

N&MA Classification Committee: Proposals 2009-D

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Return *Calcarius mccownii* to the genus *Rhynchophanes*

Description of the problem:

The issue here is the generic classification of McCown's Longspur (currently *Calcarius mccownii*) in relation to the other longspurs (genus *Calcarius*) and the snow buntings (genus *Plectrophenax*). As recently as 1957 the AOU (5th Edition) recognized the monotypic genus *Rhynchophanes* for *mccownii*, separate from *Calcarius*. Subsequently *Rhynchophanes* was merged with *Calcarius*, apparently on the basis of a hybrid *Calcarius mccownii* x *ornatus*. (Sibley and Pettingill 1955). Phenotypically, *mccownii* is a strange longspur that is the outlier in *Calcarius* (and it has a short hind claw, for what that is worth).

New information:

Klicka et al. (2003), using complete cytochrome *b* sequence data, found *Calcarius* as presently recognized to be paraphyletic. Their trees include two sub-clades. One consists of the "collared" *Calcarius* longspurs: Smith's (*pictus*), Lapland (*lapponicus*), and Chestnut-collared (*ornatus*), and the other of the Snow and McKay's Buntings (*Plectrophenax nivalis* and *P. hyperboreus*) as sister taxa, plus McCown's Longspur (*Calcarius mccownii*). Bootstrap support for the clade of *mccownii*+*Plectrophenax* varied among their MP and ML analyses and with their different tree-rooting assumptions, but was universally strong (86-98%). Uncorrected pairwise % cyt *b* sequence divergences between *mccownii* and other longspurs/snow buntings were all 6.3-8.6%, with the lower range of these values representing the *mccownii*-*Plectrophenax* comparisons.

Klicka et al. (2008) included four relevant taxa in their broader investigation of 9-primaried oscine relationships based on mitochondrial cyt *b* and ND2 sequences. The resulting reconstruction has the topology (*ornatus*(*lapponicus*(*mccownii*, *nivalis*))) and is therefore congruent with the previous study in suggesting that *mccownii* is closer to the buntings than the longspurs. However, the posterior probability score for the node that groups *mccownii*+*nivalis* was <95% (exact value unspecified), and this overall topology actually suggests that *Calcarius* is paraphyletic regardless of what we do with *mccownii*, although this may be a spurious result of not including the other taxa in the analysis.

There are apparently no new nuclear data forthcoming on these taxa.

Taxonomic options: There are three possibilities, given the available evidence:

1. Retain the current placement of *mccownii* in *Calcarius*, pending additional information on the phylogenetic relationships of the relevant taxa, possibly

- including independent (i.e., nuclear locus) confirmation that *mccownii* is sister to *Plectrophenax*.
2. Return *mccownii* into the monotypic genus *Rhynchophanes*. This is a relatively 'safe' option, as it remains correct no matter whether *mccownii* is the sister lineage to the other *Calcarius* or to the two *Plectrophenax* buntings. This change has recently been adopted by the BOU (Sangster et al. 2010).
 3. Merge all four longspurs and two snow buntings into an expanded *Calcarius*. This is the taxonomic approach advocated by Klicka et al. (2003). This is also a 'safe' option phylogenetically, as support for this clade is strong, and it remains correct no matter what the internal relationships of the constituent species.

Recommendation:

Given the reasonably strong evidence that including *mccownii* in *Calcarius* sensu stricto renders that genus paraphyletic, option 1 above is the least attractive. Choosing between options 2 and 3 is really a judgment call on the utility of large versus small genera, and on the distinctiveness of the three groups that could be recognized as separate genera. We recommend that the committee adopt option 2, the return of *mccownii* to the genus *Rhynchophanes*. Although there is value in taxonomically recognizing these six species as a genus, Proposal 2009-C-10 already proposes separating these species as the small family Calcariidae, denoting their status as a monophyletic group. We believe that retaining *Plectrophenax* and resurrecting *Rhynchophanes* will not only reverse a misguided committee decision, but will provide maximal information in the classification through recognition of three distinct groups within the family Calcariidae (provided that 2009-C-10 passes).

The topology in Klicka et al. (2003) suggests that an appropriate order of these species in the Check-list would be:

Calcarius lapponicus
C. ornatus
C. pictus
Rhynchophanes mccownii
Plectrophenax nivalis
P. hyperboreus

Literature cited:

Klicka, J., R. M. Zink, and K. Winker. 2003. Longspurs and snow buntings: phylogeny and biogeography of a high-latitude clade (*Calcarius*). *Mol. Phylog. Evol.* 26:165-175.

Klicka, J., K. J. Burns, and G. M. Spellman. 2008. Defining a monophyletic Cardinalini: a molecular perspective. *Mol. Phylog Evol.* 45: 1014-1032.

Sangster, G., J. M Collinson, A. G. Know, D. T. Parkin, and L. Svensson. 2010. Taxonomic recommendations for British birds: sixth report. *Ibis* 152:180-186.

Sibley, C. G., and O. S. Pettingill, Jr., 1955. A hybrid longspur from Saskatchewan. *Auk* 72: 423-425.

Name and affiliation of submitter: Jim Rising, Irby Lovette, Terry Chesser, NACC

Date of proposal: 11 Jan 2010

Add Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*) to the Main List

BOU Checklist No. 24 on the Birds of Barbados (Buckley et al. 2009) includes several records of species new to the AOU area, one of which is Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*). The account for that species indicates that an adult male was present at Graeme Hall Swamp, Barbados, from 10-31 December 1995. A color photo was published (plate 44). Photographs sent to the Natural History Museum at Tring, UK, were examined by Mark Adams, who felt the photos showed an adult male but that the evidence of whether the bird was the African race *paysesii* or the highly migratory nominate European race (*minutus*) was conflicting. In Buckley et al. (2009) they state that vagrant Little Bitterns to the Canaries, Madeira and the Cape Verde Islands have been ascribed to *paysesii* (Hazevoet 1995), although Hazevoet (1999) “eventually concluded that the sole Cape Verde specimen was nominate *minutus*.”

Recommendation:

I recommend that the species be added to the North American list. I can't honestly tell for sure from the one published photo that the bird is indeed a Little Bittern as opposed to a Least Bittern (two records for Barbados, Buckley et al. 2009 include a published photo of that species), but trust that a mistake wasn't made and after all photos were examined at Tring which led Mark Adams to postulate about subspecies. The published photo in Buckley et al. (2009) show the bird perched in a mangrove from the front and in addition to the rufous sides to the face, I see extensive rufous on the sides of the neck. The photos look quite unlike illustrations of nominate adult male Little Bitterns I've reviewed. So, if a Little Bittern, perhaps African *paysesii*, but I also worried about it being an adult male Least Bittern. Little Bitterns largely lack the white lines on the sides of the back that Least Bitterns have. But since the published photo is from the front, I can't do anything with that. However, I do note that the wings are held open enough to see whitish wing linings. Cramp (1977) says that the under wing coverts are “cream-white for Little Bittern and for Least Bittern they are “grey-buff.” Also the rich and rather sharply contrasting chestnut on the sides of the neck not only seems to eliminate the nominate race of Little Bittern, but also Least Bittern which is buffy and somewhat streaked on the sides of the neck. I presume that Buckley et al. (2009) thoroughly investigated this individual being a Least Bittern, but the reasons for the specific identification are not given. I've e-mailed Paul Buckley to add additional information and will hopefully hear back at some point.

