We Proceeded On

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VOL. 10 NOS. 2 AND 3 MAY 1984

A Special Ornithological Issue

Birds Observed and Documented by Members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition

Lewis's Woodpecker

Clark's Nutcracker

In This Issue

President Large’s Message

Extra effort has gone into this Special Ornithological Issue of We Proceeded On, and that’s no surprise. Editor Bob Lange is never content to crank out a routine installment of our Foundation’s quarterly publication. He’s always reaching for something more. Extra effort is the driving force behind any successful organization of unpaid volunteer members. If our Foundation has an abundance of people ready to strive beyond what’s merely adequate, they’re just taking inspiration from that energy-charged corps of discoverers which embarked upon the broad Missouri nearly 180 years ago.

From President Jefferson the Lewis and Clark expedition had received a checklist of demanding tasks. To the co-captains, complying with those instructions was only the minimum objective, and even that was terribly hard. The President wanted celestial observations of latitude and longitude made “with great pains and accuracy,” but there were places where trees blocked the sky. The trees had to be chopped down before work with sextant and octant could even begin. Just the basic logistical measures needed to keep the exploring party from starving often required extra little push.

Wilderness currency to buy food from the Indians included buttons cut from the captains’ coats. Elk meat which a hunter attempted to dry and preserved in the woods came back to camp in danger of spoiling, so “. . . we had it cut thinner and re-dried over a fire.”

In his charter of exploration the President hadn’t mentioned the Yellowstone River, and nobody would have blamed Capt. Clark for dashed straight home by the same route he followed to the Pacific. His return trip down the Yellowstone on the lookout for future trading sites was an un instructed bonus. Capt. Lewis similarly volunteered a risky side trip far up the Marias River to scout the further reaches of British fur country. The minimum, the expected, wasn’t enough.

Cover Illustrations:
The illustrations are by Marie Nonnast Bohlen and are reproduced from North American Birds, by Lorus and Margery Milne, through the courtesy of the publisher Prentice-Hall, Inc., © 1963, 1969.

We Proceeded On, May 1984
Today's Foundation members don't give up the buttons on their coats. Rather, many offer the gift of their time, lots of it. Over the years dozens of people have spent long hours planning each intricate detail of the Foundation's annual meetings. Next August's meeting in Great Falls will be the third such program for which Montana's Bob Saindon has taken major responsibility.

Rounding up new members, one by one, can be hard, slogging work. In North Dakota Sheila Robinson, a former Foundation director, has since last August recruited 12 new members by taking the time to write letters. Sheila has earned strong praise from Membership Secretary Ruth Lange: "Her efforts continue to show results and serve as a fine example of individual accomplishment."

So you don't have to be a buckskin-clad explorer of the 19th century to set an example of how to press beyond the minimum. You see it in this splendid issue of We Proceeded On, and in the dedication of so many of our members to make the Foundation a more satisfying vehicle for roaming the trails of American history. That goal is indeed worth our extra effort.

Arlen J. Large, President

John A. Caylor, Boise, Idaho, shortly before his death (see page 8, this issue of We Proceeded On), joined Idaho Governor John V. Evans for the signing of "Executive Order No. 83-21", which created the Idaho Lewis and Clark Trail Committee. The ten appointed members of the governor's committee had elected Caylor chairman of the committee. John Caylor, a former director of the Foundation (1973-1975) was a professor of history at Boise State University. The signing of the order took place in December 1983, the committee's first meeting was held in Boise, January 21, 1984. A September 1984 meeting is scheduled at Lewiston, Idaho.

Color Comes to We Proceeded On — About This Special Ornithological Issue

Birdwatching is a popular avocation for a great many individuals. We might wonder, however, just how many modern-day bird enthusiasts know that members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, especially Meriwether Lewis, were acute observers and documentors of the many birds encountered during their journey across a substantial portion of the North American Continent.

To tell of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark's and their exploring party's interest and activities related to the many birds encountered during their two year, four month, and nine day travel from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean and return, is the purpose for this "Special Ornithological Issue" of We Proceeded On. We are fortunate to have two very interesting and informative monographs, and a glossary, prepared especially for this issue by highly qualified writers, which reveal the exploring party's extensive bird sightings and journal documentations.

For many months the editor and the Publication Committee have discussed the possibility of being able to justify the expense of an occasional color illustration in our quarterly publication. We felt that the opportunity did present itself for color illustrations in this special issue related to the birds observed by the Expedition. Our initial effort in this regard, in addition to the front page illustration, include the two color prints provided as a separate enclosure with the distribution of this issue of We Proceeded On to Foundation members of record.1

Reproduced on good grade matte paper stock, the 8 x 10 inch illustrations will lend themselves to various framing techniques, together or separately, and will add another kind of memorabilia for students and enthusiasts of the famous exploring enterprise.

We have positioned the descriptive texts related to the color illustrations so that they may be displayed with the pictures of the birds, or, if desired, may be obscured or covered by a suitable masking matte. If desired the descriptive texts may be removed prior to matting and framing, so as to be affixed to the back of the framed picture or pictures. There are certainly many alternate ways of displaying these fine color renditions of these birds that memorialize the surnames of Captains Lewis and Clark.

1. The two separate color illustrations will accompany the May 1984 mailing of Volume 10, No. 2, issue of the magazine to Foundation members only. Subject to prior sale, additional copies of the magazine only (with front page in color) will be available at $2.00 each postpaid to Foundation members ($4.50 postpaid to non-members). The separate color illustrations are available in sets of two at $4.00 postpaid. The magazine and the two color illustrations are available at $6.00 postpaid to Foundation members ($8.50 postpaid to non-members). Make your check payable to the Foundation, and direct your order to WPO Publications, 5054 S.W. 26th Place, Portland, OR 97201.
Amidst all of the growing excitement and activity to celebrate the City of Great Falls Centennial in early July, the Portage Route Chapter of the national Foundation has succeeded in preparing a truly exciting and eventful 16th Annual Meeting of the Foundation. The four-day meeting will begin on Sunday, August 5, 1984, with an early evening reception at the famed Charles M. Russell Museum. Foundation members will enjoy wine and cheese while taking in one of the largest collections of Lewis and Clark art and memorabilia ever gathered. This unique, world's first collection is the Museum's Centennial gift to the city for this summer's museum meeting. While taking in one of the largest collections of Lewis and Clark art and memorabilia ever gathered, you'll be able to either hike to the riverside site or we'll 4-wheel drive then complete the day's activity overland. There will be an afternoon refreshment at the Inn and time for a brief rest and preparation for the Annual Banquet at the Great Falls International Airport. We will celebrate the unveiling of the 10 x 26 foot mural commissioned by the Burlington Northern Foundation, which depicts the struggle and the ordeal of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's portage around the Great Falls of the Missouri River. Our banquet speaker will be Dr. Harry W. Fritz, Department of History, University of Montana, Missoula (related story on page 16). You'll enjoy the Montana sunset as seen from the airport dining room which overlooks the entire Centennial City of Great Falls and the Missouri vistas.

Foundation members will be receiving registration information by June 1, 1984, which will include Heritage Inn reservation materials and other information about pre and post activities that will add to the enjoyment of your Montana visit.

Annual Meeting Registration will take place all day on Sunday, August 5th at the Heritage Inn. Except for the costs noted for the options, Tours I, II, and III, on Tuesday, August 7th, see above, the $100 registration fee will cover your other Annual Meeting activities (charter buses, box lunches, cookouts, pitchfork fondue, Annual Banquet, etc.). We're looking forward to seeing you in August.

By Marshall J. Johnson

From this place the tour will float further down the Missouri to a place known as Carter Landing. The cost for this float trip will be $25.00 per person (includes box lunch). From this place, we'll bus this Tour I party to Fort Benton, reunite with Tour II and visit the Lewis and Clark Memorial, the Fort McKenzie site, Crow Condoné, and the Marias/Missouri River confluence. Dinner time will find us back upstream at Ryan Dam (Lewis's Great Falls of the Missouri) for a truly enjoyable pitchfork fondue.

Tour II option is a float trip via hard-bottom pontoon raft from Carter Ferry to Fort Benton. This will be a more sedate, relaxing time on the river. Arriving at Fort Benton, we will lunch at the restored Grand Union Hotel, rendezvous at the Lewis and Clark Memorial, and then complete the day's activity with Tour I (dinner at Ryan Dam, etc.). The cost of the Tour II float trip option is about $20.00 per person.

The Tour III option is a landlubber's tour which will leave the Heritage Inn at midmorning to bus to Fort Benton. You'll have time to walk leisurely through Fort Benton, join Tour II for lunch at the historic Grand Union Hotel, and then join Tour I and Tour II for the balance of the day's activities (see above). The cost for the Tour III option is $5.50 per person. The map published in "Portage Creek" (today's Belt Creek) where it has its confluence with the Missouri River and where the explorers establish their camp.

1. Marshall Johnson, Great Falls, Montana, is a member of the Portage Route Chapter of the (national) Foundation. In addition to his active work as public relations/manager/Administrator for the American Red Cross, Cascade County Chapter, he is serving as Chairman for the Arrangements Committee for the Foundation's 16th Annual Meeting.

2. See WFO Publication No. 1 (Supplementary Publica­tion, October 1976, pp. 8-9).

3. The Captains' journals and maps refer to this as a "Sulphur Spring". The name Sacagawea Spring is a more recent name applied to the Sacagawea Spring along the Missouri River. We're looking forward to seeing you in August.

The Grand Union Hotel, Fort Benton, Montana, will be visited by Annual Meeting participants. One of the oldest hotels in Montana, the Grand Union was opened for business in 1860. Located near the Missouri River, it was a major stop for both river steamboats and overland stagecoach travelers. The structure has been designated as a National Historical Restoration Project.
This is a draftsman’s, circa 1814, copy of the original sketch maps in both Captain Lewis’s and Captain Clark’s notebooks. For the original maps, see Thwaites, Journals, Vol. II, facing pages 176 and 178. The map details the series of falls, cascades, and rapids in the vicinity of present-day Great Falls, Montana. The dotted line to the left of the river designates the 17¼ to 18 mile exploring party’s portage route from just below the mouth of “Portage (today’s Belt) Creek” to the White Bear Islands, upstream from the confluence of the “Medicine” (today’s Sun) River with the Missouri. The “Large Fountain” or Giant Spring is indicated to the left of the river and about two inches from the top border of the map. Near the map’s lower right hand corner and opposite the mouth of “Portage Creek” is the Sulphur Spring. The water from this spring was administered to Sacagawea for the treatment of her illness. The bold type “Great Falls” indicates the location of the large falls first observed by Meriwether Lewis on June 13, 1805. Today the Montana Power Company’s Ryan Dam and hydroelectric facility is situated at this place. The Centennial City of Great Falls is located essentially on the left hand side of the river below the mouth of the Sun (the Expedition’s “Medicine”) River.

A huge 10 x 35 foot mural is being painted by artist Robert Orduno in a basement room in the terminal building at the Great Falls International Airport. When completed, the mural will be permanently installed in the upper level of the terminal building and will portray a typical scene involving the Lewis and Clark Expedition’s ordeal and struggle to effect the portage around the natural barrier caused by the series of falls which prevented their travel on the Missouri River. Travelers who frequent the airport for years to come will be apprised of the exploring party’s success in overcoming the obstacles encountered in this vicinity as they made their way westward to the Pacific shore. The mural is being made possible by a grant from the Burlington Northern Foundation, and the unveiling ceremony will be an event during the evening of the Foundation’s 16th Annual Banquet, August 8, 1984.
A February 18, 1984, program at Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon, featured Foundation member-scholars. Titled: "Perspectives on our Past - Enlightenment Science in the Pacific Northwest: The Lewis and Clark Expedition", the program comprised five lectures on a variety of subjects related to the Expedition and the Pacific Northwest. This was part III of a four part, 15 month program, that is being funded by a public library grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Scholars and lecturers gather at the entrance to the Aubrey Watzek Library on the Lewis and Clark campus. (Left to right) Warren Cook, James Ronda, John Allen, "Frenchy" Chuinard, and Gary Moulton.

An event in the Rare Book Room at the Watzek Library involved a discussion related to the literature about the Expedition. Dr. "Frenchy" Chuinard (left) was introduced by William Willingham, coordinator for the program and a lecturer in history at the college. In 1982, Dr. Chuinard and his son Dr. Robert B. Chuinard, loaned to Lewis and Clark College on an extended agreement, their Lewis and Clark collection of some 370 contemporary and rare books and pamphlets. A special bookcase in the rare book room provides the means of housing and displaying this fine and valuable collection.

Acknowledgement

The illustrations on this page are courtesy of Roy D. Craft. No single individual has made a greater contribution to We Proceeded On than Foundation Director Roy D. Craft, Stevenson, Washington. Roy's photographic skill continues to provide illustrations for nearly every issue of our quarterly publication. A retired newspaper man and a press photographer, he is Editor Emeritus of the Skamania County Pioneer, a weekly newspaper he and his wife Gracie purchased in 1958. He edited the newspaper until his retirement in 1974. During World War II he saw service in both the Pacific and European Theaters, and ended his military service as a lieutenant colonel in editorial charge of Stars & Stripes, ETO, with headquarters in Paris, France. Occasionally Roy (continued on facing page)
Charter Bus Tour To the Columbia River Estuary

Members of the Oregon and Washington Lewis and Clark committees arranged for a charter bus for transportation to the NPS Fort Clatsop National Memorial (Clatsop County, Oregon), the Washington State Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center (Pacific County, Washington), and other Expedition points of interest near the estuary of the Columbia River. The February 19, 1984, tour made it possible for the Lewis and Clark College, February 18th, 19th and 20th to hold joint lectures and tours in the Pacific Northwest, since the theme and lecture subjects presented by them connotated to the Lewis and Clark Expedition in this area. In addition to the principal visits noted above, brief stops were made at the exploring party’s “Salt maker’s camp” or Salt works (now usually referred to as the Salt Cairn) at Seaside, Oregon; the Astor Column, high above Astoria, Oregon; on Climb by Hill for a spectacular view of the Columbia River estuary; and at Chinook Point on the north (Washington) shore of the river where the explorers established a temporary camp site prior to their crossing to the south (Oregon) side of the river.

While traveling the 240 mile round trip, members of the two state committees, Lewis and Clark College faculty and administration staff, and their guests were kept informed with interpretive remarks by E.G. “Frenchy” Choinard (Oregon Committee), Stephen Beckham and William Willingham (Lewis and Clark College History Department), Roy Craft and Kenneth Heckard (Washington Committee), and Irving Anderson and Bob Lange (Oregon Lewis and Clark Heritage Foundation). At the Salt Cairn the travelers were addressed by Charles M. Cartwright and Ray Lerbek (Seaside, Oregon, members of the Oregon Committee). Box lunches were distributed when the tour arrived at the Fort Clatsop National Memorial, and following luncheon Chief Ranger Curtis Johnson and Ranger Dan Dallilco spoke about the historic site and the “Living History Demonstrations” presented for visitors to the facility. When the tour arrived at Cape Disappointment and the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center they were greeted by Richard Clifton, Chief of Interpretive Services for the Washington Parks and Recreation Commission.

Book Review

By Ann Rogers


This biography of Auguste and Pierre Chouteau draws interesting portraits of the “Founding Family of St. Louis” and of their city as Lewis and Clark knew it before and after the Great Journey. From 1764, when 14-year-old Auguste first saw the site his stepfather Pierre Laclède had chosen for St. Louis, to the death in 1849 of Auguste’s younger half-brother Pierre (who used the name Chouteau and never acknowledged Laclède as his father), the lives of these two men form a microcosm of early St. Louis.

The flags of Spain, France, and the United States flew over the city dur-

(continued on page 8)

1. Charlotte Moffett Cartwright, Charles Cartwright’s mother, died the Salt Cairn site to the Oregon Historical Society in 1910. In June 1979 the property was transferred from the Oregon Society to the National Park Service to become a satellite and historical part of the Fort Clatsop National Memorial (see WPO, Vol. 5, No. 1, p. 1; Vol. 5, No. 3, pp. 6-7).

1. There are exceptions to this annual activity when an annual meeting of the state Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc., is held in Washington or Oregon. This was the case in 1983, when the 15th Annual Meeting was held in Pascoc, Washington.

