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# The original description of Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata* Vieillot (Aves: Accipitridae)

Giorgio Aimassi

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ABSTRACT: The original scientific name of the Bonelli's Eagle was for a long time the subject of debate: different authors attributed priority to *Falco bonelli* Temminck or to *Aquila fasciata* Vieillot. In this paper the original description dates of these two sources and names are discussed. A third name, *Aquila intermedia* Boitard, was proposed in the same period but this name was scarcely considered in the debate. Because the typical series referred to by the authors of the three names share at least one specimen, *A. fasciata*, *F. bonelli* and *A. intermedia* are objective synonyms. It is concluded that priority should be, as it has been, attributed to *Aquila fasciata* Vieillot 1823, validly described for the first time in the *Encyclopédie méthodique*.

KEYWORDS: date of publication, source of name, Bonelli's Eagle, nomenclature, type material, objective synonyms, Vieillot, Temminck, Boitard.

## INTRODUCTION

Although occurring in Europe, the bird we know as Bonelli's Eagle was not given a scientific name until almost 75 years after Linnaeus (1758). Although it has now long been accepted as having a name given to it by Vieillot there was a period when this was not accepted and details of the award of precedence have not been conclusively explained. Here the appropriate evidence is formally put on record for each of the various contenders for date precedence.

A second objective is to review the history of the proposed type specimens linked to the proposals to name the taxon and to establish, as far as possible, any commonality between the specimens reported by the authors and whether there is any consequent nomenclatural issue to address.

## THE CONTENDING AUTHORS

There was an early consensus that the first description was provided by Temminck (1824) in the *Planches Coloriées* under the name *Falco bonelli*. The consensus included Savi (1827), Lesson (1828a), Marmora (1834) and Bonaparte (1842). In this context, Lesson (1828a) wrote that "M. Temminck est le premier qui ait décrit cette nouvelle espèce d'aigle d'Europe".

However, in response to Lesson's notes in the *Manuel d'Ornithologie* Vieillot (1828) wrote to Lesson to point out that he had already described the same species in a paper presented to the *Société linnéenne de Paris* under the name *Aquila fasciata*. Learning this Lesson (1828b) wrote to Féruccac and forwarded Vieillot's letter, dated 28th June, and both letters were published in Féruccac's *Bulletin* more correctly known as the *Bulletin des Sciences naturelles et de la Géologie*.



**Plate 1. Franco Andrea Bonelli (1784-1830) and his eagle.  
(University of Turin; photo L. Ghiraldi).**

**105. RÉCLAMATION DE M. VIEILLOT, relative au *Manuel d'Ornithologie* de M. Lesson.**  
**Lettre à M. de Féruſſac.**

Paris, 10 sept. 1828.

J'ai l'honneur de vous prier de faire insérer la lettre ci-jointe, que m'a adressée M. Vieillot, relativement au *Manuel d'Ornithologie*. Je me serais empressé de garder pour moi seul les éloges qui me concernent, et dont je témoigne une juste reconnaissance au Nestor de l'Ornithologie en France, si ce même ouvrage ne venait d'être, dans un recueil estimé (1), l'objet d'attaques d'autant plus remarquables qu'elles partent d'une personne complètement étrangère aux premières notions des sciences naturelles positives. Mais cette lettre réclame contre quelques-unes des assertions qui sont contenues dans le *Manuel*, et c'est pour moi un devoir de réparer, par sa publication, les erreurs que j'ai involontairement commises, et que je me reproche envers un homme qui a rendu tant de services à l'ornithologie.

**LESSON.**

**Figure 1.** Letter of Lesson to Féruſſac. Here reproduced from the *Bulletin des Sciences Naturelles et de Géologie*, Tome XV, pp. 142-143.

These pages appeared in the September issue of the *Bulletin* (but obviously no earlier than 10 September 1828, the date of Lesson's letter to Féruſſac) and Dickinson *et al.* (2015) have put forward reasons to treat each of the month-dates of the *Bulletin* as "compilation months" to be followed by publication after the month end. Lesson (1829, 1830) then gave precedence to Vieillot's name.