Update: Paul has now e-mailed me back and I have attached the correspondence. Paul is confident the bird was migratory *minutus* and the full slate of photos eliminates Least Bittern. But I read Mark Adams response (in

Buckley et al. 2009) who commented (*in litt.*) “sides of neck and face of European race *minutus* are generally a lot paler than African race *payesii*, which are a lot more rufous-chestnut. Both races however, do show color (pale or rufous) to be uniform on face and neck. If photographs depict realistic colours, neck (and overall colouration) of Barbados bird more closely match rufous colour of *payesii*. The face, however, does seem a little pale and is similar to European *minutus*. One photograph appears to show streaking on neck-sides; however, bold patterning and lack of streaking in underparts, mantle and wing patch, indicate the Barbados bird is an adult male.”

Correspondence from Buckley and my initial query are below, but I suggest we not address the subspecies issue, and with Rasmussen and Anderton's (2005) analysis of calls, *paysei* and nominate *minutus* might not be diagnosed as biological species.

Hi Jon:

Yes, it has been a while indeed. I have been trying to get *The Flock* people to correct my entry for years, and have almost given up.

We were able to publish only one shot of course, so it was a problem which to choose, as no one addressed all issues. However, some of the photos you have not seen clearly show the two huge 'pearly-grey' upperwing ovals that are of course diagnostic as to species and which also indicate an adult male. Moreover, those Barbados observers familiar with the species from Europe felt that it was typical of *minutus* in every way. Photos on the web of *payesii* show a bird that is far more rufous than the Barbados bird, in many respects looking much like a 'Cory's Least Bittern.'

We were fortunate that the Barbados bird was an adult male (with a solidly blackish crown and unstreaked back) whose whitish (not red-brown or chestnut) wing panels are both necessary and sufficient not only to eliminate *exilis* but also to separate *minutus* from *payesii*. But just to be absolutely sure because none of the observers had field experience with *payesii*, the photos were sent to the BMNH, whose collection is rich in both *minutus* and *payesii*. We were pleased that Mark's comparison confirmed our conclusions. It was not really surprising, given that *minutus* is migratory and as we noted has already reached the Cape Verdes. While there are good reasons to suspect that allopatric *payesii* is a valid biological species, we are aware of no long-distance vagrancy in that taxon. And although it may move about post-breeding within Africa, that's a long way from crossing the ocean.

In sum, all of its features confirm its identity as an adult male *minutus*, and clearly neither *exilis* nor *payesii*.

Hope this helps.

Paul

----- Original Message -----

From: Jonathon Dunn

To: pabuckley@uri.edu

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2010 10:49 PM

Subject: Barbados monograph and the Little Bittern

Dear Paul,

It's been a good while since we've been in communication. First I wanted to congratulate you and your co-authors on your superb BOU monograph on Barbados. It was well worth every penny I spent on it.

I've been reviewing the accounts for new AOU additions and have several accounts to draft, one of which is for the Little Bittern. One question that did arise is how was a male Least Bittern eliminated? One striking feature for Least Bittern are the pale lines on the sides of the back which Little Bitterns lack, but the published photo is from the front. Two features which I think I do see are the whitish wing linings (grayer in Least Bittern) and the rather dark chestnut sides to the neck, seemingly too dark and rich for any Least Bittern. I have no doubt that the identification was correct and that other photos show the back, etc., but there are no comments in the text in discussing the elimination of Least Bittern. In reviewing illustrations and photos of nominate *minutus*, surely the rich chestnut on the sides of the head and especially the sides of the neck would indicate that this vagrant was of *payesii* from Africa rather than nominate *minutus* breeding in Europe, a conclusion that I gather from your text that Mark Adams supported or at least leaned towards.

Anyway, I support the addition of the species to the AOU list based solely on the evidence presented, but any helpful comments you can supply would strengthen the case for acceptance and of course you will be acknowledged.

Many thanks in advance.

Sincerely,

Jon Dunn

English name: The name Little Bittern is the widely used name in the Old World. I'm unaware of other English names.

Taxonomy: Most authorities treat this Old World polytypic species as having five subspecies: nominate *minutus* breeding primarily in southern Europe, *payseii* from Africa, *podiceps* from Madagascar, *dubius* from southern and eastern Australia and *novazelandiae* from South Island, New Zealand. The Australia and New Zealand subspecies are separated from the easternmost part of the range of nominate *minutus* in northern India by thousands of miles. In addition to being well-isolated from another, Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) indicate that the song of *dubius* differs distinctly from that of nominate *minutus* but that songs of *minutus* and African *payseii* are similar. Marchant and Higgins (1990) treat the much larger *novazelandiae* subspecies as a separate species. It also is distinctly different morphologically. Based on their discussion, this treatment was also followed by Dickinson (2003). This taxon (*novazelandiae*) is poorly known, hasn't been reliably recorded for well over a century, and has been declared extinct (Marchant and Higgins 1990). I suggest that the above issues be covered under Notes, but for now under range I intend to include the Australia and New Zealand populations.

Position and effect on Check-List: The authorities I've consulted (Cramp 1977) and Dickinson (2003) place Little Bittern immediately after Least Bittern. I suggest we follow that linear sequence.

p. 38, after the account for *Ixobrychus exilis*, insert:

Ixobrychus minutus (Linnaeus). Little Bittern.

Ardea minuta Linnaeus, 1766, Syst. Nat. ed. 12, 1:240 – “*Helvetia, Aleppo*”; restricted to Switzerland by Vaurie, 1965, Birds pal. Fauna, Non-Pass, p. 57.

Habitat. – Primarily in various types of freshwater marshes; also in mangroves.

Distribution. – *Breeds* over much of Europe and sparingly in northernmost Africa east across Russia to south-central Siberia, Iran and northern India; also in central and southern Africa, southern and eastern Australia and formerly on South Island, New Zealand. Small numbers also found annually to southern New Guinea where it may breed.

Winters mainly in Africa south of the Sahara.

Rare or casual to the United Kingdom (has bred), the Faeroes, Scandinavia, Finland, Azores, Madeira, and western China. Accidental to Iceland and the Cape Verde Islands.

Accidental on Barbados (adult male at Graeme Hall Swamp from 10-31 December 1995, Buckley et al. 2009).

Notes. – The isolated subspecies (*dubius*) in Australia differs vocally from the European and African subspecies (Rasmussen and Anderton 1995) and may be a separate species. The New Zealand subspecies, *novazelandiae*, now considered extinct, has been treated as a separate species (Marchant and Higgins 1990).

Literature cited in motion:

- Buckley, P. A., E. B. Massiah, M. B. Hutt, F. G. Buckley, and H. F. Hutt. 2009. The Birds of Barbados. B.O.U Check-list No. 24. British Ornithologists' Union, Tring.
- Cramp, S. (Ed.). 1977. Handbook of the birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, vol. 1. Oxford Univ. Press, Oxford, United Kingdom.
- Dickinson, E. G. 2003. The Howard & Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World. 3rd Edition. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey.
- Hazevoet, C. 1995. The Birds of the Cape Verde Islands. B.O.U Check-list No 13, British Ornithologists' Union, Tring.
- Hazevoet, C. 1999. Notes on birds from the Cape Verde Islands in the collection of Centro de Zoologia, Lisbon, with comments on taxonomy and distribution. Bull. Brit. Orn. Club 119:25-31.
- Marchant, S., and P. J. Higgins (Eds.). 1990. Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic birds. Vol. 1B. Australian Pelican to Ducks. 735-1400. Oxford Univ. Press, Melbourne.
- Rasmussen, P. C., and J. C. Anderton. 2005. Birds of South Asia. The Ripley Guide. Vol. 2. Smithsonian Institution and Lynx Edicions, Washington, D.C. and Barcelona.