2. The Expedition’s 1805-1806 Winter establishment.

3. Near the place men of the exploring party first visited the shore of the Pacific Ocean in November 1805.

We Proceeded On, May 1984
ing those years and dramatic changes took place, but through it all the Chouteaus adapted and prospered. Thematic in the book is the idea that they knew well how to realize substantial rewards for themselves by serving whatever government was in power.

President Jefferson’s decision to send an expedition into the Louisi­
ana Territory offered an excellent opportunity to employ their talents. When Lewis and Clark arrived in December of 1803, the Chouteaus moved quickly to establish a relationship that was both cordial and mutually beneficial.

Pierre’s home became Lewis’ unofficial residence throughout the win­
ter of preparation. The Chouteaus drew on their considerable experi­
ence as traders with the Osage tribe to provide Lewis with information about the lower Missouri region and its people. Aware of the President’s diverse interests, they presented Lewis with items of scientific interest, including cuttings from the Os­
age Orange trees which Pierre had obtained from the Indians and cul­tivated in his city garden.

The Chouteaus also outfitted the expedition with gunpowder, bullets, knives, clothing, blankets, and trade goods and then procured seven en engagees to accompany the boats as far as the Mandan villages.

After five months in St. Louis, Captain Lewis left Pierre’s home and traveled overland, accompanied by Auguste and several other prominent figures, to join William Clark for the departure from St. Charles.

But the Chouteaus’ role in the expedition did not end there. In the months ahead they sent letters to Jefferson informing him of the explorers’ progress as it was reported to them by their Indian contacts along the river. Meanwhile Pierre escorted a group of Osage to Wash­
ington. And when the explorers finally returned in 1806, the Chou­
teaus hosted a dinner to celebrate their achievement.

Such involvement provides prime evidence for the authors’ thesis: the Chouteaus knew how to prosper by serving the incumbent government.

Undertakings such as the Lewis and Clark trip and the Indian visit to Washington were understandably expensive, and the Chouteaus were sufficiently clever to garner for themselves a handsome share of the lucrative governmental expenditures for outfitting these ventures.

The progress reports sent to Jefferson called the President’s attention to the Chouteaus and reminded him of their willingness to be of assistance to the United States. While Pierre performed a valuable service by taking the Osage to the nation’s capital, he in turn met with the President and other high-ranking officials and returned home with an appointment as Indian Agent.

In the years that followed, the brothers (who never mastered English) were involved in many aspects of American St. Louis: Indian trade, business, banking, law, civic activities, and the militia. They joined Clark and others in founding the Missouri Fur Company, and when Lewis turned to the company for help in returning Chief Sheheke to the Mandans, Pierre led the escort party. (When the cost was ques­tioned, Lewis set out on the fatal journey that ended in his death; Pierre stayed home and bargained the government with protestations of his innocence until the bills were finally honored — another example of the Chouteau ability to weather difficult times).

Auguste Chouteau, Clark, and Gov. Edwards of Illinois were the three men chosen by the Madison admin­
istration to meet with a number of Indian tribes at Portage des Sioux in 1815 in an effort to reduce growing tensions.

More controversial was Pierre’s role in the attempts to draw up a treaty at Fort Osage: Clark’s treaty was rejected by the Indians in favor of one that affirmed Pierre’s land grant in the area.

Summing up their view of the Chou­
teaus, the authors note: “Undeniably they served their private interests, but they also maintained a sense of commitment to the public welfare throughout their long and useful lives.”

It is an intriguing story, and the authors — who both teach history at Central Missouri State University — have told it well. The book is highly readable, with its careful docu­
mentation placed unobtrusively at the end of each chapter.

Followers of the expedition should enjoy learning more about St. Louis as the explorers knew it and about the Chouteaus whose lives were interwoven with the lives of Lewis and Clark.

John A. Caylor 1920 - 1984

Dr. John A. Caylor, a director of the Foundation during the years 1973-1975, passed away March 23, 1984 at a Boise Idaho, hospital. John was a professor of history at Boise State University. Born in Sioux City, Iowa, he attended Wayne State College at Wayne, Nebraska, and received his Ph.D. in history at the University of Nebraska. He taught at Cottey College in Nevada, Missouri, and began his professor­ship at Boise State University in 1963. John had many friends in the Foundation and his interest in the history and heritage of the Lewis and Clark Expedition included a special course at the college concerning the famous exploring enterprise. Most recently (see picture story on page 3) he spearheaded the formation of an Idaho Lewis and Clark Trail Committee formed by an executive order from Idaho Gover­nor John V. Evans.1 In recent years, kidney problems made dialysis necessary, and he frequently made arrangements with local hospi­
tals and clinics so as to be able to travel and attend history confer­
ences and our Foundation meetings.

Friendships were recently renewed when he and Ruthann attended the all day program at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, in February.

He is survived by his wife, Ruthann, and two sons, William in San Diego, and John R. in Boise. Memorial in his name may be forwarded to the Boise State University Foundation, care of the Univer­
sity, 1910 College Blvd., Boise, ID 83725.

1. See also, WPO, Vol. 10, No. 1, p. 7.

“Among all the birds and mammals, which the explorers discovered, and described in greater or lesser detail, it seems odd that they are best known for the two that are striking in appearance but insignificant in size. They are Clark’s nutcrack­
er and Lewis’ woodpecker.”

Raymond Darwin Burroughs
The Natural History of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, p. 239
A History of Lewis's Woodpecker and Clark's Nutcracker

By Paul Russell Cutright

It was Elliott Coues who in 1893, while editing Nicholas Biddle's History of the Expedition Under the Command of Captains Lewis and Clark, marveled that that work "continually challenges and elicits the editorial pen." This reflection, even more true today than then, recently came to mind when I was rereading pages of a book on the West by Theodore Roosevelt and, while so engaged, encountered the former President's description of two species of attractive western birds: Lewis's woodpecker and Clark's nutcracker.

Certain species of birds are more celebrated, have received greater acclaim, than most. For example, there are the cardinal and northern (Baltimore) oriole admired for their festive colors; the whooping crane and the California condor publicized because endangered species; the hermit thrush and nightingale renowned for the beauty of their songs; the passenger pigeon, Carolina parquet and, probably, the ivory-billed woodpecker because now extinct. Of course, the bald eagle, honored as the symbol of our nation.

Neither Lewis's woodpecker nor Clark's nutcracker has as yet evoked the wide public notice accorded the above avian species.

However, evidence does exist supporting the thesis that they deserve, at the very least, a fuller and more appreciative recognition. This evidence, however viewed, is solid and impressive, and is due to the unusual circumstance that the contributors to the histories of these two birds were all men of prominence, two of them, for instance, having served terms as President of the United States. These several contributors, and their contributions, follow herewith.

-1-

MERIWETHER LEWIS (1774-1809) and WILLIAM CLARK (1770-1838)
—The histories of Lewis's woodpecker and Clark's nutcracker are both of respectable age. It was on July 20, 1805, on the upper reaches of the Missouri River in what is now Lewis and Clark County, Montana, that Meriwether Lewis discovered the former species and, that evening, committed to his journal these words: "I saw a black woodpecker (or crow) today, about the size of the lark woodpecker [yellow-shafted flicker] as black as a crow. I endeavored to get a shoot [sic] at it but could not. It is a distinct species of woodpecker; it has a long tail and flies a good deal like the jay bird." 2

One month later, on August 22, having meanwhile crossed Lemhi Pass, and the Continental Divide, to the vicinity of today's town of Tendoy, Idaho, Lewis discovered Clark's nutcracker. His journal entry describing that event reads: "I saw today a species [sic] of woodpecker which fed on the seeds of the pine. It's beak and tail were white, it's wings were black, and every other part of a dark brown. It was about the size of the robin." 3

Lewis failed to obtain specimens of either the woodpecker or nutcracker until late May of the following year, at which time the Expedition was on its return journey and encamped on the Clearwater River near the present town of Kamiah, Idaho. At this site (Camp Choppunnish) both species were common and Lewis succeeded in collecting a number of each. As a result, he was able to write detailed, factual descriptions, that of Lewis's woodpecker reading in part:

The Black woodpecker ... I had never an opportunity of examining until a few days since when we killed and preserved several of them. This bird is about the size of the lark woodpecker or the turtle dove ... the beak is black, one inch long, rather wide at the base, somewhat curved, and sharply pointed; the chaps [upper and lower mandibles] are of equal length, around the base of the beak including the eye and a small (continued on page 10)

2. Reuben Gold Thwaites, ed., Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804-1806, 5 vols., New York: Dodd, Mead and Co. (1904-1906), II, 202. Hereinafter cited as Thwaites. The reader should be aware of the fact that Lewis's, and especially Clark's, spelling, punctuation, capitalization and sentence structure are often unreliable.

3. Thwaites, III, 15-16. See also Biddle-Coues, II, 530 and 530n.
part of the throat is of a fine crimson red, the neck as low as the croop and of a fine crimson red, the neck as low as the croop. The head and body of this bird are of a dove colour, the wings are black except the extremities of six large feathers occupying the middle part of the wing which are white. The two feathers in the center of the tail are black as are the adjacent feathers for half their width the balance are of a pure white. The feet are black and imbricated with wide scales...May 1984
prehensive, illustrated study of the birds of the United States, an extraordinary enterprise since Wilson knew only the commoner birds of his adopted land, had received no formal training in drawing, and was inexperienced in binomial nomenclature and other aspects of taxonomy desirable in the technical descriptions of birds and other animals. Yet, with the generous and unfailing help from his recently acquired friends, and in spite of his obvious handicaps, he eventually succeeded in completing seven of the nine volumes which constituted his elaborate American Ornithology — George Ord, after Wilson's death, contributing the labor required to do the eighth and ninth volumes.

Portraits of Lewis' woodpecker and Clark's nutcracker, requested of Wilson by Lewis, appeared in Volume III of Wilson's exemplary publication. Each, however, in its ultimate form, was the result of multiple effort, with Wilson contributing an outline sketch only\(^\text{12}\), Lawson then providing the requisite engraving and, finally, Lawson's daughters applying the desired colors (Figs. 1 and 2).\(^\text{13}\)

To Alexander Wilson must go additional credit, in this history of the two bird species credit for technically describing both and, as with the portraits, for doing so for the first time anywhere. The most conspicuous feature of the descriptions is the presence of Wilson's apppellatives, both vernacular and scientific, of each bird. His vernacular for the “Black woodpecker” was, fittingly enough, Lewis’s woodpecker, the common name that has continued unchanged (except for the occasional alteration of “Lewis’s” to “Lewis’”). In this same species, Wilson bestowed the scientific name (Latin binomial) *Picus torquatus* (later updated to *Asyndesmus lewis*, and recently (1983) to *Melanerpes lewis*).

To “the bird of the corvus genus”, Wilson assigned the vernacular Clark’s crow — presently, of course, 14. Anatomically, a nutcracker is somewhere between a crow and a jay, *nux* (nut) and *frangers* (to break or crack).

To the bird of the corvus genus, Wilson assigned the vernacular Clark’s crow — presently, of course, *Nucifraga columbiana*.\(^\text{14}\)

Wilson’s American Ornithology was the masterwork of his extremely active, somewhat disjointed life. “Nothing like it in any branch of science had appeared in America up to that time,” a scientist subsequently reported, “and the mere conception of such a work, not to speak of its successful conclusion, was remarkable.”\(^\text{15}\) And, surely, its inclusion of the original portraits and nomenclature of Lewis’ woodpecker and Clark’s nutcracker detracted not a whit from its worth.

**-4-**

**CHARLES WILSON PEALE** (1741-1827) — On May 5, 1807, Charles Willson Peale wrote to a friend saying: “The drawings for Governor Lewis’s journal I mean to draw myself to be engraved for the work.”\(^\text{16}\) At that date, Peale was one (continued on page 12)

\(^{12}\) These outline sketches by Wilson of Lewis’ woodpecker and Clark’s nutcracker are among the prized possessions of the library of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. The reproduction of Wilson’s sketches in Fig. 1 have been reduced in size from Wilson’s original sketches.

\(^{13}\) This information about Lawson’s daughter was supplied to the author by M.E. Phillips, an authority on the life of the engraver Alexander Lawson. Phillips was the editor (1944-1957) of the *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*. Reproduction of Lawson’s engravings in Fig. 2 have been reduced in size from Lawson’s original engravings.

\(^{14}\) Anatomically, a nutcracker is somewhere between a crow and a jay, *nux* (nut) and *frangers* (to break or crack).


\(^{16}\) Donald Jackson, ed., *Letters of the Lewis and Clark Expedition with Related Documents* (continued on page 12)

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of our country's leading portrait painters, as well as the capable and industrious curator and proprietor of the Philadelphia Museum — better known as Peale's Museum — then occupying space in Independence Hall.

At Jefferson's behest, Peale's Museum became the repository for most of the zoological largesse Meriwether Lewis had brought to the Philadelphia from Western locales, so that Wilson, Ord and other scientists had ready access to it. As the above letter suggests, Lewis had presumptively engaged Peale to assist in illustrating the journals of the Expedition, and further evidence to that effect exists in a letter penned by William Clark in 1810 after he had come to Philadelphia following Lewis's shockingly unexpected death. Therein he said: "Mr. Peale has drawn three of the birds, the Braroe [badger] & Antelope."17 The three bird portraits by Peale presently exist, and may be found in the archives of the American Philosophical Society, one being that of the mountain quail (Oreortyx pictus), a second of the Western tanager, and the other of Lewis's woodpecker (Fig. 3).18 By virtue of the happy circumstance that Peale did make a drawing of Lewis's woodpecker, he therefore, is eminently eligible for a place in this study.

Before his death, Peale had made repeated efforts to have his museum nationally endowed, at one time inquiring of Jefferson "whether the United States would give an encouragement ... for the establishment of this Museum in the city of Washington."19 Deplorably, his efforts met with failure; otherwise, today's visitors to our nation's Capital might be privileged to experience the excitement of viewing specimens, by now venerable, collected by Lewis and Clark in far away terrains, perhaps even skins of Lewis's woodpecker (Fig. 4)20 and Clark's nutcracker.

NICHOLAS BIDDLE (1786-1844)

In the wake of Meriwether Lewis's lamented tragic death — an event of October 10, 1809 — William Clark hurried from St. Louis to Philadelphia, his primary objectives being to locate a person qualified to "write our narrative" (this to form two of three projected octavo volumes) and to find "a proper scientific Charrutor"21 equal to assembling the voluminous scientific data into a third volume. After some delay, Clark succeeded in gaining the assent of Nicholas Biddle to do the narrative — a happy resolution of that problem. Though then just 24 years old, Biddle had already exhibited intellectual precocity by graduating from Princeton University at the age of 15 and by contributing poems and essays of exceptional literary merit to Port Folio, a popular Philadelphia contemporary magazine.

20. The illustration of the bird skin of Lewis's woodpecker reproduced in Fig. 4 is reduced in size from the original photograph.


22. Benjamin Smith Barton (1766-1815), physician and naturalist, was professor of botany at the University of Pennsylvania and author of Elements of Botany (1803), the first textbook of botany to be published in the United States.

stricted his comment to little more than a page, in a book of 413—the others being largely about Bid­dle’s active life as a banker. It is to be hoped that his future biograph­ers will be moved to take a longer and more appreciative look at his contributions to Lewis and Clark history. If so, then allusion to such birds as Lewis’ woodpecker and Clark’s nutcracker is within the range of possibility.

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JOHN JAMES AUDUBON (1785-1851) To explain Audubon’s role in this study, it seems advisable to consult an ornithological text contain­ing synonymies (a synonymy being a listing of previously recorded scientific names). A classic ex­ample of such a work is Birds of the Northwest (1874) by Elliott Coues (about whom more later). Herein is Coues’ synonymy of Clark’s nutcracker which begins (as expected):

“Corvus columbianus Wilson, Am[ericans] Orn[ithology], III, 1811.”

This statement is then followed immedi­ately by another more important one:

“Nucifraga columbiana Audubon, Orn[ithological] Bio­graph[y], IV, 1838.”

