

## N&MA Classification Committee: Proposals 2011-B

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**Recognize Baird's Junco (*Junco bairdi*) as a distinct species**

Baird's Junco (*Junco bairdi*) Belding 1883. Victoria Mts., Lower California.

**Description of the problem:**

Restricted to the mountains of the Cape Region of Baja California, Baird's Junco (*Junco bairdi* Belding 1883: Victoria Mts., Lower California) was treated as a separate species at least as late as the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the AOU Check-list (1957). Note that A. H. Miller was on that committee; Miller, in his monograph (1941) considered it a separate species, along with many other "subspecies" of Yellow-eyed Juncos. Paynter (1970) considered it a subspecies of the Yellow-eyed Junco (*J. phaeonotus bairdi*) Ridgway (ex. Belding MS) 1883, and the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the AOU Check-list (1983) followed this treatment. Howell & Webb, in their Birds of Mexico (1995), considered it a separate species.

**New information:**

Pieplow & Francis (2011) published a thorough analysis of 13 features of the song of birds from southeastern Arizona, Baja California Sur, and Oaxaca, Mexico. These included characters such as song length, syllables/song, number of trills, number of phrases, peak frequency, and song bandwidth. They used (1) Kruskal-Wallis one-way analysis of variance with *post-hoc* comparisons based on pairwise Mann-Whitney *U*-tests, and (2) Linear Discriminant Functions Analysis, and used a jackknifed classification matrix as a more conservative grouping method. The results showed a clear separation of the Baja birds (*bairdi*) from the others – no overlap.

They suggested that *J. bairdi* be resurrected as a distinct species.

**Recommendation:**

This seems like a solid study to me, but I am not a student of song. Having said that, however, I repeat my oft-stated view that song in itself cannot tell us much about oscine phylogeny – too much learning involved. Nice information to know, indeed, but not definitive. Interestingly, the birds from the Cape Region seem more like those from s. Mexico and Guatemala than those from northern Baja California. George Barrowclough has supported this view to me in conversation – but if that is important, I shall contact him to be sure that I have stated his opinion accurately.

The disjunct ranges and clear morphological differences between *J. bairdi* and *J. phaeonotus* seem to me to be adequate evidence that they are on their own evolutionarily distinct trajectory, and the vocal differences reinforce this. I vote for the split.

**Literature cited:**

- American Ornithologists' Union. 1957. Check-list of North America Birds (5<sup>th</sup> Ed). American Ornithologists' Union.
- American Ornithologists' Union, 1983. Check-list of North American Birds (6<sup>th</sup> Ed). American Ornithologists' Union.
- Howell, S. N. G. & Webb, S. 1995. A Guide to the Birds of Mexico and Northern Central America. Oxford Univ. Press, New York, NY, USA.
- Miller, A. H. 1941. Speciation in the genus *Junco*. Univ. Cal. Publ. Zoology 44:173-434.
- Paynter, R. A., Jr. 1970. Peters' Check-list of the Birds of the World. Vol. XIII.
- Pieplow, N. D. & Francis, C. D. 2011. Song differences among subspecies of Yellow-eyed Juncos (*Junco phaeonotus*). *Wilson J. Ornithol.* 123:464-471.
- Ridgway, R. 1901. The Birds of North and Middle America, Part 1.

**Submitted by:**

James Rising, University of Toronto

**Proposal date:** 27 Sep 2011

**Rearrange the sequence of species in the genus *Spizella*****Description of the problem:**

The type specimen of *Spizella wortheni* was collected on 19 September 1884 (probably a post-breeding bird, based on that date), at what is now Silver City, New Mexico. It was named as a new species by Robert Ridgway. [For trivia buffs, it has never again been seen in territory that would qualify as United States.] Today, it is found only locally in Nuevo Leon, Zacatecas, Coahuila, and perhaps Chihuahua – very rare, and little-known. The AOU has always recognized this as a separate species, but closely related to the Field Sparrow (*S. pusilla*), especially the western subspecies (*S. p. arenacea*). Peters (1970) considered it a subspecies of *S. pusilla* [i.e., *S. p. wortheni*; this included *S. w. browni* Webster and Orr, 1954].

**New information:**

Canales-del-Castillo et al. (2010) looked at tissue from single individuals of *S. breweri* (not *taverneri*), *S. pallida*, *S. pusilla*, *S. passerina*, *S. atrogularis*, *S. wortheni*, and outgroups *Chondestes grammacus* and *Amphispiza bilineata*, and present evidence from an analysis based on sequence data of most of *cyt-b*, *ND2*, *ATP6/8*, *COI*, & *CRI* (3571 bp in length. They found 398 variable characters, 165 of which were phylogenetically informative.