Literature to be cited in draft account:

- Buckley, P.A., E. B. Massiah, M. B. Hutt, F. G. Buckley, and H. F. Hutt. 2009. The Birds of Barbados. B. O. U. Check-list No. 24. British Ornithologists' Union, Tring.
- Marchant, S., and P. J. Higgins (Eds.). 1990. Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic birds. Vol. 1B. Australian Pelican to Ducks. 735-1400. Oxford Univ. Press, Melbourne.
- Rasmussen, P.C. and J. C. Anderton. 2005. Birds of South Asia. The Ripley Guide, Vol. 2. Smithsonian Institution and Lynx Edicions, Washington, D.C. and Barcelona.

Name and affiliation of submitter: Jon L. Dunn, NACC

Date of proposal: 20 Jan 2010

Add Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*) to the Main List

In the Buckley et al. (2009) monograph on Barbados I note that Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*) has been recorded on three occasions, all HY/ 2nd calendar year: one at Graeme Hall Swamp 21 November 1998-28 April 1999 (photographed); another at Fosters, then Graeme Hall Swamp 4 December 2005-11 January 2006 (photographed); and one at Carrington about 7-28 September 2008. A color photo of the first record (plate 44) appears in Buckley et al. (2009) and it certainly looks like a Purple Heron.

Buckley et al. (2009) also mention records from Isla Fernando de Naronha, Brazil, on 11-13 June 1986, and from the Caroni Swamp, Trinidad, from 24 September-10 October 2002.

Recommendation:

I recommend that the species be added to the Check-list. The published photo in Buckley et al. (2009) appears diagnostic to my eye.

English name: Purple Heron is the only name I've seen. I don't particularly like that name as I see little or nothing in the plumage that is purple, but hey it's no worse than Green Heron.

Taxonomy: Three to four subspecies are recognized, nominate *purpurea* from Europe east to Kazakhstan; *madagascariensis* from Madagascar; and *manilensis* from the Indian Subcontinent and from northeast Asia south through Southeast Asia and the Philippines, to the Celebes in Indonesia. A fourth subspecies, *bournei*, breeding on Santiago Island in the Cape Verde Islands, is sometimes recognized (but not by Peters 1979) and has been treated a full phylogenetic species, the Cape Verde Purple Heron (*A. bournei*) by Hazevoet (1995). This form is rare and considered endangered. Given that the species is casual to our area, I don't see the need to have a Notes category, but am happy to adopt one if the Committee wants to get into this.

Position and effect on Check-list: I believe the species should be placed after Cooi Heron (*Ardea cocoi*) and before Great Egret (*Ardea alba*). This would follow Dickinson (2003).

p. 40, after the account for *Ardea cocoi*, insert:

Ardea purpurea Linnaeus. Purple Heron.

Ardea purpurea Linnaeus, 1766. Syst. Nat., ed. 12, 1, p. 236 – “in Oriente”; restricted to France by Stresemann, 1920, Avifauna Macedonica, p. 226.

Habitat.- Shallow freshwater marshes with extensive bordering vegetation, especially *Phragmites*, when breeding; also mangroves. More open habitats in migration and winter.

Distribution.- Breeds from western and southeastern Europe, and very locally along the Mediterranean in northwest Africa, east to eastern Kazakhstan, and from northeast Asia in the Amur and Urruri River basins, Russian Far East, Japan (Yaeyama Islands) south to Taiwan, the Philippines and throughout southeast Asia and the Indian Sub-continent to Indonesia, east to Celebes. Also breeds in eastern and southern Africa and on Santiago Island, Cape Verde Islands.

Winters in Africa, mainly south of the Sahara, rarely north to North Africa and Israel, and from southeast China south through the breeding range.

Casual or accidental north to Iceland, the Faeroes, Scandinavia, Finland, and Hokkaido; also from the Azores, Madeira, and the Canary islands, Brazil, and Trinidad.

Casual to Barbados where three records are detailed by Buckley et al. (2009): one photographed at Graeme Hall Swamp from 21 November 1998-28 April 1999; one photographed at Fosters, then Graeme Hall Swamp from 4 December 2005–11 January 2006, and one at Carrington about 7 September-28 September 2008.

Literature cited in motion:

Buckley, P. A., E. B. Massiah, M. B. Hutt, F. G. Buckley, and H. F. Hutt. 2009. The Birds of Barbados. B.O.U. Checklist No. 24. British Ornithologists' Union, Tring, United Kingdom.

Dickinson, E. C., ed. 2003. The Howard & Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World, 3rd Edition. Princeton University Press. Princeton, New Jersey.

Hazevoet, C. J. 1995. The Birds of the Cape Verde Islands. B.O.U. Check-list No. 13. British Ornithologists' Union, Tring, United Kingdom.

Literature cited in draft account:

Buckley, P. A., E. B. Massiah, M. B. Hutt, F. G. Buckley, and H. F. Hutt. 2009. The Birds of Barbados. B.O.U. Checklist No. 24. British Ornithologists' Union, Tring, United Kingdom.

Name and affiliation of submitter: Jon L. Dunn, NACC

Date of proposal: 20 Jan 2010

**Transfer Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)
from the Appendix to the Main List**

The species was formerly on the main list of North American Birds through the 5th edition of the AOU Check-list on the basis of a specimen record from Greenland (Itivdleq, Julianehaab District) but was moved to the Appendix when Greenland was dropped from the AOU area.

The NACC will return all of the “Greenland-only” species to the Check-list when we publish the 8th edition, but some of these species are being added to the main list on the basis of records elsewhere within the AOU area. Buckley et al. (2009) report this species from St. Lucia (November 2007) and Barbados. I checked the pages of NAB and I don’t see the St. Lucia bird mentioned until vol. 62 (No. 3):492, where I see the statement that the Eurasian Spoonbill “continued at Cul de Sac River, St. Lucia, until 20 April [2008].” It was reportedly photographed (NAB 62:492), but I have not seen the photos. From Barbados, two HY/SY birds were at Alaska-The Hope-Fosters from 17 November 2008-March 2009 and through the spring (NAB 63:519) and another was at Carrington from about 15 November to at least 22 November 2009; a full frame color photo of the Bright Hall bird taken on 22 November 2008 appears on plate 48 of Buckley et al. (2009). From NAB (63:34) I see that Antigua got its first record 25-28 February 2009 and that the same bird (?) was later photographed on 18 April 2009 (NAB 63:519).

Recommendation:

I recommend that the species be transferred from the Appendix to the Main List. There are now multiple records from the Lesser Antilles plus the older record from Greenland, which by the way was from western Greenland (HY bird, specimen, 4 October 1936).

English name: Most references call this the Eurasian Spoonbill. We give alternate English names currently in Appendix (European Spoonbill, White Spoonbill, Common Spoonbill, or the Spoonbill) and I suggest including those under a Notes section.

Position and effect on Check-List: I see no reason why Eurasian Spoonbill wouldn’t precede Roseate Spoonbill, even though all Spoonbills are treated in the same genus.

p. 689 remove account of *Platalea leucorodia* from Appendix and insert new account for this species on p. 50 prior to the account for *Platalea ajaja*:

Platalea leucorodia Linnaeus. Eurasian Spoonbill.