If one has read the latter statement care­fully, he should have gathered that, according to Coues, it was John Audubon, celebrated Amer­i­can artist-naturalist, who first published the scientific name, Nucifraga columbiana, the binomial rec­ognized by current ornithologists, and that he did so in 1838 in his celebrated Ornithological Bio­graphy, which was the text for his far more celebrated Birds of America, these latter volumes containing plates only.26

26. It should be explained here that Audubon’s part in the creation of this binomial was largely restricted to his being the first to publish the binomial Nucifraga columbiana, thus displacing the earlier, incorrect name, Corvus columbiana. But the credit of coining the scientific name Nucifraga colombiana belongs to the Scottish naturalist, William MacGillivray (1796-1852), Audubon’s capable co-worker, who supplied this binomial and many others for Audubon’s Ornithologi­cal Biography. In this work Audubon, to his credit, did include descriptions of both Lewis’ woodpecker and Clark’s nutcracker and, also, gave full credit to Lewis and Clark as their discoverers. An additional point: the creator of the generic term Nucifraga was the French ornithologist, M.J. Brisson (1723-1800). He produced the word in 1760, just as Elliott Coues, in 1886, produced Asyndesmus, and William Swainson, in 1831, produced Melanops.

Audubon’s Birds of America, published in Britain in 1827-1838, was a work of four volumes, each of “ele­phant folio” format. This consum­mate publication contained 435 plates of 1,065 separate subjects, and, since one of them was of Clark’s nutcracker (Nucifraga colombiana), Audubon obviously rates space in this essay.27

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PHINEAS TAYLOR (“P.T.”) BARNUM (1810-1881) — Peale’s Museum continued to occupy space in Independence Hall until 1828, one year after Peale’s death. At that date it was moved to the Arcade on Chestnut Street above Sixth and, in 1838, to a building at Sixth and Sansom Streets. Eight years later, following a drastic decline in reve­ nue, many of the museum items were sold at auction, though the natural history specimens re­mained intact, and on display, until 1850. In that year, approximately one half of that collection was bought by the extraordinary show­man, P.T. Barnum, who transferred the lot to a museum of his own in New York City.28 Fifteen years lat­ter, Birds of America originally sold for $1,000. Today at auction the sets, if in good condition, may bring $1,000,000 or more. If sets are broken up and plates auctioned individually, they bring fabulous prices. That of Audubon’s trumpeter swan, at a 1983 Sotheby Auction, brought $45,000.

28. Elliott Coues, Proceedings, Academy of Natural Sciences, 1866, 36. Asyndesmus is derived from two Greek words meaning without a bond, in allusion to the loosened texture of the feathers of the under parts.

(continue on page 14)

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ELLIOTT COUES (1842-1899) — A noted ornithologist, perhaps the most brilliant our country has pro­duced, Elliott Coues also exhibited uncommon talent and industry in other fields, among them mammal­ology, anatomy, lexicography and history. As a historian he is best­known for his expansively annotated edition of Biddle’s paraphrase of the Lewis and Clark journals. Published in 1893, this work gained almost instant attention, primarily because of its abundant and enlighten­ment commentary in the form of foot­notes identifying newly discovered animals and plants described ear­lier by Meriwether Lewis.

A specially illustrative Couesian footnote reads: “This is the remark­able woodpecker later named Lewis’ in honor of Captain Lewis, Picus torquatus of Wilson... now Asyndesmus torquatus of Coues.”30 Coues’ liberal use of such explana­tion throughout the edition brought much commendation, and not only because of its plenitude, but also because, for the first time, it focused attention on Meriwether Lewis as a naturalist of promising talent.

When, in his footnote, Coues wrote “Asyndesmus torquatus of Coues,” he did so unblushingly, and with pride, for he was the author of Asyndesmus,31 and only a few American ornithologists can lay claim to gener­ic terms of their creation. Making his place in this study even more se­cure, in 1872 Coues published an article about Clark’s nutcracker, one which appeared in The Ibis.

We Proceeded On, May 1984

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prestigious organ of the British Ornithologist's Union. 32

Elliott Coues' reputation as an ornithologist of enviable distinction rests primarily on his Key to North American Birds. This work, first published in 1862, won widespread acclaim, and was so much in demand that it ran through six editions, each of which, befittingly, included authoritative and highly readable accounts of two exceptional birds, Lewis' woodpecker and Clark's nutcracker.

-9-

THEODORE ROOSEVELT (1858-1919) — It was in September, 1893 — a full century ago — that Theodore Roosevelt first looked upon the Dakota Bad Lands. In days immediately following, he so fell in love with the country that, during ensuing years, he returned again and again, and, periodically, made long hunting trips which took him into the Rockies of Montana, Wyoming, Idaho and British Columbia. A graphic consequence of Roosevelt's residence in the Bad Lands and of his western montane excursions was the publication of three books: Hunting Trips of a Ranchman (1886), Ranch Life and the Hunting Trail (1889), and The Wilderness Hunter (1890). These books, each rightfully a classic in nineteenth century western exploration, reported not only on TR's hunting exploits, but also on his multitudinous observations on the western wildlife, on everything from "the shyest plant which grows," 33 as a reviewer of The Wilderness Hunter put it, to bighorn, bison, cougars, coyotes, elk and pronghorn among mammals, and sage grouse, Missouri skylarks (Sprague's pipits), American dippers (water ouels), Lewis's woodpeckers and Clark's nutcrackers among birds.

It was in The Wilderness Hunter that Roosevelt displayed his familiarity with Lewis' woodpecker and Clark's nutcracker. His descriptions, word for word, follow here-with:

Two of the most striking and characteristic birds to be seen by him who hunts and camps among the pine-clad and spruce-clad slopes of the northern Rockies are a small crow and a rather large woodpecker. The former is called Clarke's crow 34 in the latter Lewis' woodpecker. Their names commemorate their discoverers, the explorers Lewis and Clarke, the first white men who crossed the United States to the Pacific.

These birds are nearly of a size, being about as large as flickers. The Clarke's crow, an ash-colored bird with black wings and white tail and forehead, is as common as it is characteristic, and is sure to attract attention. It is as knowing as the rest of its race, and very noisy and active. It flies sometimes in a straight line, with regular wing-beats, sometimes in a succession of loops like a woodpecker, and often lights on rough bark or a dead stump in an attitude like the latter; and it is very fond of scrambling and clinging, often head downwards, among the outermost cones on the top of a pine, chattering loudly all the while. One of the most noticeable features of its flight is the hollowc beating sound of the wings. It is restless and fond of company, going by preference in small parties. These little parties often indulge in regular plays, assembling in some tall tree-top and sitting round and round it, in noisy pursuit of one another, fighting continually among the branches.

The Lewis' woodpecker, a handsome, dark-green bird, with white breast and red body, is much rarer, quite as shy, and generally less noisy and conspicuous. Its flight is usually strong and steady, like a jay's, and it perches upright among the twigs, or takes short flights after passing insects, as often as it scrambles over the twigs in the ordinary woodpecker fashion. Like its companion, the Clark's crow, it is ordinarily a bird of the high tree-tops, and around these it indulges in curious aerial games, again like those of the little crow. It is fond of going in troops, and such a troop frequently chooses some tall pines and sits round and round about in irregular spirals. 35

Those individuals familiar with Theodore Roosevelt's industry as a boy naturalist, his book on natural history as a Harvard student, and his announced resolve, at one time, "to be a scientific man of the Audubon, or Wilson, or Baird, or Coues type," 36 are doubtless not at all surprised with the observational competence he exhibits in the above descriptions. More to the point, Theodore Roosevelt, because of his extensive western travels, is the only President of the United States who, if living, could lay claim to the distinction of ever having identified and described Lewis' woodpecker and Clark's nutcracker.

-10-

REUBEN GOLD THWAITES (1886-1913) — During Nicholas Biddle's wearisome labors attending his paraphrase, he had had ready access to the priceless manuscript journals of Lewis and Clark. 37 However, soon after he had finished with them, they unaccountably disappeared; and, strangely, not even the best-informed historians had recollection of Nicholas Biddle, in 1814, having deposited them with the Philosophical Society where they had occupied shelf-space, virtually unexposed and untouched, for three-quarters of a century — until 1892, when resurrected through the initiative of Elliott Coues.

More years passed, and it was not until 1901, eight years after the publication of Biddle-Coues, that the American Philosophical Society approved plans to publish these original, holographic journals of Lewis and Clark. The Society then interested the New York City publishing house of Dodd, Mead and Company in this bold and long-delayed undertaking, and the latter presently engaged Reuben Gold Thwaites to edit them.

Thwaites, a Bostonian by birth, possessed the needed credentials. He held degrees from Wisconsin and Yale, had served 1876-1886 as editor of the Wisconsin State Journal, and, when chosen by Dodd, Mead, had had in hand a re-issue of Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents. Also, he had recently been named head of The State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, edited by Reuben Gold Thwaites, came from the press in 1904-1905. The importance of this edition, one of eighteen or more, quickly drew extravagant praise from reviewers. For one thing, it contained not only the journals of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, but also those of Sergeant Charles Floyd and Private Joseph Whitehouse 38.

33. Philadelphia Telegram, July 26, 1893.
34. TR's source of information for "Clarke's crow" was Elliott Coues Birds of the Northwest, a copy of which he carried with him on all of his trips into the Rockies. See Roosevelt, Hunting Trips of a Ranchman, New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons (1886), 12. The misprinting of William Clark's surname (with an e) began early. Both Thomas Jefferson and Nicholas Biddle, on occasion, were guilty, and the error was Audubon. Eventually Elliott Coues set the matter straight. See Biddle-Coues, I, vii.
37. In addition to the manuscript journals of both Lewis and Clark, Biddle had also available to him that of Sgt. John Ordway and the David M'Keehan paraphrase of Sgt. Patrick Gass' journal.
38. By this date, Sgt. Ordway's journal was missing, would not be rescued until 1935, when grandchildren of Nicholas Biddle, Charles and Edward Biddle, chanced upon it while searching through a miscellany of papers which their grandfather had accumulated.
and, additionally, numerous maps, letters, and other collateral documents, all previously unpublished. For another thing, it was published verbatim ac litteratim, with an almost total absence by Thwaites of corrected spelling, punctuation or sentence structure. Most important, this edition included the vast amount of Lewis and Clark's scientific data — ethnological, zoological, botanical and geographical — heretofore mostly unrevealed because of Dr. Benjamin Smith Barton's untimely illness and death which had prevented its earlier publication.

In each volume of this comprehensive, monumental edition, the practiced editorial craftsmanship of Thwaites is conspicuously apparent. Innumerable instances could be mentioned, although his tedious, demanding job of reading and transcribing, as well as interpreting the multitudinous handwritten passages constituting the journals should be given priority.

In the interests of brevity and relevance to this study, I call attention again to the passages in Volume V, pages 70-76, which contain Lewis's descriptions of Lewis' woodpecker and Clark's nutcracker penned at Camp Chopunnish on the north bank of the Clearwater River in late May, 1806 (see fn. 4, ante), more than 175 years ago, when our country was in its infancy, its flag carried but 13 stars, and its President was a Virginia farmer, inventor, author, palentologist and naturalist named Thomas Jefferson. These passages, perhaps as well as any others, reveal the superb handwork — annotation, transcription and indefatigable industry — of Reuben Gold Thwaites, editor.

The history of ornithology, in its modern taxonomic sense, may be said to have had its beginning in 1758, the year the famed Swedish botanist, Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778), published the tenth edition of his biologically renowned Systema Naturae, now recognized as the basic work initiating Linnaean binomial nomenclature, viz., the practice of giving two Latin names, a generic and a specific, to each described animal or plant — such as, for example, Melanerpes lewis or Nucifraga columbiana.

The number of animal and plant species technically described since 1758 runs into the hundreds of thousands. Each, of course, has its own determinative, taxonomic history and, inescapably, differs one from the other in length and substance, and in the number and stature of the contributors.

The above pages have introduced the men who, in various ways, have contributed to the histories of Lewis' woodpecker and Clark's nutcracker. As disclosed, there have been two celebrated explorers (Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark); two famed ornithologists (Alexander Wilson and Elliott Coues); two highly talented artists (Charles Willson Peale and John James Audubon); two accomplished editors (Nicholas Biddle and Reuben Gold Thwaites); an extraordinary showman (Phineas Taylor Barnum); and two versatile and illustrious Presidents of the United States (Thomas Jefferson and Theodore Roosevelt).

And now, I think, a relevant question may fairly be asked: during the long-continuing, post-Linnaean annals of Ornithology have there ever been bird life histories written, which, if the fame of the contributors is recognized, have equalled — or have even come close to equaling — those descriptive of Lewis' woodpecker and Clark's nutcracker?

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Interesting items related to the ornithology of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in Dr. E.G. "Frenchy" Chuinard's collection, are the life-size woodcarvings of Lewis's woodpecker and Clark's nutcracker. These lifelike and authentically painted carvings are the product of the craftsmanship of Foundation member Victor Eklund, Seattle, Washington, who has created other woodcarvings of birds for his own and other's collections.
The PORTAGE ROUTE CHAPTER of the (national) Foundation, Great Falls, Montana, reports a membership of thirty-three, and has been meeting monthly since its organization in early 1983. The organization has supported activities related to the celebration of the Centennial of the city of Great Falls, and is making plans for the Foundation's 16th Annual Meeting in the city, August 1984. Thirty members attended the February 27th meeting, and thirty-two were present for the March 26th meeting. Foundation Past President Bob Saindon, Helena, was the speaker at the March meeting.

April 7, 1984 was the date of the recent meeting of the STATE OF WASHINGTON LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL COMMITTEE. The meeting was held at the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's Alpowa Interpretive Center (see WPO, Vol. 7, No. 3, p. 1), near Clarkston, Washington, and at the home of Jeff and committee member Carol Wilson at Wilma Heights overlooking the Snake River. The Wilson's served luncheon for the twelve attending members and wives/husbands and their guests. Following the meeting the group caravaned to Pomeroy, Washington and a visit to committee member Bob Beale's museum.

The OREGON LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL COMMITTEE, Portland, held its regular quarterly meeting on March 17, 1984, at the Far-West Savings and Loan meeting room at King City (a Portland suburb). Several committee projects were the subject of discussion. Chairman "Frenchy" Chuiard reported that he is investigating the possibility of the committee sponsoring a Lewis and Clark Pageant at an Oregon location at some future time.

The BLUE MOUNTAIN CHAPTER, Walla Walla, Washington, of the (national) Foundation held a final meeting on April 6, 1984, at the Walla Walla Country Club. Organized in October 1977, the organization has held eighteen meetings since that date. Dr. E.G. "Frenchy" Chuiard spoke to the group. His (continued on page 27)
The Lewis and Clark Expedition was such a many­sided and significant venture that its journals offer some facet of interest for almost every avenue of scientific or cultural study. To concentrate on only one phase, as is done here with ornithology, does not deny the value of any other viewpoint. Archaeologist, anthropologist, geographer, biographer, historian, geologist, botanist, ichthyologist and enthusiasts of any other persuasion will always read the journals through their own choice of lens.

For both amateur birdwatcher and professional ornithologist the chosen lens is rose-colored indeed, for President Thomas Jefferson — who planned the project and appointed Meriwether Lewis its leader — had made special request for information on all birds seen en route, especially those unknown within current U.S. boundaries. Of course he had asked for similar reports on animals of all kinds and on all plants and minerals. But perhaps the men felt a special interest in birds because Lewis knew, and the others were surely told, that the president was an enthusiastic birdwatcher who was keeping his own list of birds seen around his home. It was also known that Jefferson had a tame mockingbird as a most cherished pet.

Lewis was the official naturalist, as Clark was the cartographer, surveyor, and principal illustrator for the journals, but both had birds very much in mind as the Expedition started up the Missouri in the spring of 1804 after their winter camp-out at Wood River (present Illinois), 14 miles north of St. Louis. Bird names commemorating species seen or heard would soon be plentiful on the map that marked their route: Nightingale Creek on June 4; Blackbird Creek on June 19; Pelican Island on August 3; Corvus Creek on September 16; Teal Creek on October 4; White Brant Creek on October 5; and Grouse Island on October 7. Farther north and west would come namesakes lakes, creeks, islands and rapids for goose and gosling, swan, lark, pelican, chinook, crow and brant. At the end of the first winter at Fort Mandan (near present-day Washburn, North Dakota), when some of the party returned to St. Louis with specimens and memorabilia for forwarding to Washington as planned, captive live birds — a prairie-chicken and four magpies — were among the gifts for President Jefferson. The magpie, so well known in the Old World lore and legend, had not then been seen in North America except by a few explorers in the far north (around Hudson Bay and in present-day Alaska) and their abundance on both sides of the Rockies would be noted in the journals time and again. As for the chicken-like prairie bird, it would eventually be identified as sub-specific with the bird known to New Englanders as heath hen, heath cock and to others as pinnated grouse and other labels.

