

The Australasian Gulls

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In the Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History, vol. lii., Art. iii., 1925 (Dec. 31), Dr. Jonathon Dwight gave a very exhaustive account of the Gulls of the world. I have taken the following from this work as of interest to students of Australasian Ornithology.

LARUS Linné.

The genus *Larus* and its synonyms are as follows:—

Larus Linné, Syst. Nat., 10th ed., p. 136. Jan. 1, 1758.
Type (by subsequent designation Selby, Cat. Gen. Subgen. Types aves., p. 48, 1840), *Larus marinus* Linné.

Lencus Kaup, Skizz, Entw. Ges. Nat. Syst., p. 86. April, 1829. Type (by subsequent designation Gray, 1855, p. 130), *Larus marinus*. (Spelt *Leucus* by Gray.)

[*Ichthyaëtus* Kaup, Skizz, Entw. Ges. Nat. Syst., p. 102. April, 1829. Type (by monotypy), *Larus ichthyaëtus*.]

Laroides Brehm, Ibis, 1830, heft x col., 993 (Oct.) Type (by subsequent designation Gray [1840, p. 78], 1841, p. 99), *Larus argentatus*.

Plautus Reichenbach, Avium. Syst. Nat., p. v., 1852 (1853). Type (by monotypy), *Laurus glaucus*.

Dominicanus Bruch, Journ. Ornith., Jan. 1853, p. 100. Type (by tautonymy), *Larus dominicanus* Licht.

Glaucus Bruch, Journ. f. Ornith., Jan., 1853, p. 101. Type (by tautonymy), *Larus glaucus*.

[*Adelarus* Bruch, Journ. f. Ornith., Jan., 1853, p. 106. Type (by subsequent designation Gray, 1855, p. 130), *Larus leucophthalmus*. (Spelt *Adelotarus* Heine and Reichenow, Nom. Mus. Hein., p. 358, 1890.)

Blasipus Bruch, Journ. f. Ornith., Jan., 1853, p. 108. Type (by monotypy), *Larus modestus* Tschudi.]

Gavia Bonaparte, Naumannia, 1854, p. 212. Type (by subsequent designation), *Larus canus*.

Clupeilarus Bonaparte, Consp. Gen. Av., vol. ii., p. 220, Oct. 12, 1857. Type (by subsequent designation), *Larus fuscus*.

Einalid Heine and Reichenow, Nom. Mus. Hein., p. 358, 1890, new name for *Laroides* Brehm.

Of these *Adelarus* is a sub-genus, with *Blasipus* as a synonym; and *Ichthyaëtus* is a monotypic sub-genus.

In the sub-genus *Larus* are included *canus*, *argentatus*, *fuscus* and *marinus*, with *dominicanus* and nine others.

Bill varies from large and stout to medium-sized, angle prominent in large species, shorter than the tarsus; gonys usually curved, nostrils guttate. Tarsus stout and short, longer than the middle toe, webs with incisures usually shallow in large species, often deeper in small. Tail even.

Larus dominicanus dominicanus (Lichtenstein), South America.

Larus dominicanus antipodus (Bruch).

Distribution: The sub-Antarctic Island of New Zealand. (Breeding.)

HYDROCOLÆUS Kaup.

The genus *Hydrocolæus* is divided into four sub-genera—*Atricilla*, *Cirrhocephala*, *Hydrocolæus* and *Saundersia*.

Sub-genus *Atricilla* is monotypic with *Atricilla*.

Atricilla Bonaparte, Naumannia, p. 212, 1854. Type (by tautonymy), *Larus atricilla* Linné, and by subsequent designation Gray, 1855, p. 130, *Larus catesbæi* Bp. = *atricilla* L.

Sub-genus *Saundersia*, newly introduced on p. 81, is also monotypic, with *Larus saundersi* Swinhoe.

Sub-genus *Hydrocolæus* contains *franklini*, *ridibundus*, *gelestes*, *minutus*, *melanocephalus*, *philadelphia* and *bulleri*.

