



## Extinct and endangered species and subspecies of birds in the Baillon Collection, La Châtre, France

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**Abstract.** The Baillon Collection houses 2,478 mounted bird specimens. In this paper, I list and comment 30 bird specimens from 21 extinct and endangered taxa.

**Key words.** Jean François Emmanuel Baillon, Louis Antoine François Baillon, mounted specimens, bird collection, extinct and endangered taxa.

### INTRODUCTION

The Baillon Collection, as currently housed at the Musée George Sand et de la Vallée Noire, La Châtre, France (hereafter MLC), was created by Jean François Emmanuel Baillon (c. 1742-1801), and his son Louis Antoine François Baillon (1778-1855). It contains 2,478 mounted specimens from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (Gouraud 2014). In this paper I list the “Extinct and Endangered” species and subspecies in the Baillon Collection.

The Baillon Collection holds a total of 118 specimens representing 79 species or subspecies that are considered as “Extinct” (EX), “Extinct in the Wild” (EW), “Critically Endangered-Probably Extinct” (PE), “Critically Endangered” (CR), “Endangered” (EN) or “Vulnerable” (VU). Data on extinct taxa at the species level were taken from BirdLife International (2013) including references therein, and combined with data on subspecies extinctions compiled from other sources such as Dickinson & Remsen Jr (2013), del Hoyo et al. (1992–2013) and Szabo et al. (2012).

Adams et al. (2003) listed the *Critically Endangered*, *Endangered* and *Vulnerable* species that should receive a special care in museum collections. Nevertheless, he eliminated species whose population levels are likely to remain high. Using the same filter, the list of *Endangered* species housed in the Baillon Collection dropped to only three species and the list of *Vulnerable* species fell to a single one (the Baillon Collection holds a total of 22 *Endangered* species comprising 32 specimens, and 40 *Vulnerable* species comprising 62 specimens). I have chosen not to apply this filter to the *Critically Endangered* species as nine species only are concerned (comprising 13 specimens). Also, I have added two

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specimens from *Extinct in the Wild* and *Critically Endangered-Probably Extinct* sub-species (del Hoyo et al. 1992-2013, Szabo et al. 2012, Dickinson & Remsen Jr 2013).

The nomenclature of scientific names follows del Hoyo et al. (1992-2013), which is the basis for the arrangement of the Baillon Collection, updated according to the *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive* (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com> on 31 October 2014). I do not provide the complete information of labels but only the relevant ones, when available, that matters in this study, i.e. place and date specimens have been collected or given to the Baillon, as well as the name of collectors or donators.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST

### Procellariidae

#### *Puffinus mauretanicus* Lowe, 1921 CR

MLC.2010.0.36, unsexed, Iceland [sic], by M. Greville (translated from French), no date.

MLC.2010.0.363, female caught at Le Crotoi [= Le Crotoy, Somme, Picardie] on 14 September 1851 (translated from French).

MLC.2010.0.365, male caught alive at Le Crotoi [= Le Crotoy, Somme, Picardie] on 25 September 1854 (translated from French).

REMARKS: As far as I know, this species has never been observed around Iceland.

### Anatidae

#### *Camptorhynchus labradorius* (J. F. Gmelin, 1789) EX

MLC.2011.0.309, male, from Upper Missouri [sic], by His Highness the Prince of Wied, 1847 (translated from French).

REMARKS: This species inhabited the north-eastern coast of North America and as far as I know, it has never occurred in Upper Missouri. As Wied travelled in North America between 1832 and 1834, the date “1847” refers most likely to the year the specimen has been given to François Baillon.

The last wild specimen has been shot in 1875 and the extinction is dated to c. 1878 (BirdLife International 2013). Only 55 specimens, including the specimen in La Châtre, are known all over the world (Chilton 2009).

### Cracidae

#### *Crax blumenbachii* Spix, 1825 EN

MLC.2011.0.1071, male, Brazil, given by His Highness the Prince of Wied (translated from French), no date.