All members of the party kept at least an occasional eye out for birds. Clark's Negro servant York reported a game bird of "scarlet" plumage — probably a ruffed grouse of red-brown color phase instead of the familiar and more common gray-brown. Even Lewis's dog Scannon came in for an occasional credit line when, as Lewis notes on July 21, 1805, when geese were abundant: "My dog caught several today as he frequently does." At journey's end there were various preserved bird skins of species unknown to Lewis — and some unknown to science — for further proof that Jefferson's request for bird study had been well fulfilled. There would also be lengthy notes on appearance and behavior of birds in the journals — and sometimes pictures of unusual features. Clark's sketch of the head of the bird they called "pied brant" (Fig. 1) quickly identifies it as the white-fronted goose, for instance, and another of a "white gull" with an odd beak proves it to be the northern fulmar (Fig. 2).

As a follower of the Lewis and Clark saga you can enhance your own savoring of their achievements by getting to know at least some of the birds reported. Whether your search is made along the historic trail itself or in your own backyard or any other favorite birding spot or even in the picture pages of a book, you can still share something of the trail aura. After all, any species you see and identify for the first time is a personal discovery, and each one — new or familiar — still has the same distinctive plumage, the same notes and actions and other clues that primarily Lewis, but occasionally Clark, scanned with eager eyes. As you find each one and try to check each identifying clue, you cannot help but know much of the same challenge, the same success — or frustrations — that kept Lewis and Clark birdwatchers to the end.

The journals identify 134 species of birds with reasonable certainty (see "Summary listing on page 23") by name for familiar species, and for others with some guess at family likeness and whatever distinguishing detail could be noted. Whenever possible, the bird was shot for close scrutiny to yield measurements of beak, feet, wingspan, body length, a count of tail or wing feathers and description of every marking. Shooting a bird for study is outlawed by today's code unless a special permit is obtained for good reasons. But it was common practice then and necessary for identification until the 20th Century brought good binoculars and accurate bird guides with full-color illustrations in general use. Lewis and Clark — like Alexander Wilson and Audubon and every other 19th Century birder — were expected to make their descriptions with dead bird in hand. There was no other way to be certain.

"We could not kill it ... therefore I cannot describe it more particularly ..." Clark wrote on August 25, 1804, as he told of a puzzling heron-like bird with "... a colour on the back and wings deep copper brown with a shade of red ..." (continued on page 18)

1. See editor's note in box on facing page.
3. Ibid., II:255.
4. Ibid., VI:128.
Of course many of the birds shot for study were also used as welcome food. And sometimes hunger may have taken precedence over the needs of science, for on one October night along the Columbia River Clark knew only one word to describe a nameless duck—"delicious"!9

Most of the time, however, descriptions and measurements were carefully taken and recorded and a name of some sort added. Lewis had brought along several reference books on natural history to aid in finding a proper name, but in those years many American birds had never been identified in any printed text. At least 25 of the birds cited in the journals were such unknowns, discoveries made along the trail (see "Summary" beginning on page 23). Several others might have been discoveries also—the hummingbirds, for instance—but were not described clearly enough for certain identification. A dozen or so more were well known by some folk name but had not yet been published with the proper classification by Latin binomial required for discovery credit by international rules in force since the beginning of this century. Such official dates, and the name of the original classifier, are recorded in The American Ornithologist's Union Check-list, the final authority on bird nomenclature in North America. It is the text to follow in determining which of the birds chronicled in the journal gave Lewis and Clark discovery honors.

The A.O.U. Check-list gives the official common name for each species as well as its scientific label, but do not

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5. Ibid., III: 140.

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**Head of a Brant, by Clark**

[Fig. 1]. There is a third species of brant in the neighborhood of this place [Fort Clatsop] which is about the size and much in the form of the pined brant, they weigh about 8½ lbs, the wings are not as long or as pointed as those of the common pined brant. the following [Clark's sketch reproduced above] is a likeness of it's head and beak; a little distance around the base of the beak is white and is suddenly succeeded by a narrow line of dark brown, the balance of the neck, head, wings, and tail all except the tips of the feathers are of a bluish brown of the common goose... .

Lewis's journal for March 15, 1806 (Thwaites, IV: 170)

Clark's journal for the same date, obviously copied from Lewis, (Thwaites, IV: 172)

Author's note: The white front (forehead) in Clark's sketch of the bird described by Lewis, which he listed as "pined brant," clearly identifies the white-fronted goose.

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**Head of a Gull, by Clark**

[Fig. 2]. A White Gull about the size of the second [described as somewhat larger than a pigeon] with a remarkable beak; adjoining the head and on the base of the upper chap there is an elevated orning [awning] of the same substance with the beak which forms the nostrils at A; it is somewhat in this form the feet are webbed and the legs and feet of a yellow colour... .

Lewis's journal for March 6, 1806 (Thwaites, IV: 140)

Clark's journal for March 6, 1806 (Thwaites, IV: 140)

Author's note: Both the sketch and the description, particularly the beak, identify this "white Gull" of the journals as the northern fulmar.
expect to find such names used in the journals for every species. Much of the time Lewis did not even use the official common names found in books of his own day. Usually the folk names learned in Virginia boyhood or in later years affield came more readily to mind than book names. So in the journals you will read of log cock, calumet bird, lark woodpecker, butterbox, buffalo-peak-
er, raven, and epithets not usually in today’s bird books. You will also find that birds are often tagged with family names — flycatcher, crane, pheas-
ant, brant, plover — that are not correct by today’s classification.

All in all, even an experienced ornithologist is likely to be confused in trying to match his own bird lore with journal records. Editions of the journals and the narratives based on the original journals have tried to remedy this with footnotes, but only recent notation will have the official names of the 1983 edition of the Checklist, or even the previous 1957 edition. Therefore, accompanying this account (pages 00-00) is a “Glossary” which lists journal bird names alphabetically and matches each one with current nomenclature and other pertinent information.

Even using this “Glossary” as a key, the number of species you can match on a Lewis-and-Clark memorial bird walk is uncertain. The total depends on how long and how patiently you look and whether you make your search in the places where the birds are most likely to be found. Many of them are seen only near the Rocky Mountains, or only west of the Mississippi River, and will be as new to today’s easterners as they were to Lewis and Clark. However, only two species are extinct, not to be seen at all — the passenger pigeon and the Carolina parakeet. Two more — whooping crane and California condor (Fig. 3) — are so reduced in numbers that they can be found only in limited locales. A few others are seldom seen, but many are abundant, even as backyard neighbors, and can probably be located fairly easily with help from recent bird guides and local Audubon Societies. But be sure to use the modern name from the “Glossary”, not the journals, or you may really be in difficulties.

The very first bird named in the journals and in the 1814 Biddle/Allen narrative, or paraphrase based on the journals, and in its many reprints is just such a case. On June 4, 1804, when the party was only three weeks up the Missouri, they stopped for the night beside a small stream. Just as they were settling down to sleep, they heard a lilting ripple of bird song, and the same estatic outburst came again and again all through the night. “... Nightingale...” Lewis told himself and probably discussed his identification with Clark. The next day Clark added in his journal that “... a small creek...”, the one that they passed the previous day and near to their night camp... “... we named Nightingale Creek from a Bird of that description which Sang for us all last night, is the first of the Kinder I ever heard...” If cartographer Clark indicated this on one of his sketch maps, that map is not extant. A close scrutiny of his maps indicates several creeks in this vicinity, but not one is so labeled.

Probably no one in the party even thought of doubting Lewis’s judgement or opinion, but of course any knowl-
edgable birder today knows that the nightingale is not native to North America and has ever been established as a permanent resident in spite of various attempts. The nightingale, however, had so many roles in Old World legends that even people who had never seen one felt as if they knew this fabulous songster. Early explorers and settlers from Europe — from Columbus on — assumed that any American bird singing by night — or even with melodious daytime carol — just had to be a nightingale. The mockingbird was most often the misnamed singer by moonlight, but the cardinal — usually a daytime vocalist — was commonly called Virginia nightingale. Lewis himself used that term in the journals. However, since the nighttime serenade along the Missouri was not familiar, the singer was certainly not a cardinal and probably not a mockingbird — unless it was an individual given to especially virtuoso performance. Many birds sing a phrase or two at night, especially if suddenly awakened, and this songster could have been a hermit thrush, well known for its lilting refrain. But only a mockingbird habitually “sings all night” so perhaps once again it was enrolled by nightingale misnomer. At any rate, don’t look for nightingales.

And don’t look for pheasants, either, although the journals mention seeing them a good 26 times and eating them, too. Pheasants are Asian natives, unknown in North American wilds until the 1860s, but brought to southern Europe by the ancient Greeks and into northern Europe by Roman conquerors. In Europe they (continued on page 20)

7. Ibid., V:111, “virginia nitngale [sic].

Head of a Vulture [Condor], by Clark

[Fig. 3] I believe this to be the largest Bird of North America. It [the specimen] was not in good order and yet it wayed 25 lbs. had it have been so it might very well have weighing 10 lb. more or 35 lbs. between the extremities of the wings it measured 9 feet 2 inches; from the extremity of the beak to that of the tail 3 feet 9 inches and a half... Girth of neck 7½ inches... the diameter of the eye ½/10ths of an inch, the iris a pale scarlet red, the puple of a deep sea green or black and occupies about one third of the diameter of the eye, the head and part of the neck as low as the figures 1, 2, [on the sketch] is covered with feathers except that portion of it represented by dots for ward and under the eye... we did not meet this bird until we had descended the Columbia below the great falls [Celilo Falls, now inundated, near present-day, The Dalles, Oregon] and have found them more abundant below tide water...

Clark’s journal for February 16, 1806 (Thwaites, IV: 79-80)

Author’s note: Lewis in his journal for January 5, 1806, wrote: “… the beautiful Buzzard of the Columbia still continue with us.” The bird of Clark’s sketch is now known as the California condor.
began half-tame game birds on private estates, so that only wealthy landowners—and a few poachers—ever got a good look. Most of the early colonists in North America knew little of pheasants except that they were large and brown-feathered and of supposedly delicious taste. When they saw a strange American bird of that description, they dubbed it a pheasant—and kept on calling it a pheasant even after more careful folk had labeled it a ruffed grouse. Lewis and Clark, like most Virginians, continued to use the pheasant misnomer, reserving “grouse” for smaller chicken-like birds such as the one most New Englanders called the heath hen.

The ruffed grouse they had known since boyhood and Virginians, continued to use the pheasant misnomer, ant and identified in the vicinity. But the scene for taking their first magpie.

Clark wrote: “...as a bird of the Corvus species...” Lewis identifies it as “...as a bird of the Corvus genus and order of the pica...” Actually pica was the name of the species, not the order, an error Lewis might not have made if he had been in a quiet office and not on the trail. However, all the references to the magpie as “party-colored corvus” and his obvious pleasure at his discovery indicate that the magpie was the real namesake for Corvus Creek.

Instead of trying to see all the birds of journal citations, some who make memorial birdwalks may choose to search only at one of the places where birds were most frequently mentioned: Fort Mandan in North Dakota; “Traveler's Rest” in Montana; Beacon Rock in Washington State; Fort Clatsop, Oregon; and Sauvie Island in Oregon and Washington. It was at this latter location that Clark wrote: “opposite to our camp on a Small Sandy Island the brant & geese make such a noise that it will be impossible for me to sleep...” In the journals written at Fort Clatsop,12 in the entries for January 1 to March 15, 1806, are listings and descriptions of all of the birds they had seen west of the Rocky Mountains on the outbound journey.13

In addition to such a favorite watch-post, you will want to look elsewhere if need be for the two namesake species—Lewis's woodpecker, enrolled in the journals as black woodpecker, first seen on July 20, 1805, near the present site of Helena, Montana;14 and Clark's nutcracker, named in the journals as black-winged corvus (and also once in error as a woodpecker and first recorded in print as Clark’s crow) first seen along the Lemhi River in east-central Idaho, August 22, 1805,15 and further described on May 28 and 29, 1806.16 Another famous trail-first is the western tanager, discovered June 6, 1806,17 as the party was homeward bound through Idaho and identified only by size and color until Alexander Wilson in Philadelphia saw the preserved skin and recognized it as a tanager—tagged Louisiana tanager, because the Expedition had set out to explore the land acquired by the Louisiana Purchase. Louisiana, Latinized to ludoviciana, is still part of the scientific label, much to the confusion of those not aware of the reason for the nomenclature.

These three birds can be looked for afield and also in the famous color portrait by Alexander Wilson, who pictured them together for his American Ornithology of 1811—the first book to publish pictures and descriptions of Expedition birds. Wilson also painted the one magpie from Fort Mandan that reached the White House alive and was then sent to Peale's Museum in Philadelphia. He also talked at length with both Lewis and Clark about other birds seen along the routes of the exploring party.

The birds he painted were, he wrote, “...but a small part of the valuable collection of new subjects in natural history discovered and preserved, amidst a thousand dangers and difficulties, by those two enterprising travellers, whose intrepidity was only equalled by their discretion, and by their active and laborious pursuit of whatever might tend to render their journal useful to science and to their country.”18

Wilson reported seeing several skins of Lewis's woodpecker, three of the tanager, but only one of Clark's namesake. He was required to hand over all of the skins to Peale's museum after he had made his sketches, and did so. But he deeply resented not being allowed to sketch and study all of the bird skins brought back by

12. The Expedition's winter establishment in Clatsop County, Oregon, about four and one-half miles southwest of present-day Astoria, Oregon.


15. Ibid., III:15-16.

16. Ibid., V:75-76, 82-83.

17. Ibid., V:111-112.


Alexander Wilson (1786-1813) was born in Paisley, Scotland, where he later applied to be a poet, but was an apprenticed weaver. In 1794, he emigrated to the United States and was employed as a schoolmaster before setting out on his project to describe and portray North American birds and the development of his American Ornithology.
the Expedition. Evidently some for which there was only one skin in good condition were kept by artist and museum owner Charles Willson Peale to sketch for the American Philosophical Society which had hoped to sponsor a special volume on the natural history of the Expedition — a volume that for various reasons was never completed or published. All the original skins vanished, but the Society still has Peale’s portraits of Lewis’s woodpecker, the tanager and the mountain quail — this last species was not published and classified until David Douglas wrote up his records in 1829. Wilson was also denied access to swan skins, for the whistling swan would be classified by George Ord in 1815 and the trumpeter swan later still.

The whistling swan especially belongs on any memorial list, for it is the only bird to go on official record by the name Lewis himself coined on journal pages. Swans were not really “discoveries” on the trail, for Lewis and Clark — perhaps every member of the party — had seen wintering swans in the eastern states. They saw them again at the exploring party’s Wood River (Illinois) winter establishment a few miles north of St. Louis, again at their Fort Mandan (North Dakota), and in present-day Montana. But like everyone else in those days they mistook the American swan for the wild species known in Europe as the trumpeter swan. The journals give “swan” no further label. Then in the autumn, October 29, 1805, along the Columbia River, Lewis realized for the first time that he was seeing swans of two different sizes. Later he noted that the larger one had a huskier voice, while the smaller began “… with a kind of whistling sound and terminates on a round full note which is rather louder than the whistling … from the peculiar whistling of the note of this bird I have called it the whistling swan.”

Actually, the larger swan was the unknown western native, while the smaller whistler was the familiar species also seen in the east. But for some reason — perhaps because the swan always seemed such a big bird — Lewis mistook the larger swan for the familiar one. He made no attempt to give it further naming and it would not acquire its present official name of trumpeter until 1831. Lewis’s choice of whistling swan would remain official until mid-1982 (and the publication of the 6th edition A.O.U. Check-list in 1983) when the Union committee on nomenclature voted to combine this species with the seldom-seen Bewick’s swan (mostly of European habitat) and enroll the two together as tundra swan, Cygnus columbianus. The choice is unfortunate for “tundra” does not distinguish this species from any other, since all swans nest on tundra, while the old names “whistling” and “trumpeter” for the American species were “ Hospes” and “mute” for the Europeans indicated a difference in voice.