Platalea Leucorodia Linnaeus, 1758, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, p. 139; based on "The Spoonbill" of Albin, 1734, Nat. Hist. Birds, **2**, p. 61, pl. 66- Europe; restricted to Sweden by Linnaeus, 1761, Fauna Svecica, ed. 2, p. 57.

Habitat.- Feeds in extensive areas of rather open and shallow slow moving water. When breeding prefers areas of dense reedbeds or other like

Distribution.- Breeds locally from the Netherlands, southern Europe, Mauritania (Banc d' Arguin), and the Red Sea region east across southern Russia to Ussuriland, Russian Far East, and south to Iran and the Indian Subcontinent east to Assam.

Winters around the Mediterranean Sea, Africa (north of the equator), and east along the Persian Gulf, the Indian Subcontinent, southeast China, and Taiwan.

Rare or casual to Iceland, Faeroes, Scandinavia, the United Kingdom, northeast Europe, Azores, Madeira, Canary Islands, Cape Verde Islands, Japan, Myanmar, northwest Thailand and northern Vietnam.

Casual to the Lesser Antilles where recently recorded from Antigua (McKinnon's Pond, 25–28 February 2009, North American Birds 63:340; later photographed on 18 April 2009, North American Birds 63:519), St. Lucia (Cul de Sac River, November 2007 –20 April 2008, Buckley et al. 2009, North American Birds 62:492) and Barbados (two were photographed at Alaska-The Hope-Fosters from 17 November 2008 through at least the spring of 2009, Buckley et al. 2009, North American Birds 63:519; and another at Carrington from about 15 November to at least 22 November 2008, Buckley et al. 2009).

Accidental to western Greenland (specimen taken at Qaqortoq/Ulianehab: Itilleq, Nanortalik, 4 October 1936, Boertmann 1994).

Notes. – Also known by the alternative English names of European Spoonbill, White Spoonbill, Common Spoonbill, or the Spoonbill.

Literature cited in the motion and in the draft account:

Boertmann, D. 1994. A annotated checklist to the birds of Greenland, Bioscience 38:1-63.

Buckley, P.A., E. B. Massiah, M. B. Hutt, F. G. Buckley, and H. F. Hutt. 2009. The Birds of Barbados. B.O.U. Checklist Series, No. 24. British Ornithologists' Union, Tring, United Kingdom.

Name and affiliation of submitter: Jon L. Dunn, NACC

Date of proposal: 20 Jan 2010

Add Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*) to the Main List

Buckley et al. (2009) detail a record at Arch Pond and Alaska, Barbados, 3 November 1996 - 24 June 1997. Discussions with hunters revealed its presence since "mid October" at Congo Road and the Oilfields. It was initially in juvenile plumage but began molt into breeding plumage in February, though by June still retained the relatively short outermost retricies, perhaps indicating a female. A color photo from April, by which time the bird is pretty much in adult-like plumage, was published in Buckley et al. (2009; plate 60).

Buckley et al. (2009) provide extensive discussion and claim this as the first Western Hemisphere record, as a breeding plumaged adult photographed on 9 March 1990 on Atol das Rocas, Brazil (Soto and Filippini 2003) is "reputedly" not certainly distinguishable from Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola maldivarum*). Buckley et al. (2009) go on to discuss a paper by Driessens and Svensson (2005) in Dutch Birding which provided criteria for separating Oriental from all subspecies of Collared Pratincole. Driessens (2005) went on to discuss separating of Palearctic from Afrotropical races of Collared Pratincole. With all this in mind separation to subspecies was attempted from a series of photographs, several of which showed Collared Pratincole's diagnostic nasal opening, by Mark Adams at the NHM in Tring. This ultimately "proved futile."

The record was also published in NAS Field Notes (51:809-810, black-and-white photograph on p. 810). Interesting details include that it wasn't shot by local hunters because it looked too much like a small hawk! This individual had a reddish underwing and a white trailing edge to the secondaries, features that eliminate Black-winged Pratincole and Oriental Pratincole, respectively. It was thought by Massiah and Frost to be the European race.

I've not yet read the Dutch Birding papers, but reviewed the identification sections on pratincoles in Cottridge and Vinicombe (1996). In addition to Oriental Pratincole one would have to consider Black-winged Pratincole (*Glareola nordmanni*). From the published photo in Buckley et al. (2009) I can't assess where wing tips fall in relation to tail tip, and can't see the nasal openings, but the wing coverts look pale and there is extensive red at the base of the lower mandible, characters that mitigate against Black-winged Pratincole. I'm not sure there is anything in the published photo that eliminates Oriental Pratincole, but trust this was carefully done by Mark Adams and others. After all, some photos show the diagnostic shape (for Collared) of the nasal opening.

Recommendation:

I recommend that the species be added to the main part of the Check-List. I'm not sure there is enough from the single published color photo in Buckley et al.

(2009) to eliminate Oriental Pratincole, but am satisfied that issue was thoroughly vented by both Buckley et al. (2009) and by Mark Adams at the NHM in Tring.

English name: Collared Pratincole is the widely used English name.

Position and effect on Check-List: The BOU and Dickinson (2003) place Collared Pratincole before Oriental Pratincole, so suggest we follow that linear sequence.

p. 181, before the account of *Glareola maldivarum*, insert:

Glareola pratincola (Linné)

Hirundo Pratincola Linné, Syst. Nat., ed. 12, 1, 1766, p. 345 (Shores of southern Europe and Austria, restricted type locality, Austria, B.O.U. Committee).

Habitat.- Breeds in colonies in extensive flat, dry terrain with low or no vegetation; otherwise salt pans, moist meadows, fallow fields, lagoons, etc.

Distribution. – Breeds locally in southwest Europe east to Moldavia, southern Ukraine, eastern Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan; also resident locally in Africa south of the Sahara.

Migratory Eurasian populations *winter* mainly in Africa north of the Equator, more sparingly along the west coast of India and Sri Lanka.

Rare or casual to central and northern Europe, including the United Kingdom, Scandinavia, Madeira, Canaries, and the Cape Verde Islands.

Accidental to Iceland and possibly Brazil.

Accidental to Barbados (one at Arch Pond and Alaska 3 November 1996 - 24 June 1997, may have been present since mid-October 1996; Buckley et al. 2009).

Literature cited in motion:

Buckley, P. A., E. B. Massiah, M. B. Hutt, F. G. Buckley, and H. F. Hutt. 2009. The Birds of Barbados. B.O.U. Checklist No. 24. British Ornithologists' Union, Tring, United Kingdom.

Cottrindge, D. and K. Vinicombe. 1996. Rare Birds in Britain and Ireland. HarperCollins Publishers, London.

Dickinson, E. C., ed. 2003. The Howard & Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World. 3rd edition. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey.

Driessens, G. 2005. Field characters of Afrotropical Collared Pratincole. Dutch Birding 27:35-40.

Driessens, G. and L. Svensson. 2005. Identificaiton of Collared Pratincole and Oriental Pratincole – a critical review of characters. Dutch Birding 27:1-35.

Soto, J., and A. Filippini. 2003. Documentação do ocorrência da perdiz-do-mar *Glareola pratincola* (Linnaeus, 1766) (Charadriiformes: Glareolidae), no Brasil. Ararajuba 11:136.