Their tree shows *S. passerina* at the base of the tree; the next branch separates *S. pallida* vs. everything else; then *S. atrogularis* vs. everything else; then *pusilla* vs. *breweri* & *wortheni*, with *wortheni* and *breweri* as sisters. Note that *wortheni* is not sister to *pusilla* – but close. This does not suggest conspecificity of *wortheni* and *pusilla*, but it does suggest that *breweri* is *wortheni*'s closest relative.

This suggests a sequence of:

*passerina*  
*pallida*  
*atrogularis*  
*pusilla*  
*wortheni*  
*breweri*

**Recommendation:**

I have no problem with the study but I like more than one individual in a sample. Therefore, I cannot take their results seriously. What the results show make good biogeographical and ecological sense, and may well be right. I feel ok with

leaving Worthen's Sparrow as a distinct species, and I see no reason why we can't. We may wish to change the sequence to the one suggested by their study, or not. The nodes on their tree seem well supported, but shallow. All of this based on 6 specimens (+ 2 OG). You know my record, I generally like larger samples.

**Literature cited:**

A.O. U. 1957. Check-list of North American Birds.

Canales-del-Castillo, Klicka, J., Favela, S, & González-Rojas. 2010. Molecular phylogenetic analysis of an endangered Mexican Sparrow: *Spizella wortheni*. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*. 57:1319-1322.

Ridgway, R. 1901. The Birds of North and Middle America. Part I.

**Submitted by:**

James Rising, University of Toronto

**Proposal date:** 27 Sep 2011

### Split *Caprimulgus* into multiple genera

#### Description of the problem:

The genus *Caprimulgus* consists of 55-57 species, making it one of the largest of all avian genera (Cleere 1998). Thirteen species occur on the NACC list. Numerous workers have questioned the monophyly of this genus (Sibley and Ahlquist 1990, Cleere 1998, Barrowclough et al. 2006, Larsen et al. 2007, Braun and Huddleston 2009), but limited taxon sampling has precluded a definitive revision.

#### New information:

Han et al. (2010) published a multi-gene phylogeny of the Caprimulgidae that included 55 of 89 species (62%) and 14 of 16 genera. The taxon sampling included all morphologically divergent lineages, and 10 of 13 species on the NACC list (missing were *C. cubanensis*, *C. badius*, *C. noctitherus*). DNA sequences were collected from mtDNA (complete cytochrome *b*) and parts of two nuclear genes (*c-myc*, *GH*). They investigated two main questions: (1) Are the large genera *Caprimulgus* and *Eurostopodus* monophyletic? and (2) Are the two subfamilies Chordeilinae and Caprimulginae monophyletic?

The data strongly supported a core caprimulgid clade, with 78-100% ML bootstrap support depending on gene partitions. Within this clade, Han et al. (2010) identified three New World and one Old World clades that also received strong support (ML bootstrap 90-100%; Bayesian posterior probability 1.00); relationships among the 4 clades were not well-resolved. *Caprimulgus* species were mixed with other genera in three of the four clades based on the ML tree of combined analysis (see below):

New World Clade 1 (bootstrap 90%): *Siphonorhis*, *Nyctiphrynus*, *Phalaenoptilus*, *Caprimulgus* part (*C. vociferus*, *C. saturatus*, *C. arizonae*, *C. ridgwayi*, *C. salvini*, *C. rufus*, *C. carolinensis*). With the exception of *C. rufus*, this clade occurs in North and Central America, as well as the West Indies.

New World Clade 2 (bootstrap 100%): *Chordeiles* and *Podager* only.

New World Clade 3 (bootstrap 100%): *Lurocalis*, *Nyctiprogne*, *Nyctidromus*, *Eleothreptus*, *Uropsalis*, *Hydropsalis*, *Caprimulgus* part (*C. cayennensis*, *C. maculicaudus* plus various other species not on NACC list that were scattered among the genera). This clade is primarily found in South America.

Old World Clade (bootstrap 100%): *Caprimulgus indicus* was mixed with other *Caprimulgus* species plus *Macrodipteryx* in an Old World clade that included all African, Asian, and European taxa sampled.

Similar results were recovered by other independent molecular data sets (e.g., Barrowclough et al. 2006 based on RAG-1; Larsen et al. 2007 based on cytochrome *b*). These data suggest that the “nightjar” body plan is an old and successful one that has been maintained in divergent lineages.

Han et al. (2010) recommended a taxonomic revision for the non-monophyletic genus *Caprimulgus* to better reflect relationships. The genus *Caprimulgus* should be restricted to the Old World because the type specimen for the genus is *C. europaeus*. The New World Clade 3 is currently subdivided into seven genera, and should be subsumed under *Hydropsalis*, which has priority.