Also, the change deprives Meriwether Lewis of a very fitting tribute, and there are many ornithologists and historians who would like to see the A.O.U. reverse this decision. Accordingly, the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. submitted a resolution, prepared at its 15th Annual Meeting, Pasco, Washington, to the A.O.U. on August 10, 1983, asking that this action be taken, but was told that the change was doubtful. At least the specific label columbianus is a reminder of where Lewis’s discovery took place, and the A.O.U. Check-list, 1983 edition, retains the statement that identification is based on the notes (Lewis’s journal) of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

No other reference to the Expedition is made in the Check-list, even for the Lewis and Clark namesakes, since such information is outside standard procedure. So it is only by checking the journals and notes that a full list of ornithological discovery credits can be made. Although official credit for scientific description and labeling would go to others better qualified, Lewis and Clark and their companions were the real discoverers of these 25 species: western grebe, tundra (whistling) swan, trumpeter swan, black brant, cackling goose, cinnamon teal, ring-necked duck, black shouldered kite, blue grouse, sage grouse (Fig. 4) mountain quail, semipalmated plover, mountain plover, long-billed curlew, Bonaparte’s gull, least tern, common poorwill (and its ability to become dormant), Lewis’s woodpecker, pinion jay, Clark’s nutcracker, northwestern crow, Sprague’s pipit, western tanager, McCown’s longspur, and western meadowlark. Two of the above, black brant and cackling goose, now are counted subspecies, but descriptions rate discovery status.

Several other birds documented in the journals and other records might be counted as discoveries if descriptions had been more complete. These include: red-necked grebe, several sandpipers and gulls, black-chinned hummingbird, broad-tailed hummingbird, Hammond’s flycatcher, Say’s phoebe, hermit thrush, and Brewer’s blackbird.

Several birds seen on the trail but not yet on official lists were already familiar by some common name to many besides Lewis and Clark. These include: American crow, cedar waxwing, double-crested cormorant, canvasback, etc. In spite of later dates for entry on official lists, they cannot be counted as Expedition discoveries. Even the true discoveries were not counted unless there was a preserved skin or live bird to prove actual sighting.

John James Audubon, always a leader in bird portraiture, did not come to fame in time to receive Expedition bird skins for first classification. He well knew the

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(continued on page 22)
length of the Missouri in 1843, birding all the way. There he heard the song of the western meadowlark—which no one had yet classified as a separate species in spite of Lewis's June 22, 1805 journal entry. Audubon used the specific label _neglecta_ because it had been so long overlooked. He also classified the common plover will that Clark caught and mentioned in his journal on October 17, 1804, and the western gull, which may or may not have been one of the "grey" gulls mentioned in the journals. Lewis and Clark, unfortunately, were not trained in classification techniques and had left scientific publication of their trophies to others. They had gone up the river and over the mountains to the far west ocean shores to see what they could see, recount what they saw, and it is enough that their journals have given us treasure-trove reading for all time.

27. Thwaites, _op. cit.,_ II:180.
28. Ibid., I:197.

Catalogue Describes Microfiche Project
At Academy of Natural Sciences

James A. Mears, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, has advised _We Proceeded On_ that a project of producing an index and microfiche edition of the historical specimens at the Academy has been completed and is presently being marketed by Meckler Publications of New York City. Dr. Mears functioned as a technical consultant for the project.

The whole microfiche and index for the Academy types and historical collections is a mammoth work consisting of more than 40,000 entries, and this sells for about $4000. Dr. Mears, however, points out that the part of the collection related to the _Lewis and Clark Herbarium_ occupies only a few microfiche cards and should be well within the budget range of individual members or institutions with special interest in Lewis and Clark Expedition memorabilia.

The Meckler Company will provide interested members with a catalogue (at no charge) describing and listing available segments of the microfiche edition and their costs. You may request this from Meckler Publications, 654 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10021. Identify yourself as a member of the Foundation.

If your local library has microfiche reading equipment and would be interested in having the Meckler catalogue, Dr. Mears suggests that you request that a catalogue be sent to them. He points out that the major libraries throughout the country have probably received the catalogue, but smaller libraries may not know of the availability of the edition, or that separate segments of the edition are available and may be purchased at nominal costs.

1. Dr. Mears addressed members of the Foundation during the visit to the Academy which was an event for the Foundation's 14th Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, August 1982.
Summary of Birds Seen by Lewis and Clark
Compiled by Virginia C. Holmgren

The birds seen on the Expedition and listed alphabetically in the “Glossary” (see page 28) are listed below by scientific order and numbered for a total of 134 species or well described subspecies. Each is identified by Latin binomial (trimomial for subspecies), surname of original classifier, and year of publication.

* Denotes eleven species not classified by 1806, but nevertheless well known by some common name.
** Denotes nine unclassified species that might have been counted as Lewis and Clark Trail discoveries if better classified.
*** Denotes the twenty-five species that are sufficiently described to rate discovery status, even though their first publication would be by others. When a description fits more than one species, but only one was seen at the time, the alternate name is indented and not numbered. Former full species, now subspecies, but clearly identified, are indented and numbered. Many birds seen were mentioned only by group name — plover, sparrow, etc. — and have not been counted in the 134 total. All nomenclature and dates are from The American Ornithologists’ Checklist, 6th edition, 1983, except subspecies from 5th edition.

ORDER GAVIIFORMES

1. Red-throated loon, Gavia stellata, Pontoppidan 1763 and/or
2. Arctic loon, Gavia arctica, Linnaeus 1758.
3. Common loon, Gavia immer, Briinnich 1764

ORDER PODICIPEDIFORMES

4. Pied-Billed grebe, Podilymbus podiceps, L. 1758
5. Horned grebe, Podiceps auritus, L. 1758, or red-necked grebe, Podiceps grisegena, Boddaert 1783
***6. Western grebe, Aechmophorus occidentalis, Lawrence 1858

ORDER PROCELLARIFORMES

7. Northern fulmar, Fulmarus glacialis, L. 1761

ORDER PELECANIFORMES

8. American white pelican, Pelecanus erythrorhynchos, Gmelin 1789
*9. Double-crested cormorant, Phalacrocorax auritus, Lesson 1831

ORDER CICONIIFORMES

*10. American bittern, Botaurus lentiginosus, Rackett 1813 or black-crowned night-heron, Nycticorax nycticorax L. 1758

ORDER ANSERIFORMES

***14. Tundra (whistling) swan, Cygnus columbianus, Ord 1815
***15. Trumpeter swan, Cygnus buccinator, Richardson 1832
16. Greater white-fronted goose, Anser albifrons, Scopoli 1769
17. Snow goose, Chen caerulescens hyperborea, Pallas 1769
18. Blue goose, Chen caerulescens caerulescens, L. 1758
19. Brant, Branta bernicla bernicla, L. 1758
***20. Black brant, Branta bernicla nigricans, Lawrence 1846
21. Canada goose, Branta canadensis canadensis, L. 1758
***22. Cackling goose, Branta canadensis minima, 1885 or other smaller subspecies
23. Wood duck, Aix sponsa, L. 1758
24. Mallard, Anas platyrhynchos, L. 1758
25. Blue-winged teal, Anas discors, L. 1758
26. Northern shoveler, Anas clypeata, L. 1758
***27. Cinnamon teal, Anas cyanoptera, Vieillot 1816
*28. Canvasback, Aythya valisineria, Wilson 1814
***29. Ring-necked duck, Aythya collaris, Donovan 1809
30. Bufflehead, Bucephala albeola, L. 1758
31. Common merganser, Mergus merganser, L. 1758

ORDER FALCONIFORMES

32. Turkey vulture, Cathartes aura, L. 1758
33. California condor, Gymnogyps californianus, Shaw 1798
34. Osprey, Pandion haliaetus, L. 1758

(continued on page 24)

36. Bald eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, L. 1766

37. Northern harrier, *Circus cyaneus*, L. 1766

38. Cooper's hawk, *Accipiter cooperii*, Bonaparte 1828


41. Golden eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos*, L. 1758

42. American kestrel, *Falco sparverius*, L. 1758

43. Merlin, *Falco columbarius*, L. 1758

ORDER GALLIFORMES

44. Spruce grouse, *Dendragapus canadensis*, L. 1758

45. Blue grouse, *Dendragapus obscurus*, Say 1823

46. Ruffed grouse, *Bonasa umbellus*, L. 1766

47. Sage grouse, *Centrocercus urophasianus*, Bonaparte 1827


49. Sharp-tailed grouse, *Tympanuchus phasianellus*, L. 1758

50. Wild turkey, *Meleagris gallopavo*, L. 1758

51. Mountain quail, *Oreortyx pictus*, Douglas 1829

52. Yellow rail, *Coturnicops noveboracensis*, Gmelin 1789

53. American coot, *Fulica americana*, Gmelin 1789

54. Sandhill crane, *Grus canadensis*, L. 1758

55. Whooping crane, *Grus americana*, L. 1758

ORDER CHARADRIIFORMES

56. Semipalmated plover, *Charadrius semipalmatus*, Bonaparte 1825

57. Killdeer, *Charadrius vociferus*, L. 1758

58. Mountain plover, *Charadrius montanus*, Townsend 1837


60. Willet, *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*, Gmelin 1789

61. Spotted sandpiper, *Actitis macularia*, L. 1766

62. Upland sandpiper, *Bartramia longicauda*, Bechstein 1812

63. Eskimo curlew, *Numenius borealis*, Forster 1772

64. Long-billed curlew, *Numenius americanus*, Bechstein 1812

65. Pectoral sandpiper, *Calidris melanotus*, Vieillot 1819 or stilt sandpiper, *Calidris himantopus*, Bonaparte 1826


71. Least tern, *Sternula antillarum*, Lesson 1847

ORDER COLEIFORUMES

72. Mourning dove, *Zenaida macroura*, L. 1758

73. Passenger pigeon, *Ectopistes migratorius*, L. 1766

ORDER PSITTACIFORMES

74. Carolina parakeet, *Conuropsis carolinensis*, L. 1758

ORDER CUCULIFORMES

75. Yellow-billed cuckoo, *Coccyzus americanus*, L. 1758

ORDER STRIGIFORMES

76. Great horned owl, *Bubo virginianus*, Gmelin 1788

77. Great gray owl, *Strix nebulosa*, Forster 1772

78. Long-eared owl, *Asio otus*, L. 1758

ORDER CAPRIMULGIFORMES

79. Common nighthawk, *Chordeiles minor*, Forster 1771


81. Whip-poor-will, *Caprimulgus vociferus*, Wilson 1812
ORDER APODIFORMES
**82-83. (any two of the following) **black-chinned hummingbird, Archilochus alexandri, Bouchier & Mulsant 1846;
**Calliope hummingbird, Stellula calliope, Gould 1847;
**broad-tailed hummingbird, Selasphorus platycercus, Swainson, 1827; rufous hummingbird, Selasphorus rufus, Gmelin 1788.

ORDER CORACIIFORMES
84. Belted kingfisher, Ceryle alcyon, L. 1758

ORDER PICIFORMES
***85. Lewis' woodpecker, Melanerpes lewis, Wilson 1811 (Gray 1849)
86. Red-headed woodpecker, Melanerpes erythrocephalus, L. 1758
87. Yellow-bellied sapsucker, Sphyrapicus varius, L. 1766
88. Red-breasted sapsucker, Sphyrapicus ruber, Gmelin 1788
89. Downy woodpecker, Picoides pubescens, L. 1766 and/or
90. Hairy woodpecker, Picoides villosus, L. 1766
91. Northern flicker, Colaptes auratus auratus, L. 1758
92. Pileated woodpecker, Dryocopus pileatus, L. 1758

ORDER PASSERIFORMES
*93. Hammond's flycatcher, Empidonax hammondi, Xantus de Vesey 1858
**94. Say's phoebe, Sayornis saya, Bonaparte 1825
95. Eastern kingbird, Tyrannus tyrannus, L. 1758
96. Horned lark, Eremophila alpestris, L. 1758
97. Purple martin, Progne subis, L. 1758
98. Bank swallow, Riparia riparia, L. 1758
*99. Cliff swallow, Hirundo pyrrhonota, Vieillot 1817
100. Barn swallow, Hirundo rustica, L. 1758
101. Gray jay, Perisoreus canadensis, L. 1766
102. Steller's jay, Cyanocitta stelleri, Gmelin 1788
103. Blue jay, Cyanocitta cristata, L. 1758
104. Scrub jay, Aphelocoma coerulescens, Bosc 1795

***105. Pinyon jay, Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus, Wied 1841
***106. Clark's nutcracker, Nucifraga columbiana, Wilson 1811
107. Black-billed magpie, Pica pica, L. 1758
*108. American crow, Corvus brachyrhynchos, Brehm 1822
***109. Northwestern crow, Corvus caurinus, Baird 1858
110. Common raven, Corvus corax, L. 1758
*111. House wren, Troglodytes aedon, Vieillot 1808 or golden-crowned kinglet, Regulus satrapa, Lichtenstein 1823 or ruby-crowned kinglet, Regulus calendula, L. 1766
112. Winter wren, Troglodytes troglodytes, L. 1758
113. Mountain bluebird, Sialia currucoides, Beckstein 1798
**114. hermit thrush, Catharus guttatus, Pallas 1811
115. American robin, Turdus migratorius, L. 1766
116. Varied thrush, Ixoreus naevius, Gmelin 1789
117. Northern mockingbird, Mimus polyglottos, L. 1768
118. Brown thrasher, Toxostoma rufum, L. 1758
***119. Sprague's pipit, Anthus spragueii, Audubon 1844
*120. Cedar waxwing, Bombycilla cedrorum, Vieillot 1807
121. Loggerhead shrike, Lanius ludovicianus, L. 1766
***122. Western tanager, Piranga ludoviciana, Wilson 1811
123. Northern cardinal, Cardinalis cardinalis, L. 1758
124. Fox sparrow, Passerella iliaca unalascensis, Gmelin 1789
*125. Song sparrow, Melospiza melodia, Wilson 1810
***126. McCown's longspur, Calcarius mccownii, Lawrence 1851
127. Eastern meadowlark, Sturnella magna, L. 1758
***128. Western meadowlark, Sturnella neglecta, Audubon 1844
129. Rusty blackbird, Euphagus carolinus, Müller 1776, and/or

We Proceeded On, May 1984
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While putting together this special "Ornithological" issue, it occurred to the editor that he and many of our readers might better understand the strange italics and, furthermore, she volunteered to provide the discourse that follows:

Anyone who has not yet been involved with scientific classification for plants and animals may look in dismay at all the Latin labels in the "Summary" and "Glossary" included in this "Ornithological Issue" and wonder if all that Latin is necessary. Isn't just one simple American-English name enough. The answer has to be negative, for few birds — few animals of any kind or any plants — are known by just one name in English or any other language. Those that are found all across the continent — or on several continents — have usually acquired a whole ragbag of folk names over the centuries. Lewis and Clark often used more than one name for the same species, and you still hear an assortment of folk names when people from different areas get together to talk about birds. You can be sure of identity only by checking with a Latin label.

The use of Latin as an universal language goes back to the days of the Roman Empire. Any report, any document of any kind even from the farthest outpost, had to be written in Latin. All official business was conducted in Latin and provincials who hoped for promotion had to learn to speak the conqueror's language fluently. As a result, when the Roman Empire finally faded, the emerging independent countries from northern Europe to the Middle East shared Latin as a ready-made international language for the exchange of diplomacy and scholarship. The diplomats eventually relied on other tongues, but even into the 18th Century most European universities conducted classes in Latin and most scholarly texts were in that language through the 18th Century. Even when authors began writing in modern languages, they continued to use old Latin (or Latinized Greek) names for plants and animals and to coin names for newly discovered species in Latin also.

In coining new names — or applying old ones — each writer was free to follow his own choice. No central authority existed to rule that a name once published had to be kept for that species only. Also, each name usually consisted of three or four words — often five or six or even more — making them very difficult to remember. Each college professor, each director of a museum, chose these many-worded labels to suit himself, seldom agreeing with any other authority. So every time a student used a different text or studied under a new teacher, there was a new set of "right" names and classifications to learn.