A third contender surfaced when Gérard (1847: 211) indicated in the *Dictionnaire universel d'Histoire naturelle* that "A. Bonnelli (sic), *Aquila fasciata* Vieill." was actually described first by A. Boitard as *Aquila intermedia* in his *Monographie des Oiseaux de proie d'Europe*. This name had already been mentioned by Temminck (1824), although in French only, in a footnote referring to the "Aigle intermédiaire" having been named in a recent work on the birds of prey of Europe, and, although he did not mention Boitard as author, Temminck implicitly admitted its priority. This footnote does not seem to have led other writers of the period to see whether a scientific name had been given to it there. Bonaparte (1850) also listed *Aquila intermedia* Boitard, but without giving the date of publication. This binomen is not mentioned in Part XIII of *Index Animalium* (Sherborn 1927), however it is listed in the "additions and corrections" (Sherborn 1932: 97).

*Lettre à M. Lesson.*

Paris , 28 juin 1828.

« Monsieur , d'après la réputation que vous méritez à juste titre, je me suis empressé de me procurer votre *Manuel d'Ornithologie*, que j'ai lu avec un grand plaisir et la plus douce satisfaction ; ouvrage d'autant plus précieux qu'il est parfaitement au niveau de la science et rédigé avec une grande sagacité. Comme vous avez eu la complaisance de citer mon *Ornithologie élémentaire*, citation dont je vous fais mille remerciemens , permettez-moi de vous soumettre quelques observations qui n'ont pas , ou qui ont très-peu de rapport avec la science , et qui cependant ont pour moi quelque intérêt.

“ 2° Vous dites à l'article de l'*Aigle Bonelli*, p. 83, que *M. Temminck est le premier qui ait décrit cette nouvelle espèce*. C'est en quoi vous êtes dans l'erreur, certainement involontairement. Je l'ai décrite, sous le nom d'*Aigle à queue barrée*, dans un mémoire présenté à la Société Linnéenne de Paris , long-temps avant la 2<sup>e</sup> édition du *Manuel* de M. Temminck , et c'est le même individu que nous avons décrit tous deux. Il m'a été communiqué par M. Dupont l'ané , qui l'avait reçu de M. Bonelli , pour savoir de moi si je le regardais comme une espèce nouvelle , et c'est depuis ma décision qu'il a été envoyé à M. Temminck. Ne eroyez pas que je mets une grande importance à faire connaître le premier une espèce nouvelle ; mais je dois éviter de passer pour un auteur qui s'approprie les faits des autres en changeant les noms, moyen employé très-souvent par certains savans.

**Figure 2.** Letter of Vieillot to Lesson. Here reproduced from the *Bulletin des Sciences Naturelles et de Géologie*, Tome XV, pp. 143-144.

## THE BIBLIOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

**Temminck:** there is very little doubt about the timing of Temminck's proposal of his *Falco bonelli*. This species appears in livraison 49, plate 288 and the associated text, of the *Planches Colorées* that Sherborn (1898) dated as August 1824, based on the Féruccac's *Bulletin*.

This evidence of the date of publication in the *Bibliographie de la France* was already used by Crotch (1868: 500) and retained by Zimmer (1926). Dickinson (2001) suffered a typographical error listing this from 18 August 1824.

## ET DE LA LIBRAIRIE.

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4497. SUR LA MORT de lord Byron, stances. Par F. C. P. Bariseau. In-8° d'une demi-feuille. Impr. de Dondéy-Dupré père, à Paris. — A Paris, chez Dondéy-Dupré fils.

4498. MORT de Léonard de Vinci, poëme qui a obtenu une médaille d'or au jugement de l'académie de Cambrai, le 16 août 1824. Par Adolphe de Puibusque. In-8° d'une feuille. Imp. de Tastu, à Paris.

4499. NOUVEAU recueil de planches colorées d'oiseaux, pour servir de suite et de complément aux planches enluminées de Buffon, etc., publié par C. J. Temminck et Messren Laugier. XLIX<sup>e</sup> livraison. In-f° de 3 feuilles 1/2, plus 6 planches. Imp. de Belin, à Paris; et à Amsterdam, chez G. Dufour et d'Ocagne.

Figure 3. *Bibliographie de la France* no. 35 (28 August 1824), page 523, entry no. 4499.