Within New World Clade 1, Han et al. (2010) recognize three or four genera:

1. *Siphonorhis* – This genus is basal to rest of clade with 99% support.
2. *Nyctiphrynus* – This genus forms a monophyletic clade that is sister to the remaining taxa (100% support).
3. *Phalaenoptilus* – Han et al. (2010) suggest merging this monotypic genus with clade members of *Caprimulgus* into *Antrostromus*, although they argue that it could be retained based on its unique hibernating physiology (Cleere 1998, Holyoak 2001). The ML tree in Han et al. (2010) shows strong support (96% bootstrap) for a clade that includes *Phalaenoptilus* and North/Central American “*Caprimulgus*” (= *Antrostromus*), with *Phalaenoptilus* as basal. Support for the clade containing just “*Caprimulgus*” is only 56%. These data corroborate prior results by Sibley and Ahlquist (2001) and Barrowclough et al. (2006), who also found a sister relationship between *Phalaenoptilus* and “*Caprimulgus*,” with RAG-1 support for the “*Caprimulgus*” clade as 85-87%.
4. *Antrostromus* – This genus has priority over available names and should be applied to North and Central American “*Caprimulgus*” (plus possibly *Phalaenoptilus*, see above). Han et al. (2010) provisionally assign non-sampled taxa *C. badius*, *C. cubanensis*, and *C. noctitherus* to this genus based on their Central American and West Indian distributions.

The South American Classification Committee unanimously approved a proposal to transfer *C. rufus* as well as *C. sericocaudatus* into *Antrostromus* (proposal 466, <http://www.museum.lsu.edu/~remsen/SACCPprop466.html>). A second proposal to recognize *Hydropsalis* for New World Clade 3 is under consideration (proposal 501, <http://museum.lsu.edu/~Remsen/SACCPProp501.html>).

Here is the Maximum Likelihood tree from Han et al. (2010):

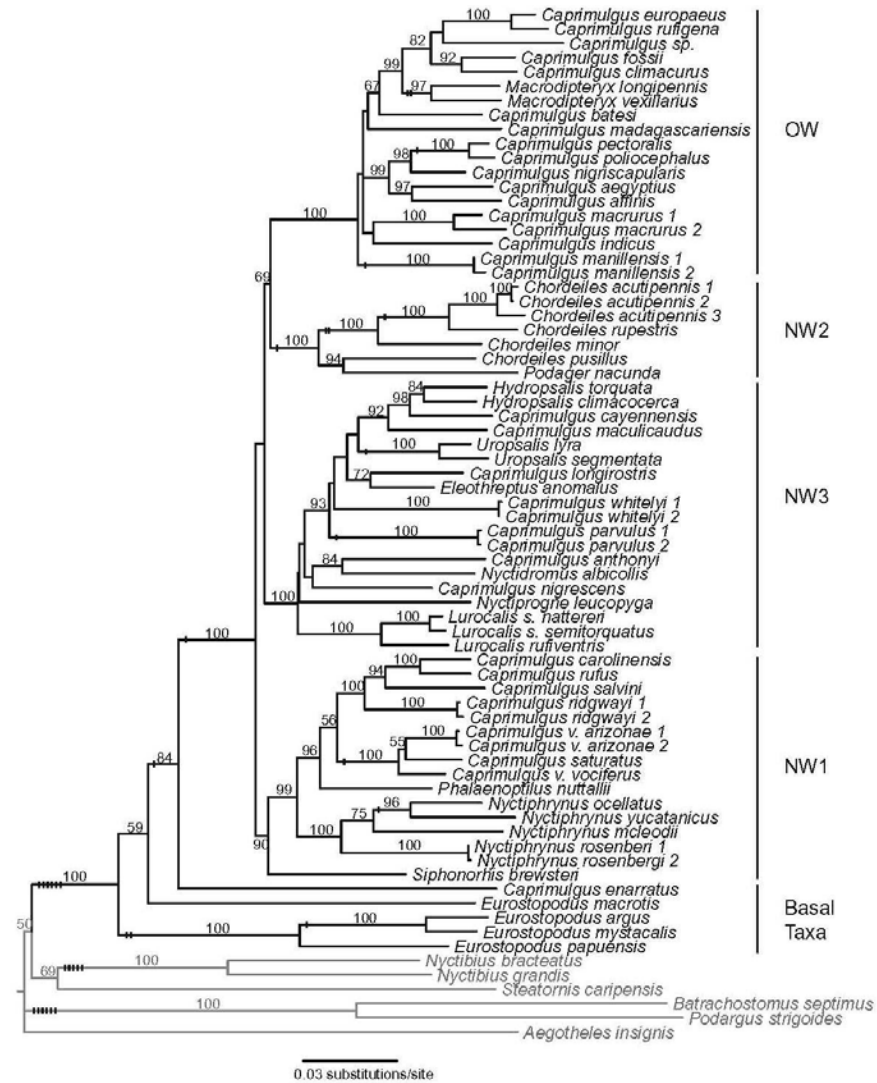


Fig. 2. ML phylogram from PAUP\* of analysis of all data combined ( $-\ln L = 35532.27$ ). Outgroups are indicated in gray. Numbers on branches indicate ML bootstrap > 50% from GARLI analysis. Bars indicate presence of indels with a CI = 1. Autapomorphic indels are not shown. NW = New World, OW = Old World, BT = basal taxa.

