ANTHUS ROSEATUS BLyth, 1847 (aves): PROPOSED VALIDATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1654

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The well known Roseate, or Hodgson's Pipit of Central Asia and the Himalayas was named Anthus roseatus by Blyth (1847, J. asiat. Soc. Bengal 16 : 437) and this name had been in almost universal use in the ornithological literature since the time of Hartert (1905, Die Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna : 279). The only exception that we have been able to trace is Sharpe (1909, Hand-List Genera and Species of Birds 5 : 146) who used Anthus rosaceus “Hodgson” J. E. Gray (1844, Zool. Miscellany : 83) for the Roseate Pipit, but this last scientific name which had been used by most authors prior to Hartert, is admittedly a nomen nudum. In 1960, H. Deignan (Bull. British Orn. Club 80 : 120) called attention to the applicability of the name Anthus pelopus J. E. Gray, which had been published one year earlier than Anthus roseatus Blyth, in 1846, in J. E. Gray’s (Catalogue of the Specimens and Drawings of Mammalia and Birds of Nepal and Thibet presented by B. H. Hodgson Esq. to the British Museum : 154). Anthus pelopus had been a nomen oblitum until 1960.

We believe this name should not replace the well known Anthus roseatus Blyth, and among the more modern works of systematic reference which have followed Hartert in using Anthus roseatus, we may cite such important reference publications as: Baker, 1926, Fauna British India, Birds 3; La Touche, 1930, Handbook of the birds of eastern China (5); Delacour and Jabouille, 1931, Les oiseaux de l’Indochine Française 4; Cheng, 1958, Distributional List of Chinese Birds 2; Vaurie, 1959, Birds of the Palearctic Fauna, Passeriformes; and “Peters,” 1960, Check-list of the Birds of the World 9.

Ripley (1961, Synopsis of the birds of India and Pakistan), and Biswas (1961, Jour. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 58 : 454) have followed Deignan in replacing Anthus roseatus Blyth by Anthus pelopus J. E. Gray, but we note that in the most recent work on the birds of India, Salim Ali’s “Birds of Sikkim” published in 1962, the use of Anthus roseatus is adhered to.

The International Code provides under Article 23 that nomina oblitae are not to be used. Although this Article was adopted in London in 1958, the Code was not published until 1961, and it may be argued that Deignan’s 1960 comment on Anthus pelopus J. E. Gray revived that name and justified subsequent use after 1960. However, to treat Deignan’s action as a valid revival would be giving an effect contrary to the Principle of Conservation adopted in Copenhagen in 1953 (Copenhagen Decisions on Zoological Nomenclature, 1953, p. 25) and in force in 1960 when he published.

Admittedly this point is arguable and had resulted in disparity of nomenclature. In order, therefore, to avoid any question and to promote stability and universality in nomenclature, we request that the International Commission:

(1) use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name pelopus J. E. Gray,
1846, as published in the binomen *Anthus pelopus*, for the purposes of
the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy;
(2) place the name suppressed in (1) above on the Official Index of Rejected
and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology;
(3) place the specific name *roseatus* Blyth, 1847, as published in the binomen
*Anthus roseatus*, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.