**Vieillot:** here the case is much more complicated. There is clear evidence (see below) that Vieillot read his paper to the *Société linnéenne de Paris* on 22 August 1822, but there were early doubts about whether the paper was published in the Society's *Mémoires*. For quite some time the priority and validity of *Aquila fasciata* Vieillot was not generally admitted and most authors considered *Falco bonelli* Temminck to be the valid name. So Vieillot's case is important and will be discussed further below.

**Boitard:** the account by Gérard in the *Dictionnaire universel d'Histoire naturelle* states that Boitard described *Aquila intermedia* in his *Histoire naturelle des Oiseaux de proie d'Europe*. This work can be examined on Gallica (<http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k4416018.r>) and the cover suggests publication in 1824. Boitard included a picture of the species and named it.

In some subsequent works the date for Boitard's description was given as 1825 (Degland & Gerbe 1867: 32; Sharpe 1874: 250; Hartert 1914: 1110) or as 1835 (Savi 1873: 127). In Strickland & Jardine (1855: 61) the reference of *A. intermedia* is quite wrong. However, the *Bibliographie de la France* for 1824 reported Boitard's work.

**2182. HISTOIRE naturelle des oiseaux de proie d'Europe. Par M. P. Boitard, avec figures de toutes les espèces et variétés. In-4° de 5 feuillets 1/2, plus 15 planches. Impr. de Rignoux, à Paris. — A Paris, chez Parmentier, chez Audot.**

**Figure 4.** *Bibliographie de la France*, no. 18 (1 May 1824), entry 2182, page 266.

The publication was also reviewed by Payraudeau (1824: 75-77) in Féruccac's *Bulletin*. Thus this is indeed a few months earlier than Temminck's description and, providing the description given is of the same species (perhaps even the same specimen, but see below), Boitard's name is senior to Temminck's. As mentioned above (p. 3), Temminck (1824) had implicitly recognized that. Before returning to the questions of when and where Vieillot published, let us examine the subject of the specimens discussed by these authors.

#### THE SPECIMEN EVIDENCE

**Temminck:** in the original description Temminck (1824) claimed to have examined four individuals: "nous avons vu quatre individus, dont trois jeunes tués dans les contrées centrales d'Europe; le quatrième, d'un âge plus rapproché de l'état parfait du plumage, est figuré Planche 288". Two specimens were shot in the forests outside Paris, one in the north of France, one in southern Italy. The latter specimen, which came from Professor Bonelli, is still held by the Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali (MRSN), Turin (Fig. 5). Temminck provided no indication as to where the French specimens were housed.

**Vieillot:** was the first ornithologist to report on the specimen of Bonelli's Eagle from Sardinia. In the *Encyclopédie méthodique* he referred to an individual shot in the forest of Fontainebleau and to another found in Sardinia and communicated by F. A. Bonelli (Vieillot 1823), exactly the two specimens that he had mentioned in the talk he gave to the *Société Linnaéenne de Paris* on 22 August 1822. However in the "Analyse des Travaux" which open the *Mémoires de la Société linnaéenne*, the secretary A. Thiébaut said (p. xxvii) that two birds taken in France were (most likely the same ones quoted by Temminck): one shot in the forest of Fontainebleau, one in the forest of Rambouillet. Although, as will be discussed below, these *Mémoires* were not published, such notice allows us to have more information about the specimens discussed in this paper.

A few years later Vieillot (1828) noted that the Italian specimen of Bonelli's Eagle was communicated to him by Mr. Dupont, who in turn received it from F.A. Bonelli (Vieillot 1828); only following the examination by Vieillot was the specimen also communicated to C.J. Temminck. The sending of specimen n. 1109 to Vieillot and Temminck was mentioned in the oldest manuscript catalogue of the former Zoological Museum of the Turin University (MZUT) and was also reported by Salvadori (1916: 8) with reference to 1822. Temminck (1824) did not mention either Mr. Dupont or Vieillot and said only: "c'est à lui [Bonelli] que nous devons l'examen du sujet figuré qui fait partie du Musée du roi de Sardaigne".

Vieillot (1829: 414) wrote that the Italian specimen came from Sardinia, but that the French specimens were "tués dans les forêts de Fontainebleau ou de Compiègne".

The MRSN of Turin, which houses the former collection of Turin University, includes most of the original material of F. A. Bonelli and some from other important Italian ornithologists (Salvadori 1916).