## Recommendation:

I recommend that we follow Han et al. (2010) in splitting *Caprimulgus* into multiple genera, which will better reflect phylogenetic divergences into Old World and various New World Clades. For New World Clade 1, I recommend the conservative route in retaining *Phalaenoptilus* for now. I also recommend retaining the current sequence of species within *Antrostomus* pending additional analyses that include complete taxon sampling for that genus. Thus, the revised classification will be:

*Antrostomus*  
*A. carolinensis*



*A. rufus*  
*A. cubanensis*  
*A. salvini*  
*A. badius*  
*A. ridgwayi*  
*A. vociferus*  
*A. saturatus*  
*A. arizonae*  
*A. noctitherus*  
*Hydropsalis*  
*H. cayennensis*  
*H. maculicaudus*  
*Caprimulgus*  
*C. indicus*

**Literature cited:**

- Barrowclough, G. F., J. G. Groth, and L. A. Mertz. 2006. The RAG-1 exon in the avian order Caprimulgiformes: Phylogeny, heterozygosity, and base composition. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 41:238-248.
- Braun, M. J. and C. J. Huddleston. 2009. A molecular phylogenetic survey of caprimulgiform nightbirds illustrates the utility of non-coding sequences. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 53:948-960.
- Cleere, N. 1998. *Nightjars: A Guide to Nightjars, Nighthawks and their Relatives*. Yale University Press, New Haven.
- Han, K-L., M. B. Robbins, and M. J. Braun. 2010. A multi-gene estimate of phylogeny in the nightjars and nighthawks (Caprimulgidae). *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 55:443-453.
- Larsen, C., M. Speed, N. Harvey, and H. A. Noyes. 2007. A molecular phylogeny of the nightjars (Aves: Caprimulgidae) suggests extensive conservation of primitive morphological traits across multiple lineages. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 42:789-796.
- Sibley, C. G. and J. E. Ahlquist. 1990. *Phylogeny and Classification of Birds: A Study in Molecular Evolution*. Yale University Press, New Haven.

**Submitted by:**

Carla Cicero, Univ. Calif. Berkeley

**Reviewed by:**

Michael J. Braun, National Museum of Natural History  
Mark B. Robbins, University of Kansas Biodiversity Institute

**Proposal date:** 12 Nov 2011

**Rearrange the linear sequence of genera in the Furnariidae****Description of the problem and new information:**

The recently published phylogeny of the Furnariidae (Derryberry et al. 2011), which includes all currently recognized genera and 285 of 293 species, shows that the current linear sequence of genera does not reflect phylogenetic relationships, at least in the limited way that a linear sequence can do so.

Using the trees in the supplementary material in Derryberry et al. (2011) (pdfs available on request), we each independently sequenced the genera according to the convention that (1) between sister groups, the one with less diversity (typically but misleadingly referred to as “basal”) is listed first, and (2) when diversity is the same, then the sister listed first is the one listed first in traditional sequences (to minimize perturbation of traditional sequence). We both came up with the identical sequence for genera in NACC area, as given below, and recommend we adopt it in the NACC classification. The complete sequence is given in SACC proposal #504, which passed SACC unanimously.

(Sclerurinae)

*Sclerurus*

(Dendrocolaptinae)

*Sittasomus*

*Deconychura*

*Dendrocincla*

*Glyphorhynchus*

*Dendrexetastes*

*Dendrocolaptes*

*Xiphocolaptes*

*Xiphorhynchus*

*Dendroplex*

*Campylorhamphus*

*Lepidocolaptes*

(Furnariinae)

*Xenops*

*Pseudocolaptes*

*Premnornis*

*Lochmias*

*Philydor*

*Anabacerthia*

*Syndactyla*

*Hyloctistes*

*Automolus*

*Thripadectes*

*Premnoplex*

*Margarornis*

*Xenerpestes*

*Cranioleuca*

*Certhiaxis*

*Synallaxis*

Genera highlighted in yellow are traditionally recognized genera that Derryberry et al. found to be polyphyletic or paraphyletic, and these will be dealt with in subsequent papers by that same author team. For now, their placement in the linear sequence is determined by where the type species of the genus falls in the phylogeny.