In 1758, the great Swedish classifier Carl Linnaeus urged every scientist to give up this confusing hodgepodge and join him in using a universal and simplified system of classification. He had once used those long labels, too, but now had just published a new text renaming every plant and animal he knew with a two-word Latin label. Two words — a binomial — for everyone to use, he urged. Also, he asked others to adopt his own precise definitions for each step of classification.

Everyone agreed he had a great idea — but most authorities wanted the world to adopt their label and definitions, not those of Linnaeus. So it was over a century before world scientists finally met and agreed to use the Linnaean system and his binomials of 1758, plus whatever changes were required by new knowledge. So, as Linnaeus suggested, we still use the Latin term species for an individual kind of plant or animal exactly like no other. Those species which are much alike are placed together in a group called a genus — which is Latin for kind or sort — and science still uses the Latin plural genera, not genuses.

When several genera are much alike, they are now placed together in a group called a family — a term Linnaeus did not use. Several families with general likenesses are placed together in an order. Orders with some broad likeness are placed in a class, and of course each Class, Order, Family, Genus and Species is known by a Latin name.

Lucky for those who do not know Latin, each name for an order ends with the same syllables — iformes (pronounced if-formees). Each Latin family name ends with idae (pronounced id-ee). So you can tell at a glance that Gauiiformes and Strigiformes and other terms with that ending are names of orders — a very general grouping, while Gauiidae and Strigidae show the closer family relationship. The Latin names for genus and species do not have uniform endings, but the binomial — Linnaeus's famous two-word label — is always written with the name of the genus first and the name of the species second.

If two or more kinds are only slightly different — not enough for each to be a full species on its own — they are classified together as subspecies. To show the differences, each is now labeled with three words, a trinomial. The first two words of these three are exactly the same as the binomial of whatever one among them was first published with classifying description and label. It may not be the most abundant or best known — it just has to be first in public print. For its trinomial, then, the specific name is repeated. For the others there must be an added third word. For instance, the Canada goose, classified by Linnaeus in 1758, has the trinomial Branta canadensis canadensis to distinguish it from its smaller subspecies, one of which is the cackling goose, Branta canadensis minima, first published in 1886. Since both were seen on the Expedition, both appear with trinomials in the "Summary." However, it is perfectly proper to list either by the binomial if there is no special need to mark distinction.

The American Ornithologists' Union has assumed the responsibility for publishing the official data on names of North American birds. The A.O.U. Check-list enroll each species by Latin binomial and common name, adding information on order, family and genus and details of discovery site and first publication. The surname of the original classifier follows the binomial. If his original label has been changed, his name is in parentheses. There are many such changes — especially transfer to a different genus — for scientists know much more about analysis of body structure than they did a generation ago.

"Melanerpes lewis" — Those Latin Words (Binomials or Trinomials). Why Do We Need and Use Them?
The species name, however, is almost always retained, and so it becomes the word to check for identification when you are comparing the 1983 binomials used in this issue with those in an older reference. The whistling swan, for instance, has a new common name -- tundra swan -- and is in a new genus -- Cygnus instead of Olor -- but it is still species columbianus. No other member of its family (Anatidae: swans, geese, ducks) is allowed to use this name. The ex-whistler is the only columbianus in the group, whatever the new generic label may be.

Changing generic labels is not done just to trade one tongue-twisting Latin word for another. A change only follows assignment to a new genus, for the binomial is always a genus-plus-species combination. Formerly American swans were thought to be in a different genus from Eurasian species, but the new label indicates that they are all in genus Cygnus.

Lewis's woodpecker has gone through even more changes. When Wilson first labeled it in 1811, all woodpeckers were put in genus Picus, and he added the species name torquatus (ring-necked), unaware that it was already assigned to another woodpecker. Consequently, his label was not valid, and so credit for first publication goes to Gray, who classified it as Picus lewis in 1849. In 1866 Coues decided that it was different enough to be in a new genus of its own and coined the new generic label Asyndesmus (not bonded together) and so Gray's name was put in parentheses. In 1983 the A.O.U. committee on nomenclature re-examined this species and decided it really belonged in genus Melanerpes, created in 1832 to enroll the red-headed woodpecker, and so the new label is Melanerpes lewis (Gray).

You can trace all other changes in nomenclature in this same way through the entries in The Check-list. You can also find the meaning of the Latin labels in such books as Words for Birds by Edward S. Gruson (Quadrangle 1972). And the more you study this system, the more admiration you will have for Linnaeus's insistence on brevity, clarity and universal agreement.

For one little sidelight, you might like to know that Linnaeus was not stiff. He once used the name of an arch rival -- a naturalist who refused to adopt the Linnaean system -- to label a plant with a very foul odor. Also, he made mistakes. He intended to name the ruby-throated hummingbird with the specific name colibri -- the word for hummingbird in the language of the Taino Indians of the Caribbean. Somehow it turned up in print as colubris -- Latin for snake! And the error has never been corrected. There it is to this day, a consolation for editors and authors who see similar errors gremlin their way to the printed page.

Perhaps one of the best things about Latin labels is that you can take them or leave them. Skip over them if you please, but when you need them, there they are.

The editor is certain that readers will appreciate the foregoing explanation related to Latin binomial and trinomial nomenclature provided by Virginia Holmgren.

"A modest man, Lewis recognized and even exaggerated his shortcomings. One day while at Fort Clatsop he sat down to describe Douglas fir, Sicha spruce, and other great evergreen trees constituting the forest surrounding him. He began by saying, "I shall describe them as well as my slender botanical skill will enable me ..." But, as we should know by now, Lewis was blessed with capabilities often missing in naturalists, particularly an outstanding, inherent observational competence, an all-inclusive interest, and an objective, systematic, philosophical approach to understanding the natural world. Nothing refutes Lewis's self-appraisal, and deploring remarks of others, more eloquently than his own abundant writing..."

Paul Russell Cuitright, Lewis and Clark: Pioneering Naturalists, p. 398
1. Thwaites, IV:41.

**Recent Meetings**

(Con't from Page 16)

St. Louis Westerners Addressed by Director Gary Moulton

On April 20, 1984, Foundation Director Gary E. Moulton, Lincoln, Nebraska, was the speaker at a meeting of the St. Louis Westerners, who is the editor for the new edition of The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, being published by the University of Nebraska Press spoke about "Lewis and Clark -- Journals, Editors, and Editions". He also discussed the 1985, 17th Annual Meeting of the Foundation, since the St. Louis Westerners organization will be one of the local organizations involved with hosting the annual meeting activities in 1985.
A Glossary of Bird Names Cited by Lewis and Clark
Compiled by Virginia C. Holmgren

This glossary lists in alphabetical order the bird names used by Lewis and Clark in Expedition records. To aid the reader in locating a complete passage in any edition of the journals, or paraphrase based on the original journals, each bird name is followed by the date of usage — usually the first, or a later significant, entry.

*Denotes a date and a passage not in the original edition of the journals proper (Thwaites, Vols. 1-5), but in supplementary sections kept by the Captains and labeled “Zoology” and “Meteorology” (Thwaites, Vol. 6). This information has also been retained in the section titled “Remarks and Reflections” in the original 1814 Biddle/Allen narrative, or paraphrase, in the 1893 Coves annotated edition of the Biddle/Allen, in the 1902 Homeer edition of the Biddle/Allen, and in the 1961 Lippincott (paperback) edition of the Biddle/Allen. Other reprint editions of the Biddle/Allen are numerous (in two and three volume renditions), and in many of these the “Remarks and Reflections” section has been omitted or severely abridged. It should also be noted that there are references in the original journals proper that have been omitted or are incomplete in the Biddle/Allen text.2

To aid in locating descriptions and pictures of these birds in modern bird books, modern names of these species, though not used in the journals, are listed alphabetically with cross reference to journal usage. Also, in each entry the present official common name is followed by the Latin binomial required for scientific nomenclature. For the species named after a person, the last name is capitalized. The size of robin 

1. For information about the author-compiler see page 16, this issue of We Proceeded On.

2. Bibliographic information related to the sources cited:


Nicholas Biddle/Paul Allen (Editors), History of the Expedition Under the Command of Captains Lewis and Clark ..., Bradford & Inskoep, Philadelphia, 1818, two volumes.


James K. Hosmer (Editor), History of the Expedition of Captains Lewis and Clark, 1804, 65, 96, ..., A.C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, 1908, two volumes.

Nicholas Biddle/Paul Allen (Editors), The Lewis and Clark Expedition, by Meriwether Lewis, Lippincott, N.Y., 1961, paperback, three volumes. Statement on cover leads prospective purchaser to believe this to be an "Unabridged" copy of the original journals rather than the Biddle/Allen paraphrase. Suspected to be out of print.

AQUATIC BIRD (4-13-04, 8-5-04) least tern, Sterna antillarum, Lesson 1847. Well described.

AVOCET, see PLOVER, party-coloured

BAT (6-5-05*, 6-30-05) When BAT is linked with the phrase "or nighthawk" or "or goosnitzer" the species meant is the common nighthawk, Chordeiles minor, Forster 1771. When the term is LEATHER-WINGED BAT (4-16-05)* the species is a mammal, but listed by Lewis and Clark as a bird, as is done in the Bible, Leviticus 11:19.

BEE-MARTIN (5-25-05*, 6-10-05) eastern kingbird, Tyrannus tyrannus, Linnaeus 1758.

BITTERN, see HERON, brown

BLACKBIRDS (8-25-04)

Blackbird Creek (6-9-04)

large (8-8-05) common grackle, Quiscalus quiscula, L. 1758

small (6-8-05) rusty blackbird, Euphagus carolinus, Müller 1776, and/or Brewer’s blackbird, Euphagus cyanoccephala, Wagner 1829

BLUE BIRDS (no added name)

no crest (5-26-05) Briefly seen. Could not shoot for close study. Probably mountain bluebird, Sialia currucoides, Bacheinstein 1778. Lewis and Clark could not have known this western species.

size of robin (8-1-05) and actions of jay. See JAY, pinyon

size of turtledove (9-18-05) See JAY, scrub, and MAGPIE, blue

BRANT (3-7-04)*

brown (4-9-05) Branta bernicla bernicla, L. 1758. Some of the darker ones were probably black brant, Branta bernicla nigricans, Lawrence 1846, now a subspecies.

common, common pined (pied), speckled. Other names for brant.

grey (11-2-05) blue goose, Chen caerulescens caerulescens, L. 1758. Formerly a full species, now a subspecies with snow goose (white brant).

pined (pied) (3-15-06)* greater white fronted goose, Anser albifrons, Scopoli 1769. Larger, well described and pictured. See p. 18.

white with black wing tips (10-17-04) snow goose, Chen caerulescens hyberborea, Pallas 1769. See grey brant.

BUFFALO-PECKER (7-11-06) brown-headed cowbird, Molothrus ater, Boddaert 1783

BUTTERBOX (3-9-06)* bufflehead, Bucephala albeola, L. 1758. See DUCK, black-and-white

BUZZARD

common (6-5-05)* or turkey (4-9-06) turkey vulture, Cathartes aura, L. 1758

of the Columbia (10-30-05, 1-2-06) California condor, Gymnogyps californianus, Shaw 1798

CALUMET BIRD, CALUMET EAGLE (10-19-04, 4-8-05)* golden eagle, Aquila chrysaetos, L. 1758. Full-grown (3-4 yrs.) not yet in adult plumage, with tail feathers still white tipped in dark brown — not all brown as in adult — the feathers Indians chose to adorn their calumets (ceremonial pipes) (5-11/12-06)*

CANVASBACK (11-8-05) Aythya valisineria, Wilson 1814

CARDINAL, see NIGHTINGALE, Virginia

3. Hereafter Linnaeus is entered as L.
CATBIRD (6-10-05) gray catbird, Dumetella carolinensis, L. 1758. Used only for size comparison for unfamiliar species, loggerhead shrike, Lanius ludovicianus, L. 1766.

CEDAR BIRDS, CRESTED CHERRY BIRDS (11-10-04)* cedar waxwing, Bombycilla cedrorum, Vieillot 1807

COCK and/or HEN, see GROUSE, LOGCOCK, PHEAS-ANT

heath (6-5-05) Tympanuchus cupido cupido, L. 1758. Subspecific with greater prairie-chicken, Tympanuchus cupido pinnatus, Brewster 1888. A bird of Atlantic seaboard range, extinct since 1932, used here for size comparison.

Indian (6-20-04)* greater prairie-chicken, as above.

mountain (6-5-05)* alternate name for sage grouse, Centrocercus urophasianus, Bonaparte 1827, usually known in the journals as cock-of-the-plains, but also as large heath cock (6-12-05).

plains (8-20-05) sage grouse

prairie cock (10-2-04) greater prairie-chicken; large prairie cock (10-17-05) sage grouse

prairie hen with pointed tail (5-22-05) sharp-tailed grouse, Tympanuchus phasianellus, L. 1758. Formerly Pedioecetes phasianellus.

CONDOR, see BUZZARD

COOT, see DUCK, black

CORMORANT (10-20-05) double-crested cormorant, Phalacrocorax auritus, Lesson 1831

CORVUS, Latin for crow; used in journals to label any of crow genus or family.


blue-crested (5-26-05) Steller’s jay, Cyanocitta stelleri, Gmelin 1788

Corvus Creek (9-18-04) probably named for magpies first seen in this area

party-coloured (6-20-04) means “black and white”; usually used as “party-coloured corvus or magpie”. See MAGPIE.

size of kingbird (12-8-05) feeds on meat scraps. Gray jay, Perisoreus canadensis, L. 1758 Formerly Canada jay.

white-breasted (1-2-06) gray jay, as above

COWBIRD, see BUFFALO-PECKER

CRAIN, CRANE, any large crane, egret or heron.

blue (2-13-04)* great blue heron, Ardea herodias, L. 1758

brown (7-21-05) immature or smaller subspecies of sandhill crane

sandhill crane (2-29-05) Grus canadensis, L. 1758

white (8-25-04)* great egret, Casmerodius albus, L. 1758. Formerly American egret, common egret.

white with black wing tips (4-11-05) whooping crane, Grus americana L. 1758

CROW, see CORVUS

common (4-9-05)* American crow, Corvus brachyrhynchos, Brehm 1822

eating crow (9-22-05)

rain-crow (7-16-06) folk name for Old World cuckoos, transferred to American species: yellow-billed cuckoo, Coccyzus americanus L. 1758; black-billed cuckoo, Coccyzus erythropthalmus, Wilson 1811

smaller (1-2-06, 3-3-06)* northwestern crow, Corvus caurinus, Baird 1858

CUCKOO, see RAIN-CROW

CURLOO, CURLEW (4-17-05) any shorebird with long bill.

brown (6-4-05) long-billed curlew, Numenius americanus, Bechstein 1812

small (6-4-05) of snipe size with curved beak, probably Eskimo curlew, Numenius borealis, Forster 1772

DIVERS, an old term for loons or grebes

large (3-10-06)* red-necked grebe, Podiceps grisegena, Bodaert 1783, or horned grebe, Podiceps auritus L. 1758.

small (3-10-06)* pied-billed grebe, Podilymbus podiceps, L. 1758

DOVE (see TURTLEDOVE, PIGEON)

cooing (6-27-06)* Indians believed that cooing doves in springtime courtship predicted return of salmon.

DUCK

black (11-30-05) American coot, Fulica americana, Gmelin 1789. Not species now known as black duck.

black-and-white (3-10-06)* bufflehead, see BUTTER-BOX

Delicious (10-20-05) Lewis wrote (3-9-06)* of the delicious flavor of canvasbacks, but here there was no clue for identification.

fishing (red-headed) (6-21-05) common merganser, Mergus merganser, L. 1758

less than duckinmallard (3-28-06) a size clue that indicates ring-necked duck, Aythya collaris, Donovan 1820.

little brown (3-10-06)* size-and-color clues suggest blue-winged teal female, Anas discors, L. 1766 or green-winged teal female, Anas clypeata, L. 1758

ring-necked, see less than duckinmallard

summer-duck, folk name for wood duck, as below

swan-duck or swan-goose (11-5-05, 3-7-06) Folk names for western grebe, Aechmophorus occidentalis, Lawrence 1838.

uncommon (5-8-06) with wide beak. northern shoveler, Anas clypeata, L. 1758

wood-duck (6-16-04)* Aix sponsa, L. 1758

yellow-legged (4-25-05) cinnamon teal, Anas cyanoptera, Vieillot 1815, or possibly gadwall, Anas strepera, L. 1758, or northern shoveler, as above.