REMARKS: *Crax alector*, a species closely related to *Crax blumenbachii*, is mentioned on the label. This species occurs in the north of South America southward to Manaus (c. 3° S). During his journey, Wied-Neuwied has visited Brazil from Ponta Negra c. 23° S northward to Itaparica at c. 13° S (Bokermann 1957), a region matching with the distribution of *Crax blumenbachii*. Thus, the northern most position reached by

Wied-Neuwied during his travel was far away from the southern limit of the range of *Crax alector*. Moreover, in the catalogue of his collection, Wied-Neuwied (1865) did not mention *Crax blumenbachii* but *Crax alector* as follow: “*Crax alector* Linnaeus (*C. fasciolata* Spix); mas. [i.e. masculum] fem. [i.e. femina] Brasilien (m. R.)”. The initials “m. R.” mean “meine Reise” [i.e. my journey] proving a misidentification by Wied-Neuwied of the specimens collected by or for him, belonging to *Crax blumenbachii*. Finally, the identification of this specimen has been confirmed by Luis Fábio Silveira, curator of the ornithological collections of the museum of zoology at the University of São Paulo (pers. comm., 20 January 2012).

## Charadriidae

### *Vanellus gregarius* (Pallas, 1771)

CR

MLC.2011.0.928, unsexed, the label is very damaged with unreadable text.

## Scolopacidae

### *Numenius borealis* (J. R. Forster, 1772)

PE

MLC.2011.0.987, unsexed, New York, given and sent by M. Picot (translated from French), no date.

REMARKS: M. Picot could be Philippe-Isidore Picot de la Peyrouse (1744-1818) or his son Isidore Picot de la Peyrouse (1776-1835), both naturalists from Toulouse. The last bird seen in the wild has been shot in 1963 (Roberts et al. 2010). Voisin & Voisin (1991) discovered the 369<sup>th</sup> specimen known all over the world in museums. Therefore, to my knowledge, the specimen held in La Châtre might be the 370<sup>th</sup>.

### *Numenius tenuirostris* Vieillot, 1817

CR

MLC.2011.0.310, unsexed, the label refers to a wrong species.

## Pteroclididae

### *Pterocles exustus floweri* Nicoll, 1921

PE

MLC.2011.0.1184, female, Upper Egypt, brought back and given by M. Rüppell (translated from French), no date.

REMARKS: The last individual of this subspecies, endemic to central Egypt (Fayyum area), was seen in 1979 (del Hoyo et al. 1997: 52). Nevertheless, a population has been recently rediscovered in Minya Province with a flock of c. 100 individuals (Khil et al. 2012). Khil et al. (2012) strongly suspected the birds observed to belong to the subspecies *floweri* but left open the discussion as studies of birds in hand are required. Therefore, I kept the status as *Probably Extinct* even if it may change in the near future.

## Columbidae

### *Ectopistes migratorius* (Linnaeus, 1766)

EX

MLC.2011.0.311, male, the label refers to a wrong species.

REMARKS: The last bird died in captivity in 1914 (Shufeldt 1915). More than 1,500 specimens in museums worldwide are known (Mlíkovský 2012).

### **Psittacidae**

***Conuropsis carolinensis* (Linnaeus, 1758)** **EX**

MLC.2011.0.312, unsexed, the label refers to a wrong species.

MLC.2011.0.313, female, Upper Missouri, by the Prince of Wied (translated from French), no date.

REMARKS: The last wild bird has been shot in 1904 while the last bird in captivity died in 1918. Less than 800 specimens are known in about 50 museums across the world (Greenway 1958, Luther 1996).

***Cacatua sulphurea* (J. F. Gmelin, 1788)** **CR**

MLC.2011.0.22, unsexed, the label refers to a wrong species.

***Neophema chrysogaster* (Latham, 1790)** **CR**

MLC.2011.0.1193, male, Tasmania, by M. de La Billardière (translated from French), no date but see Gouraud (2014).

***Amazona vittata* (Boddaert, 1783)** **CR**

MLC.2011.0.1202, unsexed, no label.

***Amazona rhodocorytha* (Salvadori, 1890)** **EN**

MLC.2011.0.36, no label.

MLC.2011.0.37, female, from Brazil, given by His Highness the Prince of Wied (translated from French), no date.

MLC.2011.0.70, no label.

### **Alcedinidae**

***Todiramphus cinnamominus cinnamominus* (Swainson, 1821)** **EW**

MLC.2011.0.139, male, Mariana Islands, by M. Freycinet and given by M. Cuvier (translated from French), no date.

REMARKS: The population of the nominate subspecies, endemic to Guam, became extinct in 1986 when 29 birds were taken for captive breeding programs (del Hoyo et al. 2001: 220).