At present none of the specimens mentioned above is listed among the types of the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle de Paris (Voisin & Voisin 2001a, 2001b; C. Voisin, *pers. comm.* to L. Ghilardi, 17 March 2015); nor are they mentioned among the types listed by Hartert (1925), Warren (1966), Greenway (1973) and van den Hoek Ostende *et al.* (1997)<sup>1</sup>.

**Boitard:** (1824) mentioned Bonelli's specimen as from Piedmont and referred to two others: one in the cabinet of the Duchesse de Berri<sup>2</sup>, the other in the cabinet of M. Delalande<sup>3</sup>; the last, coming from the surroundings of Paris, is shown in Boitard's work in plate V, fig. 3. As Bonelli's specimen is almost certainly the one seen by Vieillot and Temminck, the reference to the Piedmont, in north Italy, is clearly wrong. Marmora (1834)<sup>4</sup>, who studied all the specimens known to Bonelli, mentioned eagles only from Sardinia and made no reference to Piedmont as a possible area of origin.

Currently in MRSN there are five mounted specimens of *A. fasciata*, all from Sardinia and dated before 1829. In the catalogue of Elter (1986: 205) they have the numbers Eu 673 (former catalogue<sup>5</sup> no. 96), Eu 676 (97), Eu 677 (99), Eu 678 (100), Eu 679 (95). Elter considered them all as syntypes of *F. bonelli* Temminck, but Salvadori (1916: 8) said explicitly that only the specimen n. 96 (which in the oldest MS catalogue was indicated with n. 1109) was the "type", because it was the only one that had been described and figured by Temminck in *Planche Coloriée* 288. However Salvadori was wrong in that he believed that in the description of Vieillot there was no mention of the specimen sent by F.A. Bonelli. In fact, as noted earlier, Vieillot (1823) made specific reference to Sardinia and to Bonelli.

<sup>1</sup> In the Leiden Museum the oldest specimen of *A. fasciata* was collected in Sardinia after 1827, so it may not be a type (Steven van der Mije, *pers. comm.* to G. Aimassi, 4 September 2015).

<sup>2</sup> The Duchesse de Berri (or Berry) owned the château de Rosny-sur-Seine from 1818 to 1830 and there brought together a cabinet of curiosities, with specialist help from the Museum of Paris. The taxidermist Prévost (presumably Florent Prévost), starting in 1821, obtained for her a collection of 1.000 european and 400 exotic birds (Guibal, 2007). The fate of her collection has not been traced.

<sup>3</sup> Boitard (1824) revealed that the owner of the cabinet which housed *Aquila intermedia* was a brother of Pierre-Antoine Delalande (1787-1823) the famous zoologist who collected in Spain, Portugal and Brazil, before making a substantial exploration of part of southern Africa (Thiébaut de Berneaud, 1825). The brother's name was Jean-Baptiste Delalande (1775-1836). Both are mentioned as members of the Société Linnéenne de Paris and were apparently present, as was Vieillot, at the major meeting on 28 December 1822 (*Mémoires*, vol. II, pagg. IX and CI). His collection of more than 6000 "natural objects", including an unknown number of birds, was sold to the museum of the city of Boulogne-sur-Mer in 1829 (Brunet 1859: 62; Morand 1859: 58). The Boulogne museum still holds a few birds, but *Aquila intermedia* described and depicted by Boitard is not there. The museum was extensively damaged during World War II and many specimens were destroyed (Florence Fourcroy, *pers. comm.* to G. Aimassi, 23 March 2015).

<sup>4</sup> Ferrero della Marmora, Alberto (Comte). Also referred to as La Marmora or Lamarmora.

<sup>5</sup> Catalogo uccelli. Unpublished manuscript held in the Library of the Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali di Torino, n. 1-13285.



**Figure 5a.** Type specimen MZUT Av69 held in the Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali, Turin.  
(Photo: L. Ghiraldi)



**Figure 5b.** The same specimen as figured in the *Planches Coloriées* No. 288 from the copy in the University Library of Cagliari.