Literature cited for draft account:

Buckley, P.A., E. B. Massiah, M. B. Hutt, F. G. Buckley, and H. F. Hutt. 2009. The Birds of Barbados. B. O. U. Checklist No. 24. British Ornithologists' Union, Tring, United Kingdom.

Name and affiliation of submitter: Jon L. Dunn, NACC

Date of proposal: 20 Jan 2010

Add White-crested Elaenia (*Elaenia albiceps*) to the Main List

A White-crested Elaenia (*Elaenia albiceps*) was present 9-10 February 2008 at South Padre Island, Cameron County, Texas. It was superbly photographed, many of the images being published in color in North American Birds (Reid and Jones 2009), including the cover of volume 62, no. 2. In addition, Martin Reid tape-recorded the bird, and the spectrogram prepared by Chris Benesh (published in Reid and Jones 2009) was “seemingly” a “perfect match in structure and pitch” to *E. a. chilensis* recorded by Sjoerd Mayer in Bolivia (Reid and Jones 2009). Other subspecies of *E. albiceps* have calls that are similar but burrier, and Reid and Jones (2009) provide a web site for comparison of the calls online. This and the plumage indicate that the subspecies was *E. a. chilensis*, which is a strongly migratory austral migrant and the subspecies likely to reach North America. In Reid and Jones (2009) there is published photo taken by Erik Breden which shows the spread wing and one can see that the tenth (outermost) primary is longer than the 5th, which fits the wing formula for *chilensis* as established by Zimmer (1941). This subspecies has strayed to the Falklands and has been recorded at sea in the Drake Passage. Reid and Jones (2009) go on to eliminate other similar looking Elaenia species, notably Sierran (*E. pallatangae*) and Small-billed (*E. pallatangae*).

[As an aside the ABA CLC (Pranty et al. 2009) removed Caribbean Elaenia from their Checklist, thus now reaching accord with the NACC. Their report includes an image (see p. 42) of a reputed Caribbean Elaenia at Fort Pickens, Florida. Although the photo is not sharp, it looks a bit to my eye like a White-crested Elaenia as well. The NACC had wisely chosen to not accept that record.]

This record received unanimous acceptance by both the Texas Bird Records Committee and the ABA CLC (Pranty et al. 2009).

Recommendation:

I recommend that this species be added to the Check-List. I found the arguments offered by Reid and Jones (2009) to be very thorough and convincing, although I admit to knowing little about the genus. Hopefully Remsen, Stotz and others can weigh in if there is a problem and I certainly look for carefully editing and revision of the draft motion.

English name: Unless there is a split within this strongly polytypic species (see below), the name of White-crested Elaenia is well established.

Taxonomy: Confusing to say the least. Reid and Jones (2009) indicate six subspecies of *E. albiceps*, arranged into three groups. The largest group (*albiceps*, *griseigularis*, *diverresa*, and *urubambae*) occurs in the Andes from

southernmost Colombia to central Bolivia and is considered to be non-migratory. These subspecies generally have duller wing bars and a less-conspicuous eye ring than *chilensis*. They are drabber and have more brownish tones to the upperparts and their calls differ. Reid and Jones (2009) cite recent molecular evidence by Rheindt et al. (2009) that indicates that members of the *albiceps* group are unrelated to *chilensis* and the two should be treated as separate species. The sixth subspecies, *E. a. modesta*, was not sampled for the molecular study but its calls differ from those of *chilensis* and its wing edges are duller and less contrasting. To date, the SACC has not acted on this recommendation (J. V. Remsen *in lit.*), but it seems likely they will and that will likely require a revision on our part as well.

Position and effect on Check-List: I'm not sure, but perhaps after Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*E. flavogaster*) and before Lesser Elaenia (*E. chiriquensis*).

p. 377, after the account for *Elaenia flavogaster*, insert:

Elaenia albiceps (d'Orbigny and Lafresnaye)

M[uscipeta] albiceps d'Orbigny and Lafresnaye, 1837, Mag. Zool. [Paris], **7**, cl. 2, p. 47 – part, Yungas, Bolivia; types from Yungas, Bolivia, *fide* Hellmayr, 1925, Novit. Zool., **32**, p. 28.

Habitat.- Scrub, various types of woodland, gardens; *chilensis* group favors forests predominated by Southern Beech (*Nothofagus* spp.) for breeding.

Distribution.- Breeds [*albiceps* group] and a resident in the Andes from southern Colombia to western Bolivia; [*modesta*] is mostly resident in western Peru and northern Chile; [*chilensis*] from central and southern Chile and central Argentina south to Tierra del Fuego.

Winters [*chilensis* group] north to Peru, a few to Amazonia and eastern Brazil, possibly eastern Colombia; *chilensis* group is entirely migratory.

Casual [*chilensis* group] to the Falkland Islands; recorded at sea in the Drake Channel.

Accidental [*chilensis* group] to South Padre Island, Cameron County, Texas (9-10 February 2008, Reid and Jones 2009); confirmation to subspecies confirmed by excellent photos (many published in Reid and Jones 2009, see also cover of North American Birds, vol. 62, no. 2), which amongst other features showed the wing formula of the spread wing, and by spectograms of the calls.

Notes.- Vocalizations indicate that multiple species are likely involved as does genetic data by Rheindt et al. (2009), who advocate that *albiceps* and *chilensis* groups should be split.

Literature cited in the motion:

Pranty, B., J. L. Dunn, S. C. Heinl, A. W. Kratter, P. E. Lehman, M. W. Lockwood, B. Mactavish, and K. J. Zimmer. 2009. Annual Report of the ABA Checklist Committee: 2008-2009. *Birding* 41:38-43.

Reid, M., and D. Jones. 2009. First North American record of White-crested Elaenia (*Elaenia albiceps chilensis*) at South Padre Island, Texas. North American Birds 63:10-14.

Rheindt, F. E., L. Christidis, and J. A. Norman. 2009. Genetic introgression, incomplete lineage sorting, and faulty taxonomy create multiple cases of polyphyly in a montane clade of tyrant-flycatchers (*Elaenia*, Tyrannidae). Zoologica Scripta 38:143-153.

Zimmer, J. T. 1941. Studies of Peruvian birds 36. American Museum Novitates 1108:1-23.

Literature cited in draft account:

Reid, M, and D. Jones. 2009. First North American record of White-crested Elaenia (*Elaenia albiceps chilensis*) at South Padre Island, Texas. North American Birds 63:10-14.

Rheindt, F.E., L. Christidis, and J. A Norman. 2009. Genetic introgression, incomplete lineage sorting, and faulty taxonomy create multiple cases of polyphyly in a montane clade of tyrant-flycatchers (*Elaenia*, Tyrannidae). Zoologica Scripta 38:143-153.

Name and affiliation of submitter: Jon L. Dunn, NACC

Date of proposal: 21 Jan 2010

**Add Crowned Slaty-Flycatcher (*Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus*)
to the U.S. list**

Coming quickly on the heels of the first AOU record (Chesser et al. 2009), a photo and specimen-supported record was obtained at Peveto Beach Woods, Cameron Parish, Louisiana on 3 June 2008 (Conover and MacMyers 2009). The specimen is now at LSUMNS (catalog no. 180361) and was determined to be an adult male. The record was accepted by the Louisiana Bird Records Committee at their annual meeting in November 2008 and the species was added to the Louisiana list (Conover and MacMyers 2009). The record was accepted unanimously by the ABA CLC (Pranty et al. 2009).

