### N&MA Classification Committee: Proposals 2010-C

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Add Gray-bellied Hawk *Accipiter poliogaster* to the Main List

**Description of the problem:**

Species is not yet recorded in the AOU North America Checklist area.

**New information:**

The Scientific Committee of the Association of Ornithology of Costa Rica (CC-AOCR) received two forms and photographs proposing to include the species in the Official List of the Birds of Costa Rica - Update 2009.

- **Reports:**
  1. June 26, 2008. Kenneth Alfaro was informed by Octavio Ruiz of his encounter with this species; later several guides visited the area and confirmed the observation of a juvenile individual perched and preening in secondary forest at the edge of the Puerto Viejo River, La Selva Biological Station, Heredia, Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí.
  2. March 24, 2009. Marion Czaja, guided by Richard Garrigues, observed a flying individual that perched in a tree on the banks of the Puerto Viejo River in La Selva Biological Station about 800 meters from the first sighting (10.44° N, 84.01° W). Richard checked the bird and confirmed Marion’s observation of a young bird of this species.

- **CC-AOCR decision:** Both proposals were accepted by unanimous decision by the Committee and the species was included in the Official List of the Birds of Costa Rica - Update 2009 as Accidental (Obando et al. 2009). We were not able to determine whether both sightings were of the same individual. All photos were archived and cataloged in the Department of Natural History - National Museum of Costa Rica (MNCR). Photos were taken by Cristian Gamboa (MNCR-Z4425-Z4427) and Richard Garrigues (MNCR-Z4428, Z4429).

**Recommendation:**

Add this species to the Main List.

**Literature cited:**

Name and affiliation of submitter:

Gerardo Obando Calderón, coordinator for the annual update of the Official List of the Birds of Costa Rica. On behalf of the CC-AOCR.

Date of proposal: 2 Feb 2010
Change the distributional status of Christmas Shearwater, *Puffinus nativitatis*

Description of the problem:

The status of this species in the AOU Check-list is “H”, indicating that the species has been recorded in the AOU area only from Hawaii (AOU 1998, p. xviii; AOU website).

New information:

James Zook submitted a form and photographic evidence to the Scientific Committee of the Association of Ornithology of Costa Rica (CC-AOCR), proposing to include the species in the Official List of the Birds of Costa Rica - Update 2009.

- **Report:** April 03, 2009. Zook and other persons saw one individual flying over the sea surface and landing on water in the Pacific Ocean, some 50 km offshore west of Cabo Blanco, Peninsula de Nicoya, Puntarenas (9º 33.10' N, 85º 34.54' W).

- **CC-AOCR decision:** This proposal was accepted by unanimous decision by the Committee and the species was included in the official list 2009 as Accidental (Obando et al. 2009). The photos were archived and cataloged in the Department of Natural History - National Museum of Costa Rica (MNCR). Photos were taken by Jim Wolfe (MNCR-Z4454-Z4459) and Bruce Young (MNCR-Z4453).

Recommendation:

Add Costa Rica to the distributional range of this species and remove the “H” that follows the species name in the species list. [Note from Chesser: The “H” should probably be removed in any case, given that the distribution in the species account includes “waters off southern Mexico between Nayarit and Oaxaca.”]

Literature cited:

Contact at MNCR: Armando Ruiz Boyer hnatural@museocostarica.go.cr aruizboy@yahoo.com aruizboy@yahoo.com

Name and affiliation of submitter:

Gerardo Obando Calderón, coordinator for the annual update of the Official List of the Birds of Costa Rica. On behalf of the CC-AOCR. gobando@zeledonia.org

Date of proposal: 2 Feb 2010
Transfer Tahiti Petrel *Pterodroma rostrata* from the Appendix to the Main List

**Description of the problem:**

This species is not yet included in the AOU North America Checklist, but is mentioned in the Appendix as follows:

*Pterodroma rostrata* (Peale). Tahiti Petrel.  
*Procellaria rostrata* Peale, 1848, U.S. Explor. Exped. 8: 296. (Mountains about 600 feet on Tahiti, Society Islands.)

