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Abstracts

FEATURE ARTICLES

SKELETAL CHARACTERS AND THE GENERA OF BLACKBIRDS (ICTERIDAE)

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Abstract. Comparison of the skeletons of 92 of the 99 species of Icteridae resulted in some revision of the generic classification. The most useful characters were length of the retroarticular process of the mandible, presence or absence of a free lacrimal bone, shape of the tarsometatarsus, nature of the bony casque, and nature of the pneumotricipital fossa. On the basis of skeletal features I recommend these changes in the classification of Blake (1968) as modified by Short (1968, 1975): *Amblycercus* should be recognized; *Oreopsar* should be submerged in *Gnorimopsar*; no subfamilies should be recognized; a different sequence of genera should be adopted.

Key words: blackbirds, generic classification, Icteridae, skeletons.