Recommendation:

I recommend that we add this species to the US list. The record is non-controversial and the photos alone, let alone the specimen, establish the identity.

Effect on Check-List:

p. 411. A record of the Crowned Slaty-Flycatcher, *Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus*, in the United States is recognized. After paragraph detailing the Panama record add new paragraph and state: Accidental in southwestern Louisiana (Peveto Beach Woods, near Johnsons Bayou, Cameron Parish, 3 June 2008, Conover and MacMyers 2009).

Literature cited in motion:

Chesser, R. T., R. C. Banks, F. K. Barker, C. Cicero, J. L. Dunn, A. W. Kratter, I. J. Lovette, P. C. Rasmussen, J. V. Remsen, Jr., J. D. Rising, D. F., Stotz, and K. Winker. 2009. Fiftieth Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union *Check-List of North American Birds*. Auk 126:705-714.

Conover, P. E., and B. MacMyers. 2009. First United States record of Crowned Slaty-Flycatcher (*Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus*) from Louisiana. *North American Birds* 62:638-639.

Pranty, B., J. L. Dunn, S. C. Heinl, A. W. Kratter, P. E. Lehman, M. W. Lockwood, B. Mactavish, and K. J. Zimmer. 2009. Annual Report of the ABA Checklist Committee 2008-2009. *Birding* 41:38-43.

Literature cited in draft account:

Conover, P. E. and B. Mac.Myers. 2009. First United States record of Crowned Slaty-Flycatcher (*Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus*) from Louisiana. North American Birds 62:638-639.

Name and affiliation of submitter: Jon L. Dunn, NACC

Date of proposal: 22 Jan 2010

Add Sinaloa Wren (*Thryothorus sinaloa*) to the U.S. List

A Sinaloa Wren (*Thryothorus sinaloa*) was discovered at the Nature Conservancy's Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve near Patagonia, Santa Cruz County, Arizona, on 25 August 2008. It remained through the winter and nests were found on 9 and 22 May 2008 (constructed by the same bird). The bird remained through at least August 2009 (Pranty et al. 2009) and a full account of it was published by Brown and Baxter (2009). The article contains numerous color photos and a sonogram. Subsequently a second Sinaloa Wren was photographed and videotaped in lower Huachuca Canyon on Fort Huachuca, Cochise County, Arizona, from 14-18 April 2009 (North American Birds 63:479).

Brown and Baxter (2009) indicate that Sinaloa Wrens have been found as close as 55 km to the Arizona border in Sonora, Mexico (Flesch 2008).

The record unanimously passed the Arizona Birds Committee and the ABA CLC (Pranty et al. 2009).

Recommendation:

I recommend that this species be added to the US list. The record is not controversial.

Effect on Check-List:

p. 477. Records of the Sinaloa Wren, *Thryothorus sinaloa*, in the United States are recognized. After last sentence in Distribution account, add new paragraph and state: Casual to southeastern Arizona (near Patagonia, Santa Cruz County, 25 August 2008 through August 2009, Brown and Baxter 2009, photo; near Fort Huachuca, Cochise County, 14-18 April 2009 [North American Birds 63:479, photo, 2009]

Literature cited in motion:

Brown, M. C. and R. A. Baxter. 2009. First United States record of Sinaloa Wren (*Thryothorus sinaloa*). North American Birds 63:196-201.

Flesch, A. D. 2008. Distribution and status of birds of conservation interest and identification of important bird areas in Sonora, Mexico. FWS Cooperative Agreement Number 201816J827. Tucson, Arizona.

Pranty, B., J. L. Dunn, S. C. Heinl, A. W. Kratter, P. E. Lehman, M. W. Lockwood, B. Mactavish, and K J. Zimmer. 2009. Annual Report of the ABA Checklist Committee 2008-2009. *Birding* 41:38-43.

Literature to be cited in draft account for the Check-List Supplement:

Brown, M. C., and R. A. Baxter. 2009. First United States record of Sinaloa Wren (*Thryothorus sinaloa*). *North American Birds* 63:196-201.

Name and affiliation of submitter: Jon L. Dunn, NACC

Date of proposal: 22 Jan 2010

**Transfer Rufous-tailed Robin (*Luscinia sibilans*)
from the Appendix to the Main List**

This species is currently in our Appendix (p. 697), after the account for *Saxicola ruberta*. It was added in the 45th Supplement (Banks et al. 2004) on the basis of a record from Attu Island, western Aleutians, Alaska on 4 June 2000 (North Amer. Birds 54:317, 2000). The photos were not considered definitive (Gibson et al. 2003, Robbins et al. 2003), and it was added to the “unsubstantiated” list by the Alaska Checklist Committee and not accepted by the ABA Checklist Committee.

New Information:

On 4 June 2008, a Rufous-tailed Robin was collected on Attu Island, western Aleutians, Alaska. The specimen was deposited at the University of Alaska Museum where Daniel D. Gibson corroborated the identification. The specimen was prepared as a study skin (UAM 24600) and partial skeleton plus frozen tissues, stomach contents, and lower digestive tract for disease screening. The specimen was a female in its second calendar year, aged on the basis of buff tips to the greater wing coverts. Another Rufous-tailed Robin was discovered on the evening of 8 June 2008 on St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska. It remained until 9 June and was very well photographed. On the basis of buff tips to the greater coverts it was also judged to be a 2nd calendar year bird. Details of these new sightings were initially published in North Amer. Birds 62:604 and much more fully in Western Birds (DeCicco et al. 2009), which included color photographs of the two recent records and the older 2000 record.

These records were reviewed and accepted by the Alaska Checklist Committee and the species has been added to the Alaska list (decision to be published later in Western Birds). They have nearly completed review by the ABA Checklist Committee. There is no dissent and the matter should be completed in a few weeks. Their decision will be published in the fall. There is now a consensus that the 2000 record was also almost certainly this species, and that, given the better documentation for the 2008 records, the earlier record should be folded in and considered acceptable.

Recommendation:

I recommend that this species be added the Main List. The records have been accepted by the Alaska Checklist Committee and will soon be accepted by the ABA Checklist Committee. If this is a stumbling block for anyone, we can go ahead and consider the record and I can issue an update in a few weeks when hopefully all ABA Committee members would have finished voting. This should be automatic with an extant specimen having been reviewed by Dan Gibson.

English name: The English name of Rufous-tailed Robin seems to be the most widespread name in use and is the name we have in the Appendix. However, I note that Brazil (2009) called it Swinhoe's Robin and Vaurie (1959) used Swinhoe's Pseudorobin (Vaurie placed it in its own monotypic genus, *Pseudaedon*).

Position and effect on Check-List: I'm a bit unsure about this. Our current sequence within *Luscinia* is *L. calliope*, *L. svecica* and *L. cyane*. Inskipp et al. (1996) and King (1997) use this same sequence and place *L. sibilans* before the other three, but Dickinson's (2003) sequence is *L. svecica*, *L. calliope*, *L. cyane*, and *L. sibilans*. Putting *L. sibilans* first in our currently accepted list of *Luscinia* would be the least disruptive and I therefore recommend that policy. Following Dickinson (2003) would require a separate motion to rearrange our current listing of *Luscinia*.

p. 495, Replace account from the Appendix, p. 696 (Banks et al. 2004) for *Luscinia sibilans* with new account and insert in Main List before the account for *Luscinia calliope*:

Luscinia sibilans (Swinhoe). Rufous-tailed Robin.

