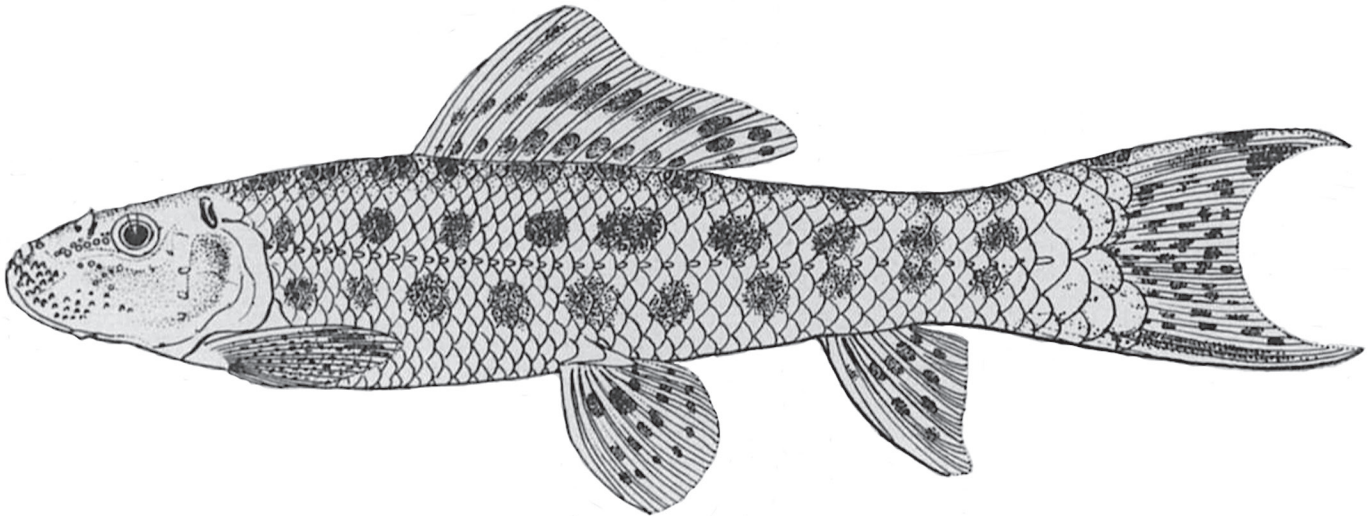


Order CYPRINIFORMES

Algae Eaters

Family **GYRINOCHEILIDAE**

Gill 1905



*Gyrinocheilus pennocki*, holotype, 145 mm TL. Illustration by Henry Weed Fowler. From: Fowler, H. W. 1937. Zoological results of the third De Schauensee Siamese Expedition. Part VIII. Fishes obtained in 1936. Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia v. 89: 125–264.

***Gyrinocheilus***

Vaillant 1902

*gyrinos* (Gr. γυρίνος), tadpole; *cheilus*, from *cheilos* (Gr. χείλος), lip, having the “somewhat triangular appearance of the mouth of the tadpole” (translation)

***Gyrinocheilus aymonieri* (Tirant 1883)** in honor of French linguist, archaeologist and explorer Étienne François Aymonier (1844–1929), who, while serving as a representative for the French protectorate of Cambodia, collected or helped secure holotype

***Gyrinocheilus pennocki* (Fowler 1937)** in honor of the late Charles J. Pennock (1857–1935), of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, USA, an ornithologist to whom Fowler was indebted for various North American fishes [see essay below]

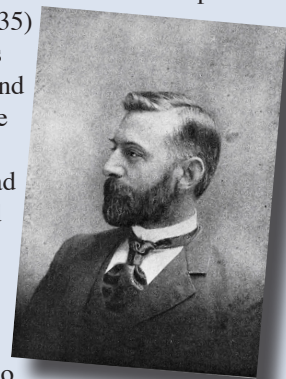
***Gyrinocheilus pustulosus* Vaillant 1902** Latin for full of blisters, referring to numerous papillae on lip

## Lost and found: the strange life of Charles J. Pennock

American ichthyologist Henry Weed Fowler (1878–1965) had the curious habit of naming fishes from foreign countries after Americans who helped him acquire fishes from the United States. *Gyrinocheilus pennocki* is one example. Fowler named this algae eater from Thailand in honor of the late Charles J. Pennock (1857–1935) of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, USA. Pennock, to whom Fowler was indebted for specimens of various North American fishes, was a businessman (insurance, real estate), local politician and Justice of the Peace. He was also a serious bird enthusiast, serving as President of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club (DVOC), one of the oldest ornithology clubs in the United States.

In May 1913, Pennock’s life took a bizarre, delusional turn. After a DVOC meeting, instead of taking the train home to his wife and family, he disappeared. His family was baffled. He had wandered off once before, explained at the time as memory loss due to “inflammatory rheumatism,” but this time was different. He remained missing for over six years.

Pennock had made his way to St. Marks, Florida, shaved his beard, and began a new life under the name of John Williams. He worked as a bookkeeper for a local fishing company and even became a prominent citizen, serving as County Commissioner and a notary public. He also continued to collect birds and bird eggs, and to publish articles on his ornithological studies, all under his new name. His ornithological work led to his discovery. In September 1919, “John Williams” submitted an article to *The Auk* (now called *Ornithology*), the official publication of the American Ornithological Association. The editor, Witmer Stone, had known



*continued on next page*

Pennock and edited his earlier articles. Based on handwriting and writing style, Stone thought that John Williams and Charles Pennock could be the same person but dismissed the idea as ridiculous. Two months later, Stone mentioned the possibility to Richard J. Phillips, Pennock's brother-in-law. In December, Phillips traveled to St. Marks, Florida, found Pennock, and persuaded him to return home, which he did, wearing the same suit he had worn the day he disappeared. Pennock reunited with his wife, resumed activities

with the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club and some of his business interests.

*The New York Times* (1 Jan. 1920) reported on Pennock's return: "Suffering from a nervous disease, he had become victim of a delusion that he had to leave every one and bury himself. He was discovered ... buried in the forests of Florida where his only solace in his self-enforced exile was the companionship of the birds."

Pennock died from a heart attack at his home in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, on 20 August 1935.

When Pennock disappeared, *The New York Times* (20 May 1913) published a brief "missing persons" notice that contained a rather stunning statement. According to the *Times*, "Twenty-five men, several of them leaders in business circles in Philadelphia and its vicinity, have disappeared within the past few months, and in only a few cases have they been found."

Was there a sinister or conspiratorial reason for Pennock's disappearance?