To evaluate this sequence, you will need to see the expanded trees in the supplementary material. If anyone finds problems, let us know.

**Submitted by:**

Van Remsen and Santiago Claramunt

**Proposal date:** February 2012

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Comments on SACC Proposal #504:

Comments from Stiles: "YES – the sequence proposed is a clear improvement on that we currently have, given the very exhaustive phylogeny of Derryberry et al. Some further changes will undoubtedly be necessary, but for now this sequence is the best available."

Comments from Pacheco: "YES. Sou de opinião que a nova sequencia representa bem os avanços suportados por este recentíssimo trabalho, incrivelmente amplo em sua cobertura de gêneros amostrados."

Comments from Pérez: "YES. The proposed linear sequence reflects the most up-to-date information available on phylogenetic relationships. Genera found to be poly- or paraphyletic will also have an impact on placement of other monophyletic genera depending on their mutual relationships, but it will be a matter of future proposals."

**Revise limits of *Buteogallus* and *Leucopternis*****Description of the problem:**

Current NACC classification and linear sequence of genera for this group of hawks is as follows:

*Leucopternis plumbeus* Plumbeous Hawk  
*Leucopternis princeps* Barred Hawk  
*Leucopternis semiplumbeus* Semiplumbeous Hawk  
*Leucopternis albicollis* White Hawk  
*Buteogallus anthracinus* Common Black-Hawk  
*Buteogallus gundlachii* Cuban Black-Hawk  
*Buteogallus urubitinga* Great Black-Hawk  
*Buteogallus meridionalis* Savanna Hawk  
*Harpyhaliaetus solitarius* Solitary Eagle

**New information:**

Several recent studies have shown that both *Leucopternis* and *Buteogallus* are polyphyletic, with the most comprehensive being Raposo do Amaral et al. (2009); see also Raposo et al. (2006) and Lerner et al. (2008). *Leucopternis* consists of at least four separate lineages; see SACC Proposal 460, which also displays one of the trees from Raposo do Amaral et al. (2009). Only *semiplumbeus* among NACC taxa is actually a *Leucopternis*.

Raposo do Amaral et al. (2009) recommended the following:

- A. Resurrect *Morphnarchus* as a monotypic genus for *princeps*.
- B. Resurrect *Pseudastur* for *albicollis* (+ South American *occidentalis*).
- C. Use their newly described monotypic genus, *Cryptoleucopteryx*, for *plumbeus*.
- D. Resurrect *Urubitinga* for *Buteogallus urubitinga* + *Harpyhaliaetus*.
- E. Resurrect monotypic *Heterospizias* for *meridionalis*.

For NACC species, this leaves only *anthracinus* in *Buteogallus* (*gundlachii* not sampled, but this was formerly considered a subspecies of *anthracinus*). All of these decisions are consistent with their genetic data.

SACC followed Raposo do Amaral et al. (2009) for A, B, and C above. See SACC proposals. However, for D and E, SACC voted against recognizing the narrowly defined genera and to include all in a more broadly defined *Buteogallus*.

**Recommendation:**

Rather than rehash here the arguments and extensive comments on all this, I recommend going through the SACC proposals and appended comments, including those from Fábio Raposo: see

<http://www.museum.lsu.edu/~Remsen/SACCprop459.html> and  
<http://www.museum.lsu.edu/~Remsen/SACCprop460.html> and  
<http://www.museum.lsu.edu/~Remsen/SACCprop492.html>

I think that the best way to handle this is to vote separately on each of the potential changes, A through E, as listed above. I would recommend a YES vote on A, B, and C, and a NO vote on D and E. This would be consistent with SACC.

The consequences of following those recommendations would be:

*Cryptoleucopteryx plumbea* Plumbeous Hawk (note gender change in species name)

*Buteogallus anthracinus*

*Buteogallus gundlachi*

*Buteogallus meridionalis*

*Buteogallus urubitinga*

*Buteogallus solitarius*

*Morphnarchus princeps*

And then skipping to precede *Buteo*:

*Pseudastur albicollis*

*Leucopternis semiplumbeus*

#### **Literature cited:**

Lerner, H. R. L., M. C. Klaver, and D. P. Mindell. 2008. Molecular phylogenetics of the buteonine birds of prey (Aves: Accipitridae). *Auk* 125: 304-315.

Raposo do Amaral, F. S., M. J. Miller, L. F. Silveira, E. Bermingham, and A. Wajntal. 2006. Polyphyly of the hawk genera *Leucopternis* and *Buteogallus* (Aves, Accipitridae): multiple habitat shifts during the Neotropical buteonine diversification. *BMC Evolutionary Biology* 2006, 6:10.

