruppell, Atlas, pl. 25.
immature male.

Buffon's '*L'Ortolan à ventre jaune du cap de Bonne-esperance*' was figured in Daubenton's *Planches Enluminées d'Histoire Naturelle* (1765-80), plate 664, fig. 2, and clearly shows a bird with bright yellow underparts. Swainson was careful to explain that Latham included several different birds under the name *E. capensis*.

These can be first met with in Latham's *General Synopsis*, volume 2, pt. 1 (1783: 185-187), where his 'Cape Bunting' was identified with *Emberiza capensis* Linnaeus, 1766, with the unnamed varieties A, B and C. Of these variety A is the *L'Ortolan à ventre jaune du cap de Bonne-*

esperance, 'Pl. enl. 664. f. 2.'. This was followed closely by the German compiler J. F. Gmelin, with his 13th edition of the *Systema Naturæ* (1788–89), where in pars 2 (1789: 878) *Emberiza capensis* var. β "*Emberiza subtus flava*" was identified with Buffon's '*L'Ortolan à ventre jaune du cap de Bonne-esperance*', and plate 664, figure 2 of Daubenton's *Planches Enluminees*. A year later Latham repeated this modified treatment in the *Index Ornithologicus*, vol. 1 (1790: 407–408), where again *Emberiza capensis* Linnaeus, 1766, was followed by β , γ and δ , with the β variety again identified with Buffon's '*L'Ortolan à ventre jaune du cap de Bonne-esperance*', and plate 664, figure 2 of Daubenton's *Planches Enluminees*.

This was still just a 'variety', which was not formally named until Stephens, in Shaw & Stephens *General Zoology* (1816: 374) named it *Emberiza flaviventris*. Swainson, however, was presumably describing birds from western Africa, and cited *Emberiza flavigaster* Cretzschmar, 1828, in Rüppell's *Atlas Reise nördlichen Afrika*, in his synonymy. *Fringillaria capensis* Swainson, 1837, therefore becomes a junior subjective synonym of *Emberiza flavigaster* Cretzschmar, 1828, and must be considered to be the type species by monotypy, Article 68.3, ICZN (1999: 71), while clearly conforming to Article 12.2.5, ICZN (1999: 16), names published before 1930:

Fringillaria

Fringillaria Swainson, 1837 gender feminine

Birds of W. Africa, 1, pp. xiv, 211.

Type by monotypy

Fringillaria capensis Swainson, 1837 = *Emberiza flavigaster* Cretzschmar, 1828

Fringillaria flaviventris flavigaster (Cretzschmar, 1828)

This is not *Emberiza capensis* Linnaeus, 1766, cited as the type by subsequent designation, Art. 69.1, ICZN (1999: 72), by W. L. Sclater (1930: 830) and R. A. Paynter Jr. (1970: 5), and identified by Latham (1790: 407) with the unlabelled ' α ' variety "*subtus grisea*", citing 'Lin. Syst. i. p. 310', 'Bris. iii. p. 280' and his 'Cape Bunting' from 1783; a related form from southern Africa with no yellow in its plumage. Swainson in the *Natural History and Classification* (1837b: 290) included six nominal species in his newly created *Fringillaria*, the first of which was '[*Fringillaria*]. *capensis*. Pl. Enl. 664. 2.'. He was here repeating the association of '*Fringillaria capensis*' with the bird with bright yellow underparts depicted in the *Planches Enluminees*, i.e., J. F. Gmelin's *Emberiza capensis* var. β . "*Emberiza subtus flava*". Were this ever to be proven to be published before volume one of *The Natural History of the Birds of western Africa* (1837a), there would still be no grounds for considering *Emberiza capensis* Linnaeus, 1766, to be the type species.

George R. Gray (1840: 47), cited by both Sclater and Paynter as the designator of the type species, also clearly recognised the differences between Gmelin's varieties, with his expanded citation of '[*Fringillaria*]. *capensis*, (Gm[elin].) *Swains.*, Pl. enl. 664. f. 2.'. So, the transfer of the type from *Fringillaria capensis* Swainson, 1837 to *Emberiza capensis* Linnaeus, 1766, would have been wholly incorrect. We believe that the correct identification of the type species as *Fringillaria capensis* Swainson, 1837, in only slightly realigning the genus or subgenus as currently understood, will not cause any instability, Art. 70.2, ICZN (1999: 74).

It should be noted that the reproduction of Swainson's pl. 18 in figure 2 is from a later re-issue, but does not differ from the first issue; the hand-colourist has washed the entire wing brown in all copies seen, whereas the description in the text correctly makes reference to white lesser wing coverts.

PLATE 18.



YELLOW BELLIED OR CAPE BUNTING.

Figure 2. Plate 18, YELLOW-BELLIED OR CAPE BUNTING, from Swainson's *The Natural History of the Birds of western Africa*. Volume 1. Downloaded from www.books.google.com.

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