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DUCKANMALLARD or DUCKINMALLARD or DUCK-AUINMALLARD (1-2-06, 4-12-06)* Old name for mallard, used to distinguish wild birds from tame or female from male.

EAGLE

build (4-10-05) Haliaeetus leucocephalus, L. 1766

calumet, see CALUMET BIRD

grey (7-11-05) immature bald eagle. Birds under 4 or 5 years do not have the distinctive white head and tail of the adult, but are full-grown in size and may even mate. Through the 19th century, most writers classified them as a separate species. Easily confused with immature golden eagle.

great eagle (8-26-05) golden eagle, Aquila chrysaetos, L. 1758. See CALUMET BIRD

EGRET, see CRANE, HERON

FINCH, see LINNET

FISHER, BLUE-CRESTED, see KINGFISHER

FLICKER, see WOODPECKER, lark

FLYCATCH, Flycatcher is modern name for various small insect-eating birds; former folk name for thrushes, wrens, kinglets, phoebas, pewees.

FLYING, small flying bird that sails on air currents.

FULMAR, see white gull

FOWL, see COCK and/or HEN

prairie (6-20-04)

wild (1-16-06)

FULMAR, see white gull

GOATSUCKER (9-16-04, 6-30-05) Old European folk name for birds of the nightjar family (Caprimulgidae) based on the mistaken idea that the birds followed the goats to drink milk. Actually the birds are after insects stirred up by moving flocks.

GOLDFINCH (6-8-05) American goldfinch, Carduelis tristis, L. 1758. Formerly Spinus tristis.

GOOSE (2-4-04)*

blue, see BRANT, grey

common, (5-5-05) Canada goose, Branta canadensis, L. 1758

nest in trees (5-3-05) Canada goose, as above

smaller (5-5-05) cackling goose, Branta canadensis minima, Ridgway 1885, or other small subspecies of Canada goose

snow, see BRANT, white with black wing tips, Chen caerulescens hyperborea, Pallas 1769

swan-goose, see DUCK, swan-ducks or swan-goose

white-fronted, see BRANT, pied

GRACILE, see BLACKBIRD, large

GREBE, see DIVER, DUCK, swan-duck

GROUSE (7-26-04) used as a name for any chicken-like bird of medium size. Grouse described are:

blue (7-21-05) see PHEASANT, small brown

ruffed (9-20-05, etc.) see PHEASANT, large black and white, common

sage (6-5-05) see COCK and/or HEN, mountain, prairie, plains; also TURKEY, white

sharp-tailed (6-20-04) see COCK and/or HEN, prairie hen with pointed tail

spruce (9-20-05) see PHEASANT, small speckled

Grouse Island (10-6-04) named for abundant sharp-tailed grouse

GULLS

brown (3-6-06)* most immature gulls wear a brown mottled plumage through their second winter. These may be any of the "grey" adults below.

grey (3-6-06)* herring gull, Larus argentatus, Pontoppidan, 1763; ring-billed gull, Larus delawarensis, Ord 1815; western gull, Larus occidentalis. Audubon 1839; glaucous-winged, Larus glaucaescens, Naumann 1840; California gull, Larus californicus, Lawrence 1854.

small (3-6-06)* size of a pigeon, black on head. Probably Bonaparte's gull, Larus philadelphia, Ord 1815, but could be Forster's tern, Sterna Forsteri, Nutall 1834.

speckled (10-20-05) any immature gull, as above under "brown"

white (3-6-06)* with odd beak. Clark's sketch and description of prominent nasal tubes identify this species as the northern fulmar, Fulmarus glacialis, L. 1761, in its white phase. Not a gull, though gull-like in actions and appearance.

wings tipped in black (9-27-04) Probably herring gull or ring-billed, as under "grey".

HAWKS

black (8-12-05) and large, possibly the dark phase of rough-legged hawk, Buteo lagopus, Pontoppidan 1763. The ferruginous hawk, Buteo regalis, Gray 1844, also has a "nearly black" phase to match the description.

brown (4-8-05) a familiar species, probably female northern harrier, Circus cyaneus, L. 1766. Formerly marsh hawk.

common (4-13-05) and small, American kestrel (formerly sparrow hawk) Falco sparverius, L. 1758, or merlin (formerly pigeon hawk) Falco columbarius, L. 1758.

fishing (5-7-05) osprey, Pandion haliaetus, L. 1758

hen (3-3-06)* blue-winged. Common folk name for Cooper's hawk, Accipiter cooperii, Bonaparte 1828; used less often for northern goshawk, Accipiter gentilis, L. 1758, or sharp-shinned hawk, Accipiter striatus, Vieillot 1808. These three species prey on fowl more than other hawks, which usually prefer rodents or reptiles, but some farmers give all hawks "hen hawk" name.

nighthawk, see BAT, GOATSUCKER

red-tailed (11-30-05) Buteo jamaicensis, Gmelin 1788

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sparrow hawk, see “common” above

white-headed, small (9-19-05) black-shouldered kite, Elandus caerules, Desfontaines 1789. Formerly white-tailed kite, Elandus leucurus, Vieillot 1818, now reclassified by earlier listing.

HEATH COCK/HEN, see COCK/HEN
HEN, see COCK/HEN
HERON

blue (3-4-06)* great blue heron, Ardea herodias, L. 1758. Also called blue crane (crain) (2-13-04)*

brown (8-25-04)* probably American bittern, Botaurus lentiginosus, Rackett 1813, or immature black-crowned night-heron, Nycticorax nycticorax, L. 1758.

white (8-2-04) great egret, Casmerodius albus, L. 1758. Formerly American or common egret. Also called white crane.

HUMMINGBIRDS. Two species are almost certainly involved, since there were two sightings in quite different terrain with intervening mountains, and no single species is abundant in both areas for obvious choice. Lewis killed the first of these two (3-26-06)* and declared it the same as the ruby-throated hummingbird, Archilochus colubris, L. 1758, which he knew as the only hummingbird seen in Atlantic States. This identification was an undisputed error, because the ruby-throated is not seen in the West. At the time, only one western species had been classified — the rufous — and Lewis had probably not heard of it. Nevertheless, he did kill the first specimen seen for further identification, but not the second (6-15-06) which was a female on the nest. The sex of the first was not recorded, but it was definitely not a male rufous, which has a copper-toned coat quite unlike the emerald green of the ruby-throated male and female. Most of the other western species in either area also have green coats, and so except for ruling out the rufous male, the identity of either hummingbird can be determined only by present range and similarity to the ruby-throated. Two, of four likely species described below, were seen.

First sighting (3-26-06)* Fisher Island, north side of the Columbia River downstream from present Longview, Washington. Which of the following three?

rufous hummingbird, Selasphorus rufus, Gmelin 1788. Female only. Most abundant species in area but has rufous touches on belly and tail which could easily have been seen with dead bird in hand — but Lewis may not have known that the female ruby-throated lacks rufous coloring.

black-chinned hummingbird, Archilochus alexandr, Boucier & Mulsant, 1846. Male is eliminated by violet-black gorget instead of ruby red — unless Lewis mistook the difference for imperfection due to mounting. Female is very similar, except for lack of a notched tail — again a difference Lewis could have missed. Both male and female Calliope are smaller than the ruby-throated by ½ inch or so — another easily-missed difference.

Calliope hummingbird, Stellula calliope, Gould 1847. Male eliminated by having a red-and-white striped gorget instead of solid ruby red — unless Lewis mistook the difference for imperfection due to mounting. Very similar, except for lack of a notched tail — again a difference Lewis could have missed. Both male and female Calliope are smaller than the ruby-throated by ½ inch or so — another easily-missed difference.

Second sighting (6-15-06) in present Idaho, west of Hungry Creek on the Lolo Trail. Cited as female on nest. Which of the following four?

rufous hummingbird, as above. Not abundant here. Possible but not probable. Again, different as noted above.

black-chinned, as above. Nests in area. Almost identical with ruby-throated female except as noted above.

Calliope, as above. Nests in area. More abundant than black-chinned now. Difference by size and tail shape as noted above.

broad-tailed hummingbird, Selasphorus platycercus, Swainson 1827. Almost identical with ruby-throated except for rufous touches on tail and belly (less than rufous female). Male almost identical with ruby-throated male but was not mentioned.

JAYS

blue jay (5-26-05)* Cyanocitta cristata, L. 1758.

grey, see CORVUS, white-breasted.

jay, jaybird (5-26-05)* always refers to the blue jay, the only jay that Lewis and Clark were familiar with before going west.

pinyon, see “size of a robin” below

scrub, see “size of turtledove” below, and MAGPIE, blue.

size of robin (8-1-05) acts like a jay, pinyon jay, Gymnorhinus cyanopephalus, Wied 1841. Voice well described.

size of turtledove (9-18-05) and of the vulture kind — meaning an eater of carrion or flesh. No crest. Scrub jay, Aphelocoma coerulescens, Bose 1796. See MAGPIE, blue.

KESTREL, see HAWK, common and small

KILLDEE, KILLDEER (4-8-05)* killdeer, Charadrius vociferus, L. 1758.

small (6-20-04) semipalmated plover, Charadrius semipalmatus, Bonaparte 1825.

KINGBIRD, see BEE-MARTIN

KINGFISHER (5-7-05) belted kingfisher, Ceryle alcyon, L. 1758. Formerly Megaceryle alcyon.

KINGLET, see FLYCATCHER, WREN

KITE, see HAWK, white-headed and small

KOOSKOOSKEE RIVER BIRD (6-6-06) western meadowlark, Sturnella neglecta, Audubon 1844.

old-field lark (6-22-05) eastern meadowlark, Sturnella magna, L. 1758. Like old-field lark but different song, western meadowlark, Sturnella neglecta, Audubon 1844.

prairie larks (4-16-06)* horned lark, Eremophila alpestris, L. 1758.

short-tailed (8-25-04) size of partridge. Probably the yellow rail, Coturnicops noveboracensis, Gmelin 1789.

singing (3-5-06)* “little singing lark of the Missouri” not seen here. Probaby Sprague’s pipit, Anthus spraguei, Audubon 1844, often called Missouri skylark.

small (6-4-05) McCown’s longspur, Calcarius mccownii, Lawrence 1851. Formerly Rhynchophanes mccownii.

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LAYCOCK, misread or misprinted for LOGCOCK

LINNET (6-8-05) Name for a European species not seen in North America. Used for any small bird with red crown, especially common redpoll, Caruelsis flammea, L. 1758; purple finch, Carpodacus piperae, Gmelin 1768; house finch, Carpodacus mexicanus, Müller 1776.

LOGCOCK (6-15-06) folk name for piliated woodpecker, Dryocopus pileatus, L. 1758

LONGSPUR, see LARKS, small

LOONS larger (2-7-06)* and speckled, seen on all rivers. Common loon, Gavia immer, Brünnich 1764.

smaller, seen only on the Columbia River and Pacific Coast. May be red-throated loon, Gavia stellata, Pontoppidan 1763, or Arctic loon, Gavia arctica, L. 1758. Both are smaller than common loon by 6-7 inches. Description fits winter plumage of both, but especially Arctic loon.

MAGPIE, MAGPY, MAGPYE (9-17-04) black-billed magpie, Pica pica, L. 1758. Since the presence of this European species in the United States was unknown to Lewis, he sent back four living birds to President Jefferson from Fort Mandan (4-4-05) only one of which arrived alive to be painted by Alexander Wilson for his American Ornithology.

MALLARD (10-6-04)* Anas platyrynchos, L. 1758. See DUCKMANMALLARD or DUCKINMALLARD

MARTIN (4-4-06) English name for swallows (except harm swallow) and similar insect-eaters. See BEE-MARTIN. Probably coined from Mars, Roman god of war, because these birds are especially warlike in defending nest and territory and on migration gather in huge flocks, like armies.

bank (3-27-06)* bank swallow, Riparia riparia, L. 1758

black (5-4-05) purple martin, Progne subis, L. 1758

brown (5-25-04) bank swallow, as above

common (4-4-06) purple martin, as above. Usually species meant if only “martin” is used.

martin that builds globular mud nest (5-31-05) cliff swallow, Hirundo pyrrhronota, Vieillot 1817. Formerly Petrochelidon pyrrhonota.

MEADOWLARK, see LARKS

MERLIN, see HAWK, common small

MOKINGBIRD (5-18-05)* see NIGHTINGALE, THRASHER, THRUSH, brown

NIGHTHAWK (6-5-05) see BAT, GOATSUCKER

NIGHTINGALE (6-4-04) Some bird sang by night on this date, but it was not the nightingale, a species not native to North America. The mockingbird, Mimus polyglottos, L. 1758, is the American species most often miscalled nightingale, but a hermit thrush, Catharus guttatus, Fallas 1811, formerly in genus Hylocichla, could be the namesake for Nightingale Creek.

Virginia nightingale (6-6-06) a common folk name for the northern cardinal, Cardinalis cardinalis, L. 1758 (formerly richmondena cardinalis)

NUTCRACKER, see CORVUS, black-winged

OSPREY, see HAWK, fishing

OWLs ear-like feathers (5-20-05) long-eared owl, Asio otus, L. 1758

hooting (4-14-05) great horned owl, Bubo virginianus, Gmelin 1788

iron grey (5-29-06) no long ear tufts, great gray owl, Strix nebulosa, Forster 1772

PARROT QUEETS (6-26-04) Carolina parakeet, Conuropsis carolinensis, L. 1758. Once abundant in east, now extinct — probably since 1913.

PARTRIDGE (4-7-06) An English name mistakenly applied to American birds, especially the bobwhite (quail). See QUAIL.

PEAWEET, PEAWIT, PEWIT (4-16-06)* In England an old folk name for the lapwing, a bird of the plover family, imitating its plaintive two-note call. Lapwings are rare visitors to U.S. — especially on the northeast coast — but the name was often given to other American species with similar two-note call, especially small gray birds of the flycatcher family now known as pewees or phoebes. Lewis’s “uncommon” species of this date is probably Say’s phoebe, Sayornis saya, Bonaparte 1825.

PELLICAN (6-20-04) American white pelican, Pelecanus erythrorhynchos, Gmelin 1788.

Pelican Island (8-8-04) Site where pelican beak was measured for capacity and found to hold 5 gallons of water (Thwaites, VI: 125-127, and also page 35, this issue of We Proceeded On).

PEESEWANTS (4-15-05, etc. 26 references) No pheasants nested in North American wilds until ring-necked pheasants were imported to Oregon from China in the 1860s. But early English colonists — especially in Virginia — commonly called the ruffed grouse a pheasant. Consequently Lewis and Clark used “pheasant” for most grouse species, although the sharp-tailed and sage grouse were usually put in cock or hen category. At Fort Clatsop in March 1806 Lewis listed pheasants of three kinds seen west of the Rockies:

large black and white (3-3-06)* ruffed grouse, Bonasa umbellus, L. 1766. Also called “common” in other entries. Lewis notes that these have a more reddish tint than those seen in the East. See SCARLET BIRD.

small brown (3-3-06)* with yellow or orange stripe above eye. The blue grouse, Dendragapus obscurus, Say 1823.

small speckled (3-3-06)* spruce grouse, Dendragapus canadensis, L. 1758. Both sexes of all three species are speckled and males of both ruffed and spruce have vertical eye stripes, in contrast to the yellow stripe of the blue grouse. This is the smallest of the three species, but the blue grouse (above) is the largest, in spite of “small” label in Lewis’s notes.