Larvivora sibilans Swinhoe, 1863. Proc. Zool. Soc. London, P. 292. (Macao, south-eastern China)

Habitat. – Breeds in mesic deciduous and coniferous woods with dense undergrowth. Winters in dense low vegetation, often in gullies.

Distribution. – *Breeds* in eastern Asia as far west as the upper Yenisey River and the Altai Mountains and east across Siberia and Russian Far East to the Amur River basin, Ussuriland, Sakhalin, and central eastern Kamchatka (Trukhinka River valley) and south to Transbaikalia and northern Manchuria.

Winters primarily in southeastern China mainly from the Yangtze valley south to China and rarely or uncommonly south to Vietnam, Laos and eastern Thailand.

Migrates primarily in continental eastern Asia in Mongolia, eastern China, and Korea; rarely to Japan and Taiwan.

Accidental to the United Kingdom and Poland.

Casual to western Alaska (second calendar year birds at Attu Island, western Aleutians, on 4 June 2008, specimen, and on St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, 8-9 June 2008, photos). An earlier record from Attu Island on 4 June 2000 is now deemed acceptable with the better documented 2008 records.

Notes. – Also known by the English name of Swinhoe's Robin or Swinhoe's Pseudorobin.

Literature cited in motion:

Banks, R.C., C. Cicero, J. L. Dunn, A.W. Kratter, P. C. Rasumssen, J. V. Remsen, Jr., J. D. Rising, and D. F. Stotz. 2004. Forty-fifth Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds. *Auk* 121:985-995.

Brazil, M. 2009. *Birds of East Asia*. Princeton University Press, Princeton and Oxford.

DeCicco, L., S. C. Heinl, and D. W. Sonneborn. 2009. First North American records of the Rufous-tailed Robin (*Luscinia sibilans*). *Western Birds* 40:237-241.

Dickinson, E. C. (Editor) 2003. *The Howard & Moore Complete Checklist of the birds of the World*. 3rd Edition. Princeton University Press, Princeton.

Gibson, D. D., S. C. Heinl, and T.G. Tobish, Jr. 2003. Report of the Alaska Checklist Committee, 1997-2002. *Western Birds* 34:122-132.

Inskipp, T., N. L. Lindsey, and W. Duckworth. 1996. *An Annotated Checklist of the birds of the Oriental Region*. Oriental Bird Club.

King, B. F. 1997. *Checklist of the Birds of Eurasia*. Ibis Publishing Company, Vista, California.

Robbins, M. B., D. L. Diettmann, J. L. Dunn, K. L. Garrett, S. Heinl, A. W. Kratter, G. Lasley, and B. Mactavish. 2003. ABA Checklist Committee 2002 Annual Report. *Birding* 35:138-144.

Vaurie, C. 1959. *The Birds of the Palearctic fauna. Passeriformes*. H. F. & G. Witherby Limited, London.

Literature to be cited in the 51st Supplement:

Banks, R.C., C. Cicero, J. L. Dunn, A. W. Kratter, P. C. Rasmussen, J. V. Remsen, Jr., J. D. Rising, and D. F. Stotz. 2004. Forty-fifth supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds. *Auk* 121:985-995.

DeCicco, L., S. C. Heinl, and D. W. Sonneborn. 2009. First North American records of the Rufous-tailed Robin (*Luscinia sibilans*). *Western Birds* 40:237-241.

Name and affiliation of submitter: Jon L. Dunn,, NACC

Date of proposal: 4 Jan 2010

Add Yellow-hooded Blackbird (*Chrysomus icterocephalus*) to the Main List

Buckley et al. (2009) include an account of this species in their new Barbados monograph. The account mentions a single record, an adult male obtained at an unknown location (“?Chancery Lane”) in September 1887 (Feilden 1889, Massiah and Frost 1997). Buckley et al. indicate that the specimen (labeled nominate *icterocephalus*, the race breeding along the Caribbean coast of South America) substantiates the first and only occurrence in the West Indies. Feilden (1889) correctly reported it as *Agelaius icterocephalus*, a former name for Yellow-hooded Blackbird, but Clark (1905) for some reason changed it to *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*, the Yellow-headed Blackbird of North America, and all subsequent treatments have followed suit. To complicate matters, the specimen was believed to be lost but Feilden’s missing specimens have been re-located in UK museums, including the specimen of Yellow-hooded Blackbird, which was indeed that species, and not a Yellow-headed Blackbird. Buckley et al. (2009) point out that the skin of this adult male has a wing length of 85 mm, within the range of Yellow-hooded and well below that of Yellow-headed. It also lacks the latter’s white primary coverts.

Recommendation:

I recommend that we add Yellow-hooded Blackbird to the main Check-List, and that we remove mention of Barbados under the casual section for Yellow-headed Blackbird (p. 644). There is now no record of that species for Barbados. I suppose one could argue about the provenance of the specimen, but the species breeds on nearby Trinidad and the species is now colonizing the Netherlands Antilles (*in* Buckley et al. 2009).

Ridgely and Gwynne (1989) mention in their Panama guide that this species has been collected in Colombia only a few miles from the Panamanian border. There have been a few reported in the Tocumen marsh, but as yet no photograph, or even critical description and “confusion with Yellow-headed Blackbird seems likely.”

I need a few things cleared up on range. Ridgely and Tudor (1989) and Jaramillo and Burke (1999) say that an introduced population present south of Lima, Peru, in the 1960’s and 1970’s may have been extirpated, but Schulenberg et al. (2007) don’t mention its demise. Jaramillo and Burke (1999) mention only three records for the Netherlands Antilles, but as indicated above, Buckley et al. (2009) say it is colonizing there. Anyone know the current status there?

English name: Yellow-hooded Blackbird is the only English name I’ve seen.

Position and effect on Check-List: I'm only guessing but following Dickinson (2003) the genus *Chrysomus* would go after *Nesopsar*, so tentatively I've placed it there and before the various *Sturnella*. Note that we will need a full generic citation for *Chrysomus*, which I didn't locate.

p. 642, after the account for *Nesopsar nigerrimus*, insert:

Genus ***Chrysomus*** Swainson

Chrysomus icterocephalus (Linnaeus) Yellow-hooded Blackbird

O.[riolus] icterocephalus Linnaeus, 1766, Syst. Nat., ed. 12, 1, p. 163; based on "le Carouge á teste jaune de Cayenne" of Brisson, 1760, Ornithologie, 2, p. 124, pl. 12, fig. 5 – Cayenne, French Guiana.

Habitat.- For breeding, marshes and other wetlands with emergent aquatic vegetation, including rice paddies; also cane dominated areas along river banks and islands in Amazonia. Forages in pastures and agricultural areas, especially in the non-breeding season.

Distribution.- Breeds and resident with local seasonal movements in lowlands of northwestern Colombia, where recorded nearly to border with Panama (also an isolated highland population near Bogotá), east through Venezuela (and Trinidad) and the Guianas to mouth of Amazon, Brazil, then west up the Amazon to headwaters in northeastern Peru. Also a small introduced population was established south of Lima, Peru.

Rare, but increasing, to Netherlands Antilles, where recorded on Bonaire and Curaçao.

Accidental to Barbados (specimen taken in September 1887; Feilden 1889, Massiah and Frost 1997, Buckley et al. 2009).