Hydrocolæus Kaup, Skizz. Entw. Ges. Nat. Syst., p. 113, April, 1829. Type (by subsequent designation Gray, 1842, p. 15), *Larus minutus*.

Chriocephalus Eyton, Hist. Rarer Brit. Birds, p. 57, 1836. Type (by subsequent designation Gray, 1840, p. 79), *Larus capistratus* Temm = *ridibundus*.

Gelestes Bonaparte, Naumannia, p. 212, 1854. Type (by tautonymy), *Xema lambruschinii* Bp. = *Larus gelestes*.

Melagavia Bonaparte, Naumannia, p. 212, 1854. Type [by subsequent designation—where?], *Larus franklini*.

Lambruschinia Salvadori, Cat. Uccel. Sardegna, p. 128, 1864. Type (by monotypy), *Larus gelestes*.

Melanolarus Heine and Reichenow, Nom. Mus. Hein., p. 359, 1890 (new name for *Melagavia* Bp.).

Bill medium to small, usually slender, shorter than the tarsus, longer or equal to the middle toe; angle not conspicuous, nostrils guttate, elongated. Tarsus usually fairly long and slender, webs incisures fairly deep. Tail even.

Hydrocolæus bulleri (Hutton).

Larus bulleri Hutton, Catal. Birds of New Zealand, p. 41, 1871, South Island, New Zealand, new name for *Bruchigavia melanorhyncha* Buller, Ibis, Jan., 1869, p. 43. Not *Larus melanorhynchus* Temminck and Laugier, Planch, Color, d'Ois., livr. lxxxv., pl. 504, 1830, which is a synonym of *philadelphia* which is in this genus.

CIRRHOCEPHALA Bp.

Sub-genus *Cirrhocephala* contains *brunneicephalus*, *cirrhocephalus*, *serranus* and *novæ-hollandiæ*.

Cirrhocephalus Bonaparte, Naumannia, p. 213, 1854. Type (by tautonymy), *Larus cirrhocephalus*.

Bruchigavia Bonaparte, Consp. Gen. Av., vol. ii., p. 228, October, 1857. Type (by monotypy), *Larus novæ-hollandiæ* Stephens.

Bill long and rather slender, nostrils guttate, gonys curved (straight in *novæ-hollandiæ*). Tarsus rather stout, web incisures deep. Tail even.

There is one species in the Australasian waters divided into several sub-species:—*Cirrhocephala novæ-hollandiæ novæ-hollandiæ* (Stephens). Distribution: The mainland of Australia, from Queensland southwards and west to Western Australia.

Cirrhocephala novæ-hollandiæ jamesonii (Wilson). Distribution: Tasmania.

Cirrhocephala novæ-hollandiæ forsteri (Mathews). Distribution: Queensland (Torres Straits to the Capricorn Group), New Caledonia.

Cirrhocephala novæ-hollandiæ scopulinus (Forster). Distribution: New Zealand and Chatham Islands.

If the genus *Hydrocolæus* is not divided then we have the following nomenclature:—

Hydrocolæus novæ-hollandiæ novæ-hollandiæ (Stephens).

Hydrocolæus novæ-hollandiæ jamesonii (Wilson).

Hydrocolæus novæ-hollandiæ forsteri (Mathews).

Hydrocolæus novæ-hollandiæ scopulinus (Forster).

GABIANUS.

The genus *Gabianus* is monotypic with *pacificus* Latham.

Gabianus Bruch, Journ. f. Ornith., March, 1853, left 2, p. 100 (ex. Bonaparte). Type (by monotypy), *Larus pacificus* Latham.

Bill large, shorter than tarsus, compressed; depth at prominent rounded angle, nearly half its length; nostrils ovate or broadly pyriform, gonys curved. Tarsus stout, digital webs rather shallow. Tail even.

Birds in any plumage may always be recognised by the nearly round nostril in a very large deep-angled bill.

Gabianus pacificus pacificus (Latham). Distribution: Queensland to South Australia, Tasmania.

Gabianus pacificus georgii (King). Distribution: South West Australia.

It will thus be seen that we have four species of Gulls in Australasian waters, and they have been placed in four different genera by a genus lumpers.