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Nomenclatural and taxonomic status of birds described by Joseph von Nagy in 1859

Nomenklatorický a taxonomický štatút vtákov opísaných Josephom von Nagyom roku 1859

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Joseph von Nagy (1818–1892) was a district physician and naturalist at Nitra, south-western Slovakia. In 1859 he published a checklist of the birds of the Nitra District, in which he created several new specific names of birds. These names remained overlooked in taxonomic literature. My revision of these names showed that Corvus coracias Nagy is an objective synonym of Coracias garrulus Linnaeus, Turdus sturnus Nagy is an objective synonym of Sturnus vulgaris Linnaeus, and Turdus oriolus Nagy is an objective synonym of Oriolus galbula Linnaeus = Oriolus oriolus (Linnaeus).

Joseph von Nagy (1818–1892; also Josef von Nagy, Jozef Nagy) was a district physician at Nitra (Matoušek 1961) and an active member of the ‘Verein für Naturkunde zu Presburg’ (‘The Natural History Society of Presburg [= Bratislava]). See Bokesová-Uherová (1958) and Ferencová & Kukurová (2000) for the history of this Society. In 1859, Nagy published an annotated checklist of birds recorded from the then Nitra District, south-western Slovakia. In this less-known paper Nagy created several new names of birds, which were overlooked by subsequent compilers of ornithological synonyms. Herewith he became the first Slovak author who

created new name of birds. Below I list Nagy’s nominal taxa and discuss their nomenclatural and taxonomic status.

Current taxonomy and nomenclature follow Dickinson (2003). Nomenclatural issues follow International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999).

Systematic list

Corvus coracias Nagy

Corvus coracias Nagy, 1859: 54. [New name for “*C. garrulus* L.”]

Now: *Coracias garrulus* Linnaeus, 1758.

REMARKS: Nagy (1859) created *Corvus coracias* as a new replacement name for *Coracias garrulus* Linnaeus, 1758; it is thus the latter's junior objective synonym. *Corvus coracias* Nagy, 1859 is a junior primary homonym of *Corvus coracias* Picot de Lapeirouse (1782: 110) = *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* (Linnaeus, 1758).

***Turdus sturnus* Nagy**

Turdus sturnus Nagy, 1859: 55. [New name for "*St. vulgaris* L."]

Now: *Sturnus vulgaris* Linnaeus, 1758.

REMARKS: Nagy (1859) created *Turdus sturnus* as a new replacement name for *Sturnus vulgaris* Linnaeus, 1758; it is thus the latter's junior objective synonym.

***Turdus oriolus* Nagy**

Turdus oriolus Nagy, 1859: 55. [New name for "*Or. galbula* L."]

Now: *Oriolus oriolus* (Linnaeus, 1758).

REMARKS: Nagy (1859) created *Turdus oriolus* as a new replacement name for *Oriolus galbula* Linnaeus, 1758 = *Oriolus oriolus* (Linnaeus, 1758); it is thus the latter's junior objective synonym.

"*Loxia serinus* Nagy"

REMARKS: Nagy (1859: 57) labeled "*Loxia serinus*" with "m." [= mihi], citing "*Fring. serinus* L." in its synonymy. *Loxia serinus* is thus a new combination of *Fringilla serinus* Linnaeus, 1758, not a new name.

"*Loxia curvirostra minor* Nagy"

REMARKS: Nagy (1859: 57) attributed *Loxia curvirostra minor* to "L.", i.e. Linnaeus. I was not able to find this or similar name in any edition of Linnaeus's *Systema naturae* or in other Linnaeus's works. However, Nagy (1859: 57) distinguished two *Loxia* species, which he called "*Loxia curvirostra major*" = "Grosser Kreuzschnabel" and "*Loxia curvirostra minor*" = "Mittlerer Kreuzschnabel". This classification and German names associated with Latin names indicate that he used one of Brehm's works. Brehm (1827: col. 710, 1831: 242, 1832: 239,

1853: 191) used the German name "mittlerer Kreuzschnabel" for a *Loxia* species he called "*medius*", which is a correct Latin translation of the German "mittlerer". Nagy (1859: 57) used Latin "*minor*" (= smaller) in connection with German "mittlerer" (= medium-sized). Nagy was an educated physician and German-speaking man, which excludes the possibility that he would err in translating "minor" as "mittlerer" or vice versa. I thus conclude that Nagy's (1859: 57) *Loxia curvirostra minor* is a misprint, which has no standing in zoological nomenclature (ICZN 1999).

Súhrn

Joseph von Nagy (1818–1892) bol nitriansky župný lekár a prírodovedec. Roku 1859 publikoval súpis vtákov Nitrianskej župy, v ktorom vytvoril niekoľko nových druhových mien vtákov. Tieto mená zostali nezaznamenané v taxonomickej literatúre. Ich revízia ukázala, že *Corvus coracias* Nagy je objektívnym synonymom *Coracias garrulus* Linnaeus, *Turdus sturnus* Nagy je objektívnym synonymom *Sturnus vulgaris* Linnaeus a *Turdus oriolus* Nagy je objektívnym synonymom *Oriolus galbula* Linnaeus = *Oriolus oriolus* (Linnaeus).

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