Raposo do Amaral, F. S., F. H. Sheldon, A. Gamauf, E. Haring, M. Riesing, L. F. Silveira, AND A. Wajntal. 2009. Patterns and processes of diversification in a widespread and ecologically diverse avian group, the buteonine hawks (Aves, Accipitridae). *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 53: 703-715.

#### **Submitted by:**

Van Remsen

**Proposal date:** Feb 2012

**Treat the extralimital species *Basileuterus hypoleucus*  
as conspecific with *Basileuterus culicivorus***

**Effect on North American CL:**

This proposal would merge an extralimital species into *Basileuterus culicivorus*. This would necessitate a change to the Notes and perhaps the Distribution section in the species account for *B. culicivorus*.

**Description of the problem:**

Although *Basileuterus hypoleucus* and *B. culicivorus* have been described as separate species on account of obvious plumage differences, doubt has frequently been cast about the specific validity of *B. hypoleucus*. Hellmayr (1935) commented that the ranges of the two overlapped considerably in Brazil and Paraguay and that the presence of intermediate birds "casts serious doubt on their specific distinctness". Mixed pairs of the two species have been reported from Brazil (Willis 1986) and Paraguay (Robbins et al 1999), and it is not uncommon for *hypoleucus* specimens to show some degree of yellow on their otherwise whitish underparts (Remsen & Traylor 1989, Robbins et al 1999, FAUNA Paraguay 2011). Robbins et al (1999) noted that all presumed hybrids are of the *hypoleucus*-type, being white with yellow patches, and that *culicivorus*-type yellow birds with white patches have never been reported. Sick (1993) considered the two species to be conspecific and remnants of a population that had undergone geographic separation as a result of ancient geoclimatic events but that were now coming into contact again. He considered the voices of the two species to be identical.

Contrary to other authors, Hayes (1995) stated that the vocalisations of *B. hypoleucus* are in fact closer to *B. flaveolus* than to *B. culicivorus* and mentioned undocumented observations of a mixed family of these two species in Dpto. Concepción, Paraguay. Additionally, he noted a difference in habitat preference, with *B. culicivorus* preferring more humid forest, citing this and widespread sympatry of range as evidence that they are two distinct but closely related species. Robbins et al (1999) later clarified that the vocalisations of *B. hypoleucus* are not similar to *flaveolus* and added that vocalisations of *culicivorus* and *hypoleucus* in Dpto Concepción, Paraguay are so similar that both species react strongly to playback of taped recordings of the others calls. Additionally they clarified that the mixed family reported by Hayes did not refer to paired birds but to birds "intermingling together" (F. Hayes pers. comm.).

**New information:**

In a phylogenetic review of the Parulidae, Lovette et al (2010) provided data that confirmed a close relationship between the species and treated them as sister taxa. Focusing only on the *B. culicivorus* complex, Vilaça & Santos (2010) used molecular studies to demonstrate that *B. hypoleucus* did not form a monophyletic clade within the complex and was in fact related to *B. culicivorus* populations from Brazil and Paraguay. They stated:

"Although it is not currently possible to distinguish genetically between these two species, the restricted area of occurrence of *B. hypoleucus* could suggest either that this is an incipient species in the process of differentiation or the white color is a restricted polymorphism of a major taxon, *B. culicivorus*. Our results and the observation that these recognized species do not own [sic] differences in vocalization or morphometry (Silva 1992), might be a strong indication that these belong to a single species."

Using both mitochondrial and nuclear markers, and corroborated by the morphological study of Silva (1992), they concluded that the two taxa should be lumped into a single species.

#### **Recommendation:**

I recommend a "YES" vote on this proposal because of the convincing molecular evidence presented by Vilaça & Santos (2010), the known hybridisation between the two "species," and the fact that they respond strongly to recordings of each other's vocalisations. The name *Basileuterus culicivorus* (Lichtenstein) would be the correct name for the species. The status of the form *hypoleucus* (Bonaparte) is currently unresolved and further studies are required to determine whether it is in fact a valid subspecies or just a restricted color morph.

#### **Literature cited:**

- FAUNA PARAGUAY. 2011. *Basileuterus hypoleucus*. Online images [www.fauparaguay.com/basileuterus\\_hypoleucus.html](http://www.fauparaguay.com/basileuterus_hypoleucus.html).
- Hayes, F.E. 1995. Status, Distribution and Biogeography of the Birds of Paraguay. ABA Monographs in Field Ornithology 1. 230p.
- Hellmayr, C. E. 1935. Catalogue of birds of the Americas. Field Mus. Nat. Hist. Publ., Zool. Ser., vol. 13., pt. 8.
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- Remsen, J.V. JR. and M. A. Traylor. 1989. An Annotated List of the Birds of Bolivia. Buteo Books, Vermillion, South Dakota. 79 pp.