Notes.- Formerly placed in the genus *Agelaius*, but this treatment was not supported by molecular data (Lanyon and Omland 1999). The Barbados specimen was initially correctly reported by Feilden (1889), but was inexplicably changed to *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* by Clark (1905) and subsequent authors. The specimen was believed lost but was relocated at Cambridge University Museum, UK (Massiah and Frost 1997), where its identity was confirmed.

p. 644 in the casual section for the account of *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* remove mention of Barbados. The identity of the specimen has been re-established as pertaining to *Chrysomus icterocephalus* (Massiah and Frost 1997, Buckley et al. 2009).

Literature cited for the motion:

- Buckley, P. A., E. B. Massiah, M. B. Hutt, F. G. Buckley, and H. F. Hutt. 2009. The Birds of Barbados. B. O. U. Checklist No. 24. British Ornithologists' Union, Tring, United Kingdom.
- Clark, A. H. 1905. Birds of the Southern Lesser Antilles. Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist. 32:203-312.
- Dickinson, E. C., ed. 2003. The Howard and Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World, 3rd Edition, Princeton, New Jersey.
- Feilden, H. 1889. On the birds of Barbados. Ibis 1889:477-503.
- Jaramillo, A., and P. Burke. 1999. New World Blackbirds: The Icterids. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey.
- Lanyon, S. M. and K. E. Omland. 1999. A molecular phylogeny of the blackbirds (Icteridae): five lineages revealed by cytochrome-B sequence data. Auk 116:629-639.
- Massiah, E. and M. Frost. 1997. The missing bird collection of Col. Feilden. J. Barbados Mus. Hist. Soc. 43:71-77.
- Ridgely, R. S., and J. A. Gwynne. 1989. A Guide to the Birds of Panama, 2nd edition. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey.
- Ridgely, R. S., and G. Tudor. 1989. The Birds of South America: The Oscine Passerines. University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas.
- Schulenberg, T. S., D. F. Stotz, D. F. Lane, J. P. O'Neill, and T. A. Parker III. 2007. Birds of Peru. Princeton University Press, Princeton and Oxford.

Literature cited in draft account for the Check-List Supplement:

- Buckley, P.A., E. B. Massiah, M. B. Hutt, F. G. Buckley, and H. F. Hutt. 2009. The Birds of Barbados. B. O. U. Checklist No. 24. British Ornithologists' Union, Tring, United Kingdom.
- Feilden, H. 1889. On the birds of Barbados. Ibis 1889:477-503.
- Lanyon, S. M. and K. E. Omland. 1999. A molecular phylogeny of the blackbirds (Icteridae): five lineages revealed by cytochrome-B sequence data. Auk 116:629-639.
- Massiah, E. and M. Frost. 1997. The missing bird collection of Col. Feilden. J. Barbados Mus. Hist. Soc. 43:71-77.

Name and affiliation of submitter: Jon L. Dunn, NACC

Date of proposal: 22 Jan 2010

Elevate *Toxostoma curvirostre palmeri* to species status**Description of the problem:**

Toxostoma curvirostre was listed by A.O.U. (1998) without comments concerning any subdivisions, although Tweit (1996) and references therein mention two morphological groups, a western *palmeri* and an eastern *curvirostre* group. In addition to morphology, vocalizations between the two groups differ (Tweit (1996:6), including call notes (Dunn and Alderfer 2006). Morphological and vocal differences in the two groups are sufficient to be recognized in the field (see, e.g., Geographic Field guide)

New information:

Based on mtDNA (Zink and Blackwell-Rago 2000) concluded the two groups (*palmeri* and *curvirostre*) are phylogenetic species, but declined species recognition until a third southern group is studied further. Rojas-Soto (2003) confirmed two morphological groups, but stated that the small sample size precluded any formal recommendations. Navarro-Sigüenza and Peterson (2004) recognized the two groups as separate species. Rojas-Soto et al. (2007), with larger samples and using mtDNA discovered three clades that they considered could represent two or three species: (1) *curvirostre* from New Mexico, Texas south to Durango; (2) *palmeri* from Arizona and Sonora; (3) southern clade from Puebla and Oaxaca.

Recommendation:

I recommend recognition of two species: *Toxostoma curvirostre* and *Toxostoma palmeri*. The species *T. curvirostre* includes the subspecies *curvirostre*, *celsum* and *obserholseri*. The species *T. palmeri* includes the subspecies *palmeri*, *insolarum*, *maculatum* and *occidentale*. Recognition of a third species, the southern clade (from the traditional range of nominate *curvirostre*), may require a formal species description. Regardless of when and if a third species is formally named, reasons for recognition of the two northern species is clear.

Position in check-list: Place *Toxostoma palmeri* after *T. ocellatum* and before *T. curvirostre*.

Literature cited:

American Ornithologists' Union. 1998. Check-list of North American Birds. Seventh ed. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.

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Elevate *Caprimulgus vociferus arizonae* to species status

Description of the problem:

Differences in vocalizations and morphology indicate that the disjunct western populations of *C. vociferus* (*arizonae* group, including *arizonae*, *setosus*, *oaxacae*, *chiapensis*, and *vermicularis*) are not conspecific with nominate *vociferus* of Canada and the eastern US.

Concerning vocalizations, Marshall (1978:32) in his studies of night birds wrote, "The literature contains several embarrassing misalignments wherein subspecies have been assigned to or even originally described in the wrong group. The groups are morphological; within them territorial vocalizations by which the birds themselves distinguish their own kind are indispensable for sorting out the limits of species. All taxa with the same song belong together." Further, many vocalizations are phylogenetically informative (McCracken and Sheldon 1997) and continue to be useful in determining relationships in owls and other nightbirds (e.g., Rasmussen and Ishtiaq 1999; see also Alstrom 2001 for review of importance of bird vocalizations and systematics, including references therein on nightjars).

In addition to morphological differences (e.g., Phillips et al. 1964; field guides), the nearly all white eggs of *arizonae* differ in coloration from those of northern *vociferus*, which range from white to marked with blotches, mottling and spotting and pale cream. Sibley and Monroe (1993:188) wrote that despite small genetic differences between *arizonae* and nominate *vociferus*, vocal differences (as in Hardy et al. 1988) indicate that specific status may be warranted for *arizonae*. Howell and Webb (1995) recognized *arizonae* as a distinct species based on vocalizations, morphology, and isolated breeding ranges, and the AOU (1998 Check-list) noted that *arizonae* and *vociferus* may be separate species. Even migrants of *C. arizonae* are identifiable (Winker et al. 1999).

New information:

Cink (2002) noted that egg coloration and morphology of *arizonae* differ from those of disjunct northeastern *vociferus*. More importantly, he showed that vocalizations of *arizonae* differ from those of *vociferus*. In addition, Han et al. (in press) present genetic data (mitochondrial and nuclear) that show that *vociferus* sensu lato may be paraphyletic with respect to *C. saturatus*, and recommend treating *vociferus*, *saturatus*, and *arizonae* at equivalent taxonomic rank.

Recommendation:

Based on morphology, egg coloration and pattern, and vocalizations, especially

important in systematics of nightbirds, the disjunct western populations should be considered a distinct species from populations in southern Canada and the eastern U.S. Mexican Whip-poor-will is an appropriate English name used by Howell and Webb (1995) for *C. arizonae*.

Position in check-list: Place *Caprimulgus arizonae* before *C. vociferus*.

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