<p>1108 Aquila Sarda. n. sp. <i>ma la coda sola non risulta il nuovo att. terminale.</i> femmina <i>adulta giovane</i> <i>della Sardegna. C. Brunner de Cagliari 1823.</i></p> <p>Aigle Bonelli - falco Bonelli Temm. pl. col. 255 (edit.)</p> <p>frizzatura long. dall'apice. al dorso gialla della coda più pag. 21. 21:2 Le rotte = - 1. 14. 3 dorsale = - 1. 11. 3</p> <p>Gamba long. ped. 5: Tars. 3: 6; Alte intorno: 21. 25, piede 3.</p>	<p><i>Dalla Sardegna. C. Brunner de Cagliari 1823.</i></p> <p>fem. prese il 15 gbre 1822: esalava inde, cera, e gli st. grullo chiari con l. la tibiona del C. da marmora 19 gbre 1822, nella quale ne diede un'ampia sezione fatta full intarsio ancor protto. g. n. 3624.</p> <p>avuto anch' dalla Sardegna dal O. Brunner individus fatto trasportato nel 1822 ad J. Vieillot, Temminck ec. e figurato nello pl. Col.</p>
<p>1109 ♂ femminuccia <i>adulta</i> del 3° anno Aigle Bonelli - falco Bonelli Temm. pl. col. 255. quilla tuffa figurata da Cuvier, e dal P. Biscaccia col ritratto del Bonelli nel genitivo 1820</p>	

**Figure 6.** The oldest MS Catalogue of MZUT, with the information on specimen No. 1109, sent to Vieillot and Temminck. [Catalogo numerico degli animali vertebrati del R. Museo cominciato in 1820 - terminato in 9bre 1827. Unpublished manuscript held in the Library of the Department of Scienze della Vita e Biologia dei Sistemi, University of Turin, n. 1-3760.]

## THE EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF VIEILLOT'S PRIOR PUBLICATION

Subsequent to his letter to Féruccac in September 1828 Lesson (1829, 1830) ascribed the description of the Bonelli's Eagle to Vieillot, and in a supplement within 22<sup>e</sup> *livraison* of the *Faune française* Vieillot (1829: 414) included this species as "Aigle à queue barrée *Aquila fasciata*" making a reference to both the *Mémoires de la Société linnéenne de Paris* and to the *Encyclopédie méthodique*. A decade later Degland (1839) argued that *Aquila fasciata* was originally described by Vieillot in the *Encyclopédie méthodique*, but in his *Encyclopédie Européenne* (Degland 1849) he changed this and wrote that the description of this taxon was published in the Vol. II of the *Mémoires*.

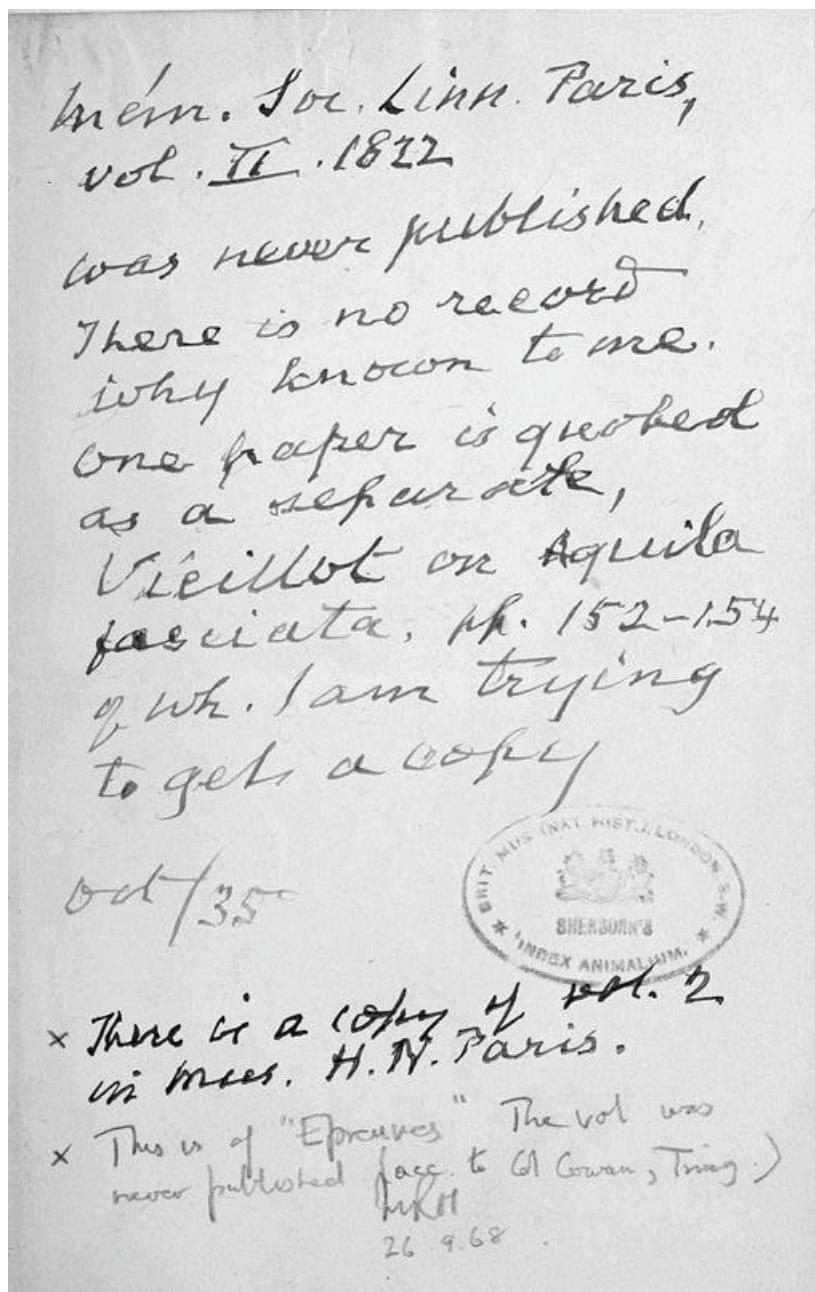
Subsequent authors shared this opinion (Strickland & Jardine 1855; Degland & Gerbe 1867; Salvadori 1872, 1887; Sharpe 1874; Hartert 1914). However, Sherborn (1926: 2310) proposed 1823 as the year of publication and cited the *Encyclopédie méthodique*. Meanwhile, Bonaparte (1850) continued to support the priority of *Falco bonelli* Temminck.