PHOEBE, see PEAWEEW

PIGEON, WILD (2-12-04)* passenger pigeon, Ectopistes migratorius, L. 1766. Now extinct but then abundant in East. Lewis shot one (7-13-05) to verify identification since they had not yet been reported so far west (Montana). Birds still farther west (8-26-05, Lemhi Valley, east-central Idaho) might have been the band-tailed pigeon, Columba fasciata, Say 1823, not then known to science, though the difference in its fan-tail from passenger’s pointed tail would likely have been noted. The common pigeon, Columba livia, L. 1758, had not then multiplied as a feral species as it has today and would not have been seen anywhere on Expedition Trail. The smaller mourning dove was mentioned several times as “turtledove” and would not have been mistaken for the passenger pigeon by such experienced woodsman.
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size of common snipe (6-4-05) see CURLEW, Eskimo

SPARROWS (8-5-06, 3-5-06). In folk speech, the name spar­row is used for any small brown bird — sparrow finch, longspur, pipit, bunting, wren. Lewis and Clark may have seen such species common in the area now except the house sparrow, Passer domesticus, L. 1758, an Afro-Eurasian species not introduced to North America till 1850, even in the East, and not seen in the Pacific Northwest till 1889.

large brown (1-2-06) probably a western subspecies of the fox sparrow, Passerella iliaca unalascensis, Gmelin 1789. It is a much darker brown than the ruddy eastern fox sparrow and often mistaken even today for a different species. The golden-crowned sparrow, Zonotrichia atricapilla, Gmelin 1789, is also a large western sparrow, but no mention is made of crown color.

several species (5-1-06, 6-4-05) not described

similar to ours (3-5-06) of woody country. Probably song sparrow, Melospiza melodia, Wilson 1810. Others would have been identified by white crown, white throat, etc.

STALKS (STORKS) (11-2-05) wood stork, Mycteria americana L. 1758. Formerly miscalled wood ibis, this is the only stork species in North America. Its presence along the Columbia is rare, but no other long-legged white bird looks stork-like and white cranes, egrets and herons are cited elsewhere.

SWALLOW (9-20-04)* barn swallow, Hirundo rustica, L. 1758, is usually the species meant when only "swallow" is used. It is the only swallow species in North America with deeply forked tail. Others in the swallow family were usually referred to as "martins". See MARTIN.

SWAN (2-4-04, 7-6-04, etc.) The many early references to "swan" with no further descriptions show that Lewis and Clark knew only one species. Like others of their time, they mistook American swans for European wild swan (whooper swan, Cygnus cygnus, L. 1758) until they saw two American species side by side and realized the size in difference and voice. The first official recognition of an American species was based on this discovery.

larger (3-9-06)* trumpeter swan, Cygnus buccinator, Richard­son 1832, Formerly Olor buccinator.

smaller (10-29-05, 1-2-06, 3-9-06) tundra swan, Cygnus columbianus, Ord 1815, in the A.O.U. Check-list, 6th edition 1983, but previously genus Olor and known as whistling swan, the name chosen by Lewis and recorded in his journal 3-9-06.

SWAN-DUCK, see DUCK, swan-duck

SWAN-GOOSE, see DUCK, swan-duck or swan-goose

TANAGER, western. See KOOSKOOSKEE RIVER BIRD

TEAL (9-13-04, 10-6-04) See DUCK, little brown.

blue-winged teal (9-13-04, 4-16-05) Anas discors, L. 1766
Teal Creek (10-4-04)

TERN, see AQUATIC BIRD, GULLS

THRASHER, brown. See THRUSH, brown.

THRUSH. Robins, bluebirds and solitaires all belong to the thrush family and were sometimes called thrushes by early colonists. Thrashers and mockingbirds, which do not belong to that family, were sometimes called thrushes, too, and usage persisted for some years.

blue (6-10-05) eastern bluebird, Sialia sialis, L. 1758. Used here only for size comparison. See CATBIRD.

PPIPIT, see LARKS, singing

PLAINS BIRDS (7-22-05) Identified only by habitat, these could include horned lark, longspurs, pipits, finches, buntings, various sparrows.

PLOVER (8-16-04, many other citings) Used for most medium sized shorebirds, some not identified.

brown (7-1-06) upland sandpiper, Bartramia longicauda, Bechstein 1812. Formerly upland plover.

green-legged (9-22-04)* stilts sandpiper, Calidris himantopus, Bonaparte 1826, or pectoral sandpiper, Calidris melanotos, Viellot 1819.

large (5-3-05) williet, Catoptrophorus semipalmatus, Gmelin 1789

party-coloured (5-1-05*, 7-17-06) with head and neck of light brick-dust brown (5-1-05) brick red (7-17-06) American avocet, Recurvirostra americana, Gmelin 1789.

small brown (6-4-05) see CURLEW, small

small brown (7-22-05) mountain plover, Charadrius montan­sus, Townsend 1837

POORWILL, COMMON, see WHIPPER WILL

PRAIRIE BIRDS (8-25-04, 6-19-05) see PLAINS BIRDS, COCKS and/or HENS

QUAIL (4-7-06) or partridge. Mountain quail, Oryctolagus pictus, Douglas 1829. Preserved skin given to Charles Willson Peale to sketch for proposed book on the natural history of the expedition to be published by the American Philosophical Society. The sketch is still extant, but book was never published.

RAIN, see LARKS, short-tailed

RAIN-CROW, see CROW, CUCKOO

RAVEN (2-5-05) common raven, Corvus corax, L. 1758

raven skins (9-26-04)

REDPOLL, see LINNET

REN, see WREN

ROBIN (4-23-05, 6-8-05) American robin, Turdus migratorius, L. 1766.

Columbian or Rocky Mountain (9-20-05, 1-31-06*, 2-4-06)* varied thrush, Zoica naevius, Gmelin 1789. Often called Alaskan robin or Oregon robin because of its resemblance.

SANDPIPER, see PLOVER, SNIPES

SAPSUCKER (2-8-05, 4-8-05) yellow-bellied sapsucker, Sphy­rapicus varius, L. 1766. Also known to Lewis and Clark as "small speckled woodpecker". See WOODPECKER, red-headed, for western species, red-breasted sapsucker, Sphy­rapicus ruber, Gmelin 1785, misnamed because of its alvus head.

SCARLET BIRD (3-7-06)* Seen by York. Probably red-phase ruffed grouse.

SHRIKE, see CATBIRD

SNIPE (3-5-06) common snipe, Gallinago gallinago, L. 1758

sand snipe (3-5-06)* spotted sandpiper, Actitis macularia L. 1766

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blue (6-10-05) eastern bluebird, Sialia sialis, L. 1758. Used here only for size comparison. See CATBIRD.
brown (5-18-05*, 6-8-05) brown thrasher, Toxostoma rufum, L. 1758. Brown thrush and brown mockingbird are the old names for the brown thrasher. Lewis used both 5-8-05.

hermit, see NIGHTINGALE

varied, see ROBIN, Columbian

TURKEY (7-1-04, 7-26-04) wild turkey, Meleagris gallopavo, L. 1758.

white turkey of Black Hills (9-17-04) Not seen. Described to Lewis and Clark by a young Frenchman who had spent the winter with the Chien Indians of the Black Hills. Wild turkeys could have been in the area and white birds occur naturally in the wild, but this was probably a sage grouse since the boy described it as "booted as low as the toes" — meaning feathered — and turkeys are bare-legged. The white-tailed ptarmigan, Lagopus leucurus, Richardon 1831, also has feathered legs, but is only about a third turkey's size. The sage grouse, while not all white, does have a white breast and seems white in comparison to the turkey's bronze tones.

TURTLEDOVE (6-8-05)* This English name for a similar Eurasian dove species was given by early colonists to an American species, the mourning dove, Zenaida macroura, L. 1758. Formerly classified in genus Zenaidura. See DOVE, PIGEON

VULTURE (3-28-06) See BUZZARD.

vulture-kind (9-18-05) The category includes all scavengers, carrion eaters — jays, crows etc. as well as vultures, hawks, eagles.

WAXWING, see CEDAR BIRD

WHIPPER WILL (6-11-04*, 8-5-06) whip-poor-will, Caprimulgus vociferus, Wilson 1812.

small (10-17-04) and uncommon. Common poorwill, Phaenoptilus nuttallii, Audubon 1844. The journals not only describe the bird's appearance, but also its ability to maintain winter dormancy, a factor not recognized in scientific publications until 1946.

WILLET, see PLOVER, large

WOODPECKERS

black (7-20-05) Lewis's woodpecker, Melanerpes lewis, Wilson 1811. Formerly Asyndesmus lewis. The feathers of nape, back and tail are blackish, glossed with bottle-green, but appear black in poor light and from a distance. The face is dark red, the upper breast and collar gray and the belly a bright pinkish red which Lewis described as looking "artificially painted or stained" (Thwaites VI:70). He also mentioned its crow-like flight.

black-and-white speckled (2-8-05) see SAPSUCKER

black-and-white speckled with white back (4-4-06) downy woodpecker, Picoides pubescens, L. 1766. Or hairy woodpecker, Picoides villosus, L. 1766. These two species are almost identical except for size. The downy is slightly smaller and usually more abundant. Formerly each was divided into several subspecies, not easily distinguished, and placed in genus Dendrocopos.

black-winged (8-22-05) In this entry Clark's nutcracker was inadvertently reported as a woodpecker instead of a corvus. See CORVUS, black-winged. Wilson in his American Ornithology (1811) labeled it Clark's Crow, Corvus colombianus, later changed to Nucifraga columbiana.

large red-headed (9-9-05) large (3-4-06) pileated woodpecker, Dryocopus pileatus, L. 1758. Lewis and Clark knew this species in Virginia, where it was called "logcock". See LOGCOCK.

lark-woodpecker (4-11-05)* This is a folk name for the flickers, given because both larks and flickers have a crescent-shaped black mark across the breast. Because Lewis's notes describe the yellow wing linings, it is the yellow-shafted flicker, Colaptes auratus auratus, now combined as a subspecies with the red-shafted, Colaptes auratus cafer, both now listed as northern flicker, Colaptes auratus, L. 1758. Surprisingly, there is no mention of the red wing linings, although this subspecies is much more common in the West.

red-headed woodpecker (5-28-05)*. The comments (Thwaites VI:191) "... saw a small white and black woodpecker with a red head; the same which is common to the Atlantic states." Identifies the red-headed woodpecker, Melanerpes erythrocephalus, L. 1758. The date places the above observation as being near the confluences of present-day Dog Creek and Judith River with the Missouri River in Fergus County, north-central Montana, close to the furthest western limits of its breeding range. The woodpecker with all-red head seen near the Pacific Coast (Fort Clatsop 3-4-06) would have been the red-breasted sapsucker, Sphyrapicus ruber, Gmelin 1788, often mistaken for the easterner.

WREN (REN) In England wren was long the common name for any very small bird and the custom continued among early settlers in North America. Both Audubon and Wilson gave the name "wren" to the birds now known as kinglets, as well as to birds still listed in the wren family. The "ren" of the journals possibly had similar varied identification unless modifying details were given.

flycatch or ren (3-4-06)* reddish brown. Color clue and further description identify it as winter wren, Troglodytes troglodytes, L. 1758.

flycatch (2-8-06)* brown ... smallest of all birds except the hummingbird". Size and color clues identify the winter wren as above.

wren (ren) (8-25-04, 6-8-05) Without further description these might also be the winter wren, but could easily be the house wren, Troglodytes aedon, Vieillot 1807; or the golden-crowned kinglet, Regulus satrapa, Lichtenstein 1823, or the ruby-crowned kinglet, Regulus calendula, L. 1766.

YELLOW BIRD, see KOOKOOSKEE RIVER BIRD.

For more interesting to the explorers, and second only to mammals, were undoubtedly the birds, of which Lewis and Clark mentioned about one hundred and thirty, many of them new discoveries [see Virginia Holmgren's compilation beginning on page 23]. Yet not much in the way of permanent glory did these discoveries win from all their patient work in the field of ornithology ... But it was the naturalists of the next thirty years with their Latin and Greek names, who got the credit for first describing and naming most of them, in spite of the fact that in scores of cases the first descriptions were those of Lewis and Clark.

Elijah Harry Crisswell
Lewis and Clark: Linguistic Pioneers, p. lxxii
Always curious and delighted with any object or event that was new or different to them, the members of the Expedition exercised unique and sometimes startling methods of investigating and documenting their observations.

On August 8, 1804, the exploring party, on the Missouri River, was in the Decatur Bend region (Burt and Thurston Counties, Nebraska; and Monona County, Iowa), about 60 miles north of present-day Omaha, Nebraska. One of the objects described in the journals for that date was the white pelican (Pelecanus erythrorhynchos). Clark's journal for August 8, 1804, merely reports "... some hundreds ... of these birds, and that ... Cap Lewis Killed one, & took his dimensions ..." In the "... Rough Notes by Lewis ... found in Codex Q ...", and transcribed by Thwaites in his Volume VI, in the section titled "Zoology", we find the details of acquiring the specimen and the description of the bird. They were particularly intrigued by the size of the distensible pouch beneath the very large bill. We may marvel at their improvising a method of determining the capacity of the pouch. Excerpts from Captain Lewis's notes follow:

August 8, 1804 we had seen but a few aquatic fowls of any kind on the river since we commenced our journey ... this day after we had passed the river Souix ... I saw a great number of feathers floating down the river those feathers had a very extraordinary appearance as

they appeared in such quantities as to cover pretty generally sixty or seventy yards of the breadth of the river, for three miles after I saw those feathers continue to run in that manner, we did not perceive from whence they came, at length we were surprised by the appearance of a flock of Pelican ... at rest on a large sand bar ... our approach they flew and left behind them several small fish of about eight inches in length, none of which I had seen before ... we now approached them within about three hundred yards before they flew; I then fired at random among the flock with my rifle and brought one down; The discription of the bird is as follows.1

Lewis's next paragraph is headed "Habits" and indicates that the Pelican is found along the Florida coast, the Gulf of Mexico, and in the lower portions of the Mississippi River. He reported that in the spring they migrate northward for the purpose of raising their young. Reference is also made to having observed the pelican in the vicinity of the exploring party's departure from its winter establishment, "Camp Wood", at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. In describing the pelican's nesting, Lewis said: "... they lay usually two eggs only ..." He then provides a chart headed "Measure", which lists eleven measurements of the pelican in feet and inches (example: "Tip to tip of wing, 9 feet, 4 inches"). The following paragraph captioned "Description of Colour &c." contains a lengthy and accurate description of the pelican.

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2. Ibid., Vol. VI, p. 122.

3. Ibid., Vol. VI, p. 126.

4. Ibid., Vol. VI, p. 172.

5. Ibid., Vol. VI, p. 127.


also indicated to Biddle that the bill and pouch of the specimen was filled with five gallons of water in order to determine its capacity.

Inspection of Clark's Field Notes would lead us to believe that Clark was not present for this procedure, or, if he was, he did not think that the capacity of the pelican's bill and pouch was important enough to document.

Another item of interest gleaned from reading all of the journalists is that Captain Clark's journal (quoted above) makes the statement that there were "...some hundreds..." of the birds in this region. Private Whitehouse, who provides the only other estimate, wrote: "...after we passed the pillicon Island there was greater than 5 or 6000 of them flying..." 11 12


Editor's note: Most bird guides and bird-watching guides make no mention of the capacity of a pelican pouch. However, some of the larger reference books have some notation. Oliver Austin in his Birds of the World (Golden Press 1961) page 40 rates the capacity of a pelican pouch as about 3 gallons. The capacity of a pouch is almost 3 gallons, two to three times the capacity of its stomach. The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds, by John K. Terres (Kroop 1980) quotes Austin's measurement. T. Gilbert Pearson, Birds of North America (Garden City 1936) volume I, p. 102 puts the measurement at "several gallons." The capacity could well be variable, for the pouch is highly extensible and would probably lose some of its flexibility and therefore its possible water content - after death. A bird measured immediately in the field - as was done on the Expedition - would almost certainly hold more liquid than one measured several days later in a laboratory.

WE PROCEEDED ON derives from the phrase which appears repeatedly in the collective journals of the Expedition: -
"this morning we set out early and proceeded on..." Capt. Meriwether Lewis, July 19, 1805.
"...wind from the S.W. we proceeded on...until 6 oClock..." Capt. William Clark, May 14, 1805.
"...the fog rose thick from the hollars we proceeded on..." Sgt. John Ordway, June 29, 1805.
"We proceeded on with four men in front to cut some bushes..." Sgt. Patrick Gass, June 18, 1806.
"We set out early proceeded on past a Island on the S. Side..." Sgt. Charles Floyd, June 26, 1804.
"...clouded up...We proceeded on under a fine breeze..." Pvt. Joseph Whitehouse, October 10, 1806.