This species breeds on New Caledonia and in the Society and Marquesas Islands, and ranges widely in the South Pacific. Because of failure to distinguish this species from *P. alba*, sight reports in Hawaiian waters are inconclusive (Pyle 1988); there are also sight reports near Clipperton and the Revillagigedo Islands.

**New information:**

The Scientific Committee of the Ornithological Association of Costa Rica (CC-AOCR) received a form and photographs proposing to include the species in the Official List of the Birds of Costa Rica - Update 2010.

- **Report:** September 18-19, 2009. James Zook, along with other birders, recorded one individual on five occasions on open sea in the Pacific Ocean between 20 nautical miles south of the tip of Peninsula de Nicoya (9°15'07" N, 85°09'22" W) and 154 nautical miles to the southwest (7°55'31" N, 86°40'12" W). The bird was seen flying over the sea surface and was photographed.

- **CC-AOCR decision:** This proposal was accepted by unanimous decision by the Committee and the species was included in the Official List of the Birds of Costa Rica - Update 2010 as *Migratory* (Obando et al. 2010). All photos were archived and cataloged in the Department of Natural History - National Museum of Costa Rica (MNCR). Photos taken by Noel Ureña (MNCR-Z5171-Z5174).

**Recommendation:**

Transfer this species from the Appendix to the Main List and modify the distributional statement accordingly.

**Literature cited:**


Name and affiliation of submitter:

Gerardo Obando Calderón, coordinator for the annual update of the Official List of the Birds of Costa Rica. On behalf of the CC-AOCR.

Date of proposal: 19 Nov 2010
Transfer Long-winged Harrier *Circus buffoni*
from the Appendix to the Main List

Long-winged Harrier *Circus buffoni* currently appears in the Appendix of the North American Checklist on the basis of previously published sight records from Panama (Angehr 2006). Identifiable photos of this species in Panama have recently been obtained and published. These include a dark-morph individual at El Real, Darién Province, on 5 November 2009, photographed by Euclides Campos, and a pale-morph male at Tocumens Marsh, Panamá Province, on 11 April 2010, photographed by Alfred Raab. Additional sight records have also been obtained. With six records between 1995 and 2010, the species appears to be a rare but regular vagrant to eastern Panama. Details of these records and photographs are published in Angehr (2011).

**Recommendation:**

Transfer Long-winged Harrier from Appendix to Main List, and change statement of distribution to include eastern Panama.

**Literature cited:**

Angehr, George R. 2006. Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Panama. Panama Audubon Society, Panama City, Panama.


**Name and affiliation of submitter:**

George R. Angehr,
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute
Unit 9100 Box 0948
DPO AA 34002-9998
angehrg@si.edu

**Date of proposal:** 13 Feb 2011
Add Large-billed Seed-Finch *Oryzoborus crassirostris* to the Main List

Large-billed Seed-Finch *Oryzoborus crassirostris* was first reported and photographed near El Real, Darién Province, Panama, in June 2007 (Jones and Komar 2007). Since then it has repeatedly been observed by other observers visiting this locality, and has also been recorded as far west as Tortí, eastern Panama Province. Singing males have regularly been observed at El Real and at Yaviza, Darién, and a juvenile was observed following a female at the latter locality. The species now appears to be well established and breeding in eastern Panama Province. Photographs are consistent with *O. c. crassirostris* of northern South America. Details of these records and photographs are published in Angehr (2011).

**Recommendation:**

Add Large-billed Seed-Finch to the Main List.

**Literature cited:**


**Name and affiliation of submitter:**

George R. Angehr,  
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute  
Unit 9100 Box 0948  
DPO AA 34002-9998  
angehrg@si.edu

**Date of proposal:** 13 Feb 2011
Change Status of Yellow-hooded Blackbird *Chrysomus icterocephalus* from Accidental to Breeding Resident

Yellow-hooded Blackbird *Chrysomus icterocephalus* was recently added to the North American Checklist as an accidental on the basis of an old specimen record from Barbados (Chesser et al. 2010). The species has recently colonized eastern Panama, being first reported and photographed near El Real, Darién Province, in June 2007 (Jones and Komar 2007). Since then it has repeatedly been observed by other observers visiting this locality. Singing males and other courtship behavior have regularly been observed at El Real, and a pair was observed being followed by a begging juvenile Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*, suggesting they had made a breeding attempt. The species now appears to be well established and breeding at this locality. Details of these records and photographs are published in Angehr (2011).