The dating of the *Encyclopédie méthodique* is well established. There is agreement that this work was published on or before July 1823 (Sherborn & Woodward 1906) and p. 1192 is from *livraison* 93 and dates from no later than 26 July (Evenhuis, 2003).

Turning to the *Mémoires de la Société linnéenne de Paris*, Vol. II is held by the Library of the Natural History Museum, Tring (NHM), and is available on the website Biodiversity Heritage Library (<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>) (BHL). The NHM copy was accessioned in 1969 and was reported by Cowan (1969) to be "a photocopy of the complete proof volume 2" and that Dr. Nye had examined the original, held by the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris. The photocopy shows the stamps of that museum and of G. Cuvier on the original. The first issue in this volume (pp. i-cxli + [1]) deals with the "Séance publique du 28 décembre 1822". The introduction includes the presidential address by the Comte de Lacépède (pp. ii-vii) and the "Analyse des Travaux" by the Secretary, Arsène Thiébaut de Bernaud (pp. xi-lxxxviii). In this, on p. xxvii is a brief description of the new eagle and the mention of the name *Aquila fasciata* given to it by Vieillot. Vieillot's own account is not in this first issue; it appeared or was to appear on pp. 152-154 in the second issue ("Deuxième partie - Mémoires", pp. 1-256). Here a footnote tells us that Vieillot read his paper on 22 August 1822. This second issue is demonstrably later (not earlier) than the first because on p. 155 a footnote tells us that the paper beginning there was read on 28 December 1822. On page 152 Vieillot's paper is entitled "Sur une nouvelle espèce d'aigle découverte en France".

Some handwritten notes in the opening pages of the volume held by the Library of the NHM (in part on a loose or glued sheet) are well visible on BHL and suggest that: (1) the volume was never published; (2) Vieillot's paper was quoted as a "separate"; (3) a copy of the volume is housed in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris; (4) that volume was an "épreuve", i.e. an "unpublished proof"; (5) the place and date could be "Paris [1823]".

Paul Cooper (NHM Library, London) personally analysed the volume and ascertained that: the manuscript note inserted at the front of the *Mémoires* is principally in the hand of Charles Sherborn; a pencil note referring to a proof volume in the Paris Museum ("This is of 'Epreuves' The vol. was never published acc. to Col. Cowan, Tring") has been added by a former librarian of the NHM; the note is dated 26.9.68 (*pers. comm.* to G. Aimassi, 19 June 2015).