Robbins, M.B., R.C. Faucett, AND N.H. Rice. 1999. Avifauna of a Paraguayan cerrado locality: Parque Nacional Serrania San Luis, Depto. Concepcion. Wilson Bulletin 11: 216-218.

Sick, H. 1993. Birds in Brazil. Princeton University Press, New Jersey. 703pp.

Silva, W.R. 1992. Padrões ecológicos, bioacústicos, biogeográficos e filogenéticos do complexo *Basileuterus culicivorus* (Aves, Parulidae) e demais espécies brasileiras do gênero. Departamento de Ecologia. Universidade de Campinas, Campinas. p.132.

Vilaça, S. T. and F. R. Santos. 2010. Biogeographic history of the species complex *Basileuterus culicivorus* (Aves, Parulidae). Molecular Phylogenetics Evolution 57: 585-597.

Willis, E.O. 1986. Vireos, wood warblers and warblers as ant followers. Gerfaut 76: 177-186.

**Adapted from:** Paul Smith's SACC Proposal #493

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Comments on SACC Proposal #493:

Comments from Remsen: "YES. With first-hand experience with both taxa in Bolivia, I became highly suspicious of the species rank of *hypoleucus* in 1984 – songs and calls sounded identical to me, and populations we sampled in Dpto. Santa Cruz showed signs of intergradation. Now, we have some actual data that show that *hypoleucus* is a pale-bellied form of southern *culicivorus*."

Comments from Stiles: "YES – all the evidence seems to fit treating *hypoleucus* as a pale-bellied race of *culicivorus* rather than a species."

Comments from Robbins: "YES, based on our Paraguay data (Robbins et al. 1995) coupled with the Vilaça & Santos genetic data it would seem best to treat *hypoleucus* as conspecific with *culicivorus*."

Comments from Pacheco: "YES. In my personal experience, I agree that the vocalizations of both taxa involved are virtually indistinguishable. The simple calls can be something different but seem to fall within the range of complex *B. culicivorus*. I've found in eastern Minas Gerais pairs with individuals tending to each of the taxa. Given the results of Vilaça & Santos (2010) - in combination with those older Weber Silva (1992) – I vote yes."

Comments from Stotz: "YES. This makes me "sad," but this has always been out there. There is certainly a habitat difference between the two taxa with *culicivorus* more of a humid forest species and *hypoleuca* more in cerrado and gallery forest. But there are plenty of places where these forms come in contact with intergradation known. Vocally they are very similar if not identical."



Comments from Pérez: “YES. Evidence available is against retention of *B. hypoleucus* as species. This is an interesting case showing that potentially independent evolutionary lineages might not persist in the face of their habitat dynamics and the lack of geographical or ecological barriers. It would be great to investigate the potential hybridization between these taxa and the patterns and mechanisms of plumage variation.”

**Change linear sequence of orders for Falconiformes and Psittaciformes****Description of the problem:**

In the current NACC list and practically all previous publications, these two orders are listed separately and far from Passeriformes: Falconiformes before Eurypygiformes/Gruiformes, and Psittaciformes after Columbiformes.

**New information:**

There is now substantial phylogenetic evidence for the relationship between the two groups and Passeriformes (Ericson *et al.* 2006, Hackett *et al.* 2008). Additional support for the Psittaciformes-Passeriformes relationship was recently published by Suh *et al.* (2011).

Hackett *et al.* pointed out: "*One of the most unexpected findings was the sister relationship between Passeriformes and Psittaciformes (node A, Fig. 2), with Falconidae (falcons) sister to this clade. This relationship varied slightly among analyses and gene-jackknifing (Fig. 1), yet the close relationship between passerines with parrots and/or falcons appeared consistently.*"

**Recommendation:**

I recommend altering the position of the Falconiformes (the "Falconidae" of Hackett *et al.*) and Psittaciformes and placing them side-by-side before the Passeriformes:

Falconiformes  
Psittaciformes  
Passeriformes

**Literature cited:**

- Ericson, P.G.P., Anderson, C.L., Britton, T., Elzanowski, A., Johansson, U.S., Källersjö, M., Ohlson, J.I., Parsons, T.J., Zuccon, D., and Mayr, G. 2006. Diversification of Neoaves: integration of molecular sequence data and fossils. *Biol. Lett.* 2: 543-547.
- Hackett, S.J., Kimball, R.T., Reddy, S., Bowie, R.C.K., Braun, E.L., Braun, M.J., Chojnowski, J.L., Cox, W.A., Han, K., Harshman, J., Huddleston, C.J., Marks, B.D., Miglia, K.J., Moore, W.S., Sheldon, F.H., Steadman, D.W., Witt, C.C., and Yuri, T. 2008. A phylogenomic study of birds reveals their evolutionary history. *Science.* 320: 1760.