**Recommendation:**

Change status of Yellow-hooded Blackbird from accidental to breeding resident, and change statement of distribution to include eastern Panama.

**Literature cited:**


**Name and affiliation of submitter:**

George R. Angehr,
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute
Unit 9100 Box 0948
DPO AA 34002-9998
angehrg@si.edu

**Date of proposal:** 13 Feb 2011
Add Bare-throated Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma mexicanum* to the U.S. list

From 21 December 2009 until 20 January 2010 a Bare-throated Tiger-Heron was present at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, Hidalgo County, Texas. It was well-photographed and numerous photos in color were published in Nirschl and Snider (2010). The bird was a sub-adult (a year and a half old). This is the first record for the United States.

I note from Nirschl and Snider (2010) that a small population was discovered in Peruvian mangroves, a range extension of some 1300 km. This is in mentioned in Schulenberg et al. (2007). Our wording in the 7th edition of the Check-List says south to northwestern Colombia.

The record was accepted by the Texas Bird Records Committee and the American Birding Association Checklist Committee

**Recommendation:**

I recommend that the species be added to the U.S. list and that the distributional statement be revised to reflect the range extension south to northwestern Peru.

**Effect on Check-List:**

Page 39 – last line of distribution should be modified from “and northwestern Colombia (lower Atrato Valley)” to “northwestern Peru (Tumbes).”

Then a new paragraph to state: “Accidental in south Texas (Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, Hidalgo County, 21 December 2009 - 20 January 2010; Nirschl and Snider 2010).”

**Literature Cited:**


Submitted by: Jon L. Dunn

Date of proposal: 3 Apr 2011
Add Sungrebe *Heliornis fulica* to the U.S. list

On 13 and 18 November 2008 a Sungrebe was seen and photographed at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, Socorro County, NM. The record has been accepted by the New Mexico rarities committee. It still is in circulation in the ABA CLC, although six of eight have voted for it, and the Chair, Bill Pranty, will vote just as soon as Marshall Iliff does. We'll probably have an update on that in days.

**Recommendation:**

I recommend that the species be added to the U.S. list. The only question is one of origin, and I seriously doubt that it is an escapee. I can’t speak for the African Finfoot, but the Masked Finfoot of Southeast Asia regularly migrates many hundreds of miles or more. I would have expected the species to occur in south Texas since they occur as close as central Tamaulipas (our Check-List says “southern Tamaulipas”), but that doesn’t bother me much.

**Effect on Check-List:**

Page 139 – After saying accidental in Trinidad, say “Accidental in central New Mexico (Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, Socorro County, 13 and 18 November 2008; Williams et al. 2009).

**Literature cited:**


**Submitted by:** Jon L. Dunn

**Date of proposal:** 3 Apr 2011
Add Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona* to the U.S. list

From 24 January to 3 February 2010, a female Amazon Kingfisher was present along the Rio Grande at its junction with Zacate Creek, Laredo, Webb County, Texas. It was very well-photographed and a gorgeous shot appears on the cover of North American Birds (volume 64, No. 2). Numerous color photos appear in Wormington and Epstein (2010).

This non-controversial record was accepted by the Texas Bird Records Committee and the ABA Checklist Committee.

It should be added that none of the other reports of this species from south Texas were substantiated. One in particular was widely believed to be a Green Kingfisher, at least that was the only bird photographed. Some insist that there was an Amazon Kingfisher present too that wasn’t photographed. And so it goes.

**Recommendation:**

I recommend that the species be added to the U.S. list.

**Effect on Check-List:**

Page 323 – after the line about ranges north to southern Sinaloa, add a new paragraph and say: "Accidental to south Texas (along Rio Grande at Laredo, Webb County, 24 January -3 February 2010; Wormington and Epstein 2010)."