**Figure 7.** Handwritten notes in the opening pages of the proofs of the *Mémoires de la Société Linnaéenne de Paris*, Vol. II, held by the Library of the Natural History Museum, Tring. Scanned and made available by the Biodiversity Heritage Library.

Hartert (1914: 1110) refers the opinion of Prof. Trouessart, according to whom the work of Vieillot would have been published, however Trouessart admitted to not having seen any copy of it. Given the standing of Lacépède one would have expected his address at least to

have been printed and circulated but the *Bibliographie de la France* for 1823 in the index to "Histoire naturelle" on pp. 154-156 makes no mention at all of this.

In the case of issue 1, where arguably *Aquila fasciata* is validly described by Vieillot in Thiébaut, it is evident that publication, if it occurred, was delayed into 1823 because the "Liste des Ouvrages imprimés et des Objects d'Histoire Naturelle offerts à la Société Linnéenne de Paris" (pp. cxvi-cxli) listed the following works: (1) M. Huzard, R. - Mémoire sur la fabrication du fromage de Parmesan. Paris, 1823 (p. cxxvii); (2) Sonnini C.-S. - Manuel des propriétaires et de tous les habitants de la campagne [...], 3<sup>e</sup> édition, 2 vol. Paris, 1823 (p. cxxxix). Checking the *Bibliographie de la France* we find Huzard's paper listed as No. 1064 in issue 10 dated 8 March 1823 and Sonnini's Manuel listed as No. 635 in issue 6 dated 8 February 1823.

It is almost unquestionably the case that issue 2 of this volume, if it ever appeared, with Vieillot's article in it, will have done so in 1823 at a point later than issue 1, but in fact no additional news on any separates is to be found in Féruccac's *Bulletin*<sup>6</sup>. There is certainly no known evidence of publication before 26 July 1823 and it is best accepted, as argued by Cowan (1969), that vol. II of the *Mémoires de la Société linnéenne de Paris* was never published.

## CONCLUSIONS

Whether or not Vieillot was aware of the uncertainty of the publication of the *Mémoires* it was natural for him to include his new species of eagle in the *Tableau encyclopédique et méthodique des trois règnes de la nature*, a work often cited as *Encyclopédie méthodique*. As mentioned above the date for that is well-established. The correct year-date for Vieillot's *Aquila fasciata* is undoubtedly 1823 and there is a strong case to give precedence to publication in the *Encyclopédie méthodique* in July 1823 (not later than 26 July). If this is accepted the dubious citation to Vol. II of the *Mémoires de la Société linnéenne de Paris*, 1822 – used by Mayr & Cottrell (1979) and by del Hoyo & Collar (2014) and also used by Dickinson & Remsen (2013) as inferred by their use of 1822 – should be discarded as it cannot at the moment be substantiated.

Finally, noting that the original descriptions of *Aquila fasciata* Vieillot, *Aquila intermedia* Boitard and *Falco bonelli* Temminck all referred to Bonelli's specimen, there are grounds to consider the second and third of these names to be objective synonyms of the first. The specimen figured in the *Planche Coloriée* No. 288 and still present in MRSN of Turin is, as far as we know, the only syntype still existing of the three named taxa. Should any of the three sets of specimens that served as types be brought together and found to be composite (containing at least one specimen of another species) it is recommended that the Turin specimen be designated the lectotype of Vieillot's taxon.

<sup>6</sup> However, two articles that appear in the proofs of the *Mémoires*, can be seen to have been privately printed. An article by Prof. Gasc (pp. 54-100 in the proofs) was printed by Tastu and published no later than 18 January 1823 (see *Bibliographie de la France*, Vol. 12, No. 3, p. 38: entry no. 288; and the notice of this in 1824 in Féruccac's *Bulletin* Vol. 1, p. 334; item 402 which refers to this as an "extrait du 2<sup>e</sup> vol des *Mémoires de la Société linnéenne de Paris*"). Tastu also produced Desmarest's "Première decade ichthyologique" (pp. 163-210 in the proofs). This is evidenced by the 1824 notice in Féruccac's *Bulletin* Vol. 1, pp. 186-189, item 254. It was comprised of 50 pages and limited to 50 copies.

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