Suh, A., M. Paus, M. Kiefmann, G. Churakov, F. A. Franke, J. Brosius, J. O. Kriegs, & J. Schmitz. 2011. Mesozoic retroposons reveal parrots as the closest living relatives of passerine birds. *Nature Communications* 2: 443.

**Adapted from:** Manuel Nores' SACC Proposal #491A

**Add European Golden-Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* to the US list****Description of the problem:**

The European Golden-Plover is a casual spring migrant to the Maritime Provinces and to Newfoundland, especially after storms with strong northeast winds. It is accidental at other times. The 7<sup>th</sup> edition currently states that the species is "casual in Labrador and Newfoundland; a sight record for Alaska. I believe that statement should be modified to Atlantic Canada and Saint-Pierre et Miquelon as there are published records for Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, in addition to Saint-Pierre et Miquelon (off Newfoundland, but part of France).

**New information:**

Dick Banks directed my attention to the Western Birds publication by Heinl and Piston (Western Birds 32:179-181) that details a specimen collected near the Ketchikan airport, Gravina Island, Alexander Archipelago, southeast Alaska, on 14 January 2001. It had been found the previous day. This is a remarkable record. One wonders if it came from Iceland or Greenland or from the Arctic Coast of Siberia, Russia. It breeds in Russia no closer than the Taimyr Peninsula, many thousands of miles away.

In addition it has been recorded more recently from Maine and Delaware, both records being of adults in the fall. The first record was at Scarborough, Maine from 9-11 October 2008 (NAB 63:44) and the other was near Bombay Hook, Kent County, Delaware from 14-15 September 2009 (NAB 64:46). Black-and-white photos of both birds are published in the above NAB references.

**Draft new text:**

I suggest we modify our existing text to: Casual in Atlantic Canada and Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, especially in spring after storms. Accidental to southeast Alaska in winter (specimen, Heinl and Piston 2001) and in fall to Maine (NAB 63:44, photo) and Delaware (NAB 64:46, photo).

**Submitted by:**

Jon Dunn

**Proposal date:** 7 Feb 2012

**Change name of the family Pteroclididae (sandgrouse) to Pteroclidae**

The AOU checklist currently uses the family name Pteroclididae for the sandgrouse, presumably following Peters (1937). However, this name appears to be an unjustified modification of Pteroclidae Bonaparte, 1831. Below is the account for this family from Bock's monograph on family group names in ornithology:

"Pteroclidae – Pteroclidae Bonaparte, 1831 and Syrrhaptidae Bonaparte, 1831 were proposed in the same paper. Pteroclidae has always been used for this family-level taxon and hence has precedence under the provision of first reviser. Pterocleidae and the Pteroclididae have been used by some authors depending on the judgment of how the stem should be formed from the name Pterocles (see Brooke, 1993: 333 who argued that the correct formation of the generic stem from Pterocles is "Pterocle-"). The correct formation of the family-group name based on generic names from some Greek nouns can be difficult, and I do not argue which stem is correct. At its recent meetings, the ICZN has argued in favor of the simplest spelling of family-group names and against changes in these names simply because of grammatical correction in the form of the generic stem. Most ornithologists have used the spelling Pteroclidae, which will be followed herein." (Bock 1994, p. 182)

And here are additional comments on this subject from Normand David:

"Several Greek nouns ending in -kles were used in classical Latin with the genitive -is (Androcles, -is; Pericles, -is, etc), even though the Greek genitive is different (-eous). Then Pteroclidae can be viewed as well formed from the Latinized *Pterocles*.

As for "Pteroclididae", it is not used by a "substantial majority ... of concerned authors" (Glossary: Prevailing usage); it was used by Peters III: 3, Cramp 1985: 244, Ali & Ripley, Howard & Moore 2003. On the other hand, Pteroclidae was used by Gray 1847, CBBM 22: 2, Wolters (1975-1982), Sibley & Monroe 1990: 232, Bock (1994), Birds of Africa II: 422, HBW 4.

In short, there is no set of solid reasons for using a name other than the original Pteroclidae."

**Recommendation:**

I recommend that we change the family name for the sandgrouse to Pteroclidae.

**Literature cited:**

- Bock, W.J. 1994. History and nomenclature of avian family group names. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. 222: 1-281.
- Brooke, R.K. 1993. Annotated catalogue of the Aves type specimens in the South African Museum. Ann. S. Afr. Mus. 103: 327-349.
- Peters, J.L. 1937. Check-list of birds of the world, vol. III. Harvard Univ. Press, Cambridge.

**Submitted by:**  
Terry Chesser

**Proposal date:** 9 Feb 2012