

probably assume it to commemorate some male relative of Elsie's, or perhaps some other Naumburg family altogether. The correct spelling *naumburgae* not only helps to avoid this misapprehension, sets the historical record straight, and more properly honours the person to whom the bird was dedicated, but also is consistent in conforming with Latin grammar and thus with the Code as well. Considering these substantial benefits and the fact that there could be no possible confusion as to the taxon in question, I can see no harm whatever in making the correction. I wonder if Prof Mayr would be as indifferent towards grammatical carelessness if he were to be honoured with a new subspecies spelled *mayrae*.

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[The matter of gender is irrelevant to the original issue of whether the fossil rail is *Rallus hodgeni* or *R. hodgenorum*. Thus, we have two opposing views:

1. Whether stability in nomenclature prevails over the original author's stated intention.
2. Whether the original author's stated intention prevails over stability in nomenclature.

Either view is possible under the Code. We therefore leave the matter open for checklist committees and others to decide for themselves. Ed.]



CORRECTION

HARPER, P. C. & FOWLER, J. A. 1987. "Plastic pellets in New Zealand storm-killed prions (*Pachyptila* spp.) 1958-1977". *Notornis* 34: 65.

The second-last word in the first paragraph reads "specimens".
It should read "species".