**Literature cited:**


Submitted by: Jon L. Dunn

Date of proposal: 3 Apr 2011
Add Gray-collared Becard *Pachyramphus major* to the U.S. list

On 5 June 2009 in Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahua Mountains, Cochise County, Arizona, an immature male Gray-collared Becard was discovered along the creek. It was well-photographed and accepted by the Arizona Bird Committee and the ABA Checklist Committee. The photos clearly demonstrate that it was of the distinctive west Mexican subspecies, *uropygialis*, which has been recorded as far north as near Yécora and Sahuaripa, east-central Sonora (Monson 1986).

**Recommendation:**

I recommend that the species be added to the U.S. list. Our current wording indicates that it is resident to southern Sonora, while the Monson (1986) paper brings it a little farther north. Perhaps it’s not worth mentioning the slight range extension in the supplement. I’ve also wondered if the *major* group of northeast Mexico south to Middle America should be considered a separate species from west Mexican *uropygialis*. The two groups certainly appear strikingly different. I know little of their biology, vocalizations, etc, and that would require a separate motion, but am curious if others have thoughts on that.

**Effect on Check-List:**

Page 419 After the paragraph on Distribution, start a new paragraph with:

“Accidental in southeastern Arizona (Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahua Mountains, Cochise County, 5 June 2009, immature male *uropygialis*; Johnston et al. 2010).”

**Literature cited:**


**Submitted by:** Jon. Dunn

**Date of proposal:** 3 Apr 2011
Add Brown-backed Solitaire *Myadestes occidentalis* to the U.S. list

On 16 July 2009 a singing Brown-backed Solitaire was found and photographed in upper Miller Canyon, Huachuca Mountains, Cochise County, Arizona. It was not seen the next day but on 18 July it (presumably the same bird) was found in nearby Ramsey Canyon. It remained until 1 August and was superbly photographed (color photos appear in van Doren 2010). The record was ultimately accepted by the Arizona Bird Committee. They also chose to accept an earlier record of a more worn bird from 4-7 October 1996 in Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Mountains. It had been originally rejected on origin grounds, but was accepted after the Huachuca record.

**Recommendation:**

I recommend that we accept these two records and add the species to the U.S. list. Within the article van Doren cites references to indicate that the species occurs in the Sierra Huachinera, only 130 km south of the U.S. border. This is northern Sonora, and we might want to change our account, which currently reads “Resident from southeastern Sonora, southern Chihuahua…”

**Effect on Check-List:**

After the paragraph on Distribution, start a new one as follows:

“Accidental in southeastern Arizona (Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Mountains, 4-7 October 1996; Miller and Ramsey Canyons, 16 July-1 August 2009; Doren 2010).”

Perhaps the Sonoran distribution should be changed to “northern” instead of “southeastern Sonora”.

**Literature cited:**


**Submitted by:** Jon L. Dunn

**Date of proposal:** 3 Apr 2011
Add Red-legged Thrush *Turdus plumbeus* to the U.S. list

On 31 May 2010 a Red-legged Thrush of the nominate Bahamian race was found and photographed at Maritime Hammock Sanctuary, Melbourne Beach, Brevard County, Florida. It was not seen by other observers but was well-photographed. An article (with color photos) appears in North American Birds (Anderson and Ponce 2010).

The record was accepted by the FOURC and the ABA CLC.

**Recommendation:**

I recommend that the species be added to the U.S. List. The record is non-controversial.

**Effect on the Check-List:**

After the paragraph on distribution I suggest adding another short paragraph:

Accidental in southeastern Florida (Melbourne Beach, Brevard County, 31 May 2010, male *T. p. plumbeus*; Anderson and Ponce 2010).

**Literature cited:**


**Submitted by:** Jon L. Dunn

**Date of proposal:** 3 Apr 2011
Transfer White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis* from the Appendix to the Main List

**Description of the problem:**

The species is currently in the Appendix based on a record from Rollover Pass, Texas. This record has been thoroughly vetted by the AOU and the ABA who initially followed the AOU but later decided to accept the record. That fact did not alter the NACC’s decision and no further action was taken. The record now stands as the only difference between the two committees.