### **Galbulidae**

***Jacamaralecyon tridactyla tridactyla* (Vieillot, 1817)** **VU**

MLC.2011.0.1238, unsexed, from Brazil, by M. Delalande and given by M. Cuvier (translated from French), no date but see remarks below.

REMARKS: Pierre-Antoine Delalande (1787-1823) was a French naturalist-explorer. He was employed as an assistant-naturalist by the Paris Museum to collect specimens and travelled to Brazil in 1816 (Anonymous 1855).

## Picidae

### *Campephilus principalis principalis* (Linnaeus, 1758) CR

MLC.2011.0.314, male, no label.

REMARKS: There has been much discussion in the rediscovery of this species in eastern Arkansas (see Fitzpatrick et al. 2005, 2006a,b, 2007, Hill et al. 2006, Jackson 2006, Sibley et al. 2006, 2007, Lynch 2011). Greenway (1958) mentioned only 11 museums worldwide, excluding La Châtre, housing specimens of this species.

## Cotingidae

### *Cotinga maculata* (Statius Müller, 1776) EN

MLC.2011.0.1542, unsexed, Cayenne [sic], no date.

REMARKS: This species is restricted to the north of Espírito Santo, the extreme east of Minas Gerais, and the southeast of Bahia states (Brazil). “*Jeune male*” [i.e. young male] is mentioned on the label. This information was confirmed by Guy M. Kirwan (pers. comm., 2 November 2014).

## Monarchidae

### *Pomarea mendozae nukuhivae* Murphy & Mathews, 1928 EX

MLC.2011.0.1862, male, from Nuku Hiva, by M. Massieu (translated from French), no date.

MLC.2011.0.1863, female, from Nuku Hiva (translated from French), no date.

REMARKS: M. Massieu was Auguste-Samuel Massieu de Clerval (1785-1847), a French marine officer. Some authorities (e.g. BirdLife International 2013) consider the subspecies *nukuhivae* as a full species. The extinction of this subspecies, endemic to Nuku Hiva Island, is estimated to the 1930s (Cibois et al. 2004).

### *Pomarea nigra* (Sparrman, 1786) CR

MLC.2011.0.214, unsexed, no label.

MLC.2011.0.1861, male, Tahiti, no date.

## Sturnidae

### *Acridotheres melanopterus* (Daudin, 1800) CR

MLC.2011.0.191, unsexed, Java, La Billardièrè’s journey (translated from French), no date but see Gouraud (2014).

MLC.2011.0.2039, unsexed, Java, La Billardièrè’s journey (translated from French), no date but see Gouraud (2014).

## Callaeidae

### *Callaeas cinereus* (J. F. Gmelin, 1788) EX

MLC.2011.0.1998, unsexed, New Zealand [unreadable text] (translated from French).

MLC.2011.0.1999, unsexed, no label.

REMARKS: Some authorities (e.g. BirdLife International 2013) have split this species in two distinct subspecies: the nominal, extinct, was endemic to the South Island, and *wilsoni*, endangered, is endemic to the North Island. The last bird seen in the wild has been recorded in 1967 (Clout & Hay 1981).

## DISCUSSION

Since 1500, 148 species have been classified as *Extinct*, *Extinct in the Wild*, *Possibly Extinct* or *Possibly Extinct in the Wild* (BirdLife International 2013). With the increasing rate of extinction among birds (Szabo et al. 2012), and despite some successful conservation programs (Butchart et al. 2006, Rodrigues 2006), the number of “E&E” taxa housed in museums might unfortunately increase in the future.

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**Figs. 1-6:** *Camptorhynchus labradorius* (MLC.2011.0.309), *Ectopistes migratorius* (MLC.2011.0.311), *Pomarea mendozae nukuhiuae* (MLC.2011.0.1862, MLC.2011.0.1863), and *Conuropsis carolinensis* (MLC.2011.0.312, MLC.2011.0.313). Photo credit: Christophe Gouraud, Muséum George Sand et de la Vallée Noire.



**Figs. 7-11:** *Callaeas cinereus* (MLC.2011.0.1998, MLC.2011.0.1999), *Numenius borealis* (MLC.2011.0.987), *Pterocles exustus floweri* (MLC.2011.0.1184), and *Todiramphus cinnamominus cinnamominus* (MLC.2011.0.139). Photo credit: Christophe Gouraud, Musée George Sand et de la Vallée Noire.