**New information:**

A boat load of birders photographed a White-chinned Petrel 30 km. west of Pigeon Point, San Mateo County on 18 October 2009. The photos are outstanding and one can even see the white chin in the photos. This, along with pale-tipped bill, eliminate the smaller Parkinson’s Petrel (*P. parkinsoni*) and the larger size eliminates Westland Petrel (*P. westlandica*). Color photos appeared in NAB (64:119) and on the front cover of Western Birds (41, issue #2). The record was unanimously accepted by the CBRC and of course won’t be considered by the ABA CLC because this species is already on their list. I have heard rumors about records from North Carolina, but don’t know how well substantiated they are. I heard about one photographed off Maine last summer/early fall, but haven’t seen it yet in NAB. No paper detailing the record has been published, but I would imagine there will be one as Alvaro Jaramillo was the one who identified it.

**Recommendation:**

I recommend that we accept this species for the main list. The bird off CA was perfectly healthy and I don’t think there can be the issue of ship assist that there was for the Texas record. Assuming we accept the record, I would further recommend that we go back and accept the Texas record too. What’s the point of differentiating the two, especially now that we have a solid record? That bird wasn’t really in the Houston Shipping Channel, but some 25 miles or more away.

If accepted a new account will have to be written.

**Submitted by:** Jon L. Dunn

**Date of proposal:** 4 Apr 2011
Add Solitary Snipe Gallinago solitaria to the Main List

A specimen of Gallinago solitaria Hodgson, 1831 (Solitary Snipe) was collected 24 May 2010 at Attu Island, Aleutian Islands, Alaska, by Jack J. Withrow (bird collection manager, UAM) and D. W. Sonneborn (who are at this time in press with the details of this record and a few others). This specimen record was accepted as a first substantiated Alaska record by AKCLC (2011) and by ABACLC (Pranty et al. 2010). The specimen (Univ. Alaska Museum 27000, ad male) was prepared by the collector as a study skin, partial skeleton, preserved stomach contents and gut (lower g.i. tract, for disease screening), and frozen tissue samples. Its measurements include: mass 122 g, left testis 12X5 mm, light fat, wing chord 150 mm, tail 65 mm, diagonal tarsus 34.4 mm, bill length (from distal end of naris 68.5 mm, skull (= bill tip to back of skull) 111 mm. Measurements are inconclusive for subspecies identification, but the bird is likely an example of eastern japonica Bonaparte, 1856, which has recently been found to have extended its breeding range as far east in the Russian Far East as the upper Anadyr River (Tomkovich 2008).

A previous Alaska report of this species, a sighting in September 2008 at St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska (Bieber and Schuette 2009, incl. published photos), was regarded by AKCLC as inconclusive for a certain identification in this inarguably difficult genus, and at that time AKCLC relegated the species to the Alaska unsubstantiated list (Checklist of Alaska Birds, 16th Edition--2010).

The Solitary Snipe breeds in mountains from south of Lake Baikal and northwestern Mongolia south and west to northwestern China and in much of the Himalayas from western Kashmir east at least to Sikkim and probably southern Tibet (Vaurie 1965), and it has recently been discovered breeding as far east in the Russian Far East as Chukotka (Tomkovich 2008). It is mainly an elevational migrant, but there is some latitudinal migration as well. The species winters from northeastern Iran and Pakistan to eastern China, Korea, and Japan (Hayman et al. 1986, Tomkovich 2008). Reports of distant vagrant Solitary Snipe from eastern India and from Hong Kong, cited by Bieber and Schuette (2009), were not accepted by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) or by Carey et al. (2001), respectively.

Recommendation:

I hope AOUCLC will agree it makes sense at this time to reorganize the sequence of snipe known in North America to follow Dickinson (2003), which AKCLC and ABACLC have followed tentatively, in the absence of AOUCLC opinion, viz Lymnocryptes minimus, Gallinago solitaria, Gallinago stenura, Gallinago gallinago, and Gallinago delicata.
Literature Cited:


Submitted by: Daniel D. Gibson

Date of proposal: 4 Apr 2011