AOS Classification Committee – North and Middle America

Proposal Set 2020-D

30 March 2020

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Revise the linear sequence of the Trochilini

We recently passed two proposals (2020-A-2, 2020-A-3) that markedly changed the generic classification of the hummingbird tribe Trochilini, based on the phylogeny of McGuire et al. (2014) and the new classification of Stiles et al. (2017). Here we propose a new linear sequence using the revised names, based on these sources and an additional recent paper (Hernández-Baños et al. 2020). Stiles et al. (2017) split the tree from McGuire et al. (2014) into four parts for convenience; these trees were used in Proposal 2020-A-2 and are reproduced below. In the original phylogeny in McGuire et al. (2014), these trees are connected as follows: A and B are sister groups (although with little support), C and D are sister groups, and A+B and C+D are sister groups. Because A includes fewer species than B, C includes fewer species than D, and A+B includes fewer species than C+D, the linear sequence proceeds in the order A, B, C, D.

The proposed linear sequence relies mainly on McGuire et al. (2014) and Stiles et al. (2017). However, the phylogeny of Hernández-Baños et al. (2020) included two species not previously sequenced (*Chlorostilbon auriceps and C. forficatus*) and greatly increased sampling within species of *Chlorostilbon* (see their Figure 1 below). Therefore, the linear sequence within *Chlorostilbon* was determined from this new phylogeny. Nevertheless, the proposed linear sequence for *Chlorostilbon* is entirely congruent with that of Stiles et al. (2017).

The linear sequence below does depart from the classification of Stiles et al. (2017) in several ways:

1. *Abeillia abeillei* precedes its sister species *Klais guimeti* based on its more northwesterly distribution.
2. *Goldmania violiceps* precedes its sister species *G. bella* based on its more northwesterly distribution.
3. *Saucerottia hoffmanni* precedes *S. beryllina* and *S. cyanura* based on the well-supported branching pattern in McGuire et al. (2014), in which *hoffmanni* is sister to *beryllina* + *cyanura*.

The sole discrepancy with the McGuire et al. (2014) phylogeny, also present in Stiles et al. (2017), is the placement of *Riccordia bicolor* following *R. swainsonii* and *R. maugaeus*. The latter two species are sister to *bicolor* but the branch support is weak; thus, these three species essentially form a polytomy with *R. ricordii*. Confusingly, however, the branching pattern in the phylogeny in Hernández-Baños et al. (2020), evidently based on the same data for these species used in McGuire et al. (2014), differed from the McGuire phylogeny in that *ricordii* and *bicolor* are sister species with strong support. Given the uncertainty in this part of the tree and the contradictory phylogenies, I prefer to follow Stiles et al. (2017) and keep the four Greater Antillean species (*ricordii*, *swainsonii*, and *maugaeus*, along with the extinct *bracei* [see below]) together rather than to intersperse the Lesser Antillean *bicolor* within the group and to choose between the phylogenies.

Several species in our region were not included in either McGuire et al. (2014) or Hernández-Baños et al. (2020). These are:

1. *Chlorostilbon bracei*, now extinct, which has been placed to follow its presumed sister species *ricordii* in the resurrected genus *Riccordia*;
2. *Campylopterus curvipennis*, which has been placed to precede its former conspecific *excellens* in the resurrected genus *Pampa*;
3. *Hylocharis humboldtii*, which has been placed to follow *coeruleogularis* in the resurrected genus *Chrysuronia*, following Stiles et al. (2017); and
4. *Amazilia luciae* and *A. boucardi*, which are provisionally retained in *Amazilia* although their affinities are uncertain, as indicated by the asterisks placed in front of their names.

The proposed new linear sequence is:

Phaeoptila sordida
Riccordia ricordii
bracei
swainsonii
maugaeus
bicolor
Cynanthus latirostris
auriceps
forficatus
canivetii
Chlorostilbon assimilis
Basilinna leucotis
xantusii
Pampa curvipennis
excellens
rufa
Abeillia abeillei
Klais guimeti
Orthorhyncus cristatus
Campylopterus hemileucurus
Chalybura urochrysia
buffonii
Thalurania colombica
Microchera albocoronata
cupreiceps
chionura
Goldmania violiceps
bella
Eupherusa ridgwayi
poiliocerca
cyanophrys
eximia
nigriventris
Phaeochroa cuvierii
Trochilus polytmus
Leucolia violiceps
viridifrons
Saucerottia cyanocephala
hoffmanni
beryllina

cyanura
edward
Amazilia rutila
yucatanensis
tzacatl
**luciae*
**boucardi*
Chrysuronia coeruleogularis
humboldtii
Polyerata amabilis
decora
Chlorestes candida
eliciae
julie

Recommendation:

I recommend that we adopt this new linear sequence.

Literature Cited:

Hernández-Baños, B. E., L. E. Zamudio-Beltran, & B. Milá. 2020. Phylogenetic relationships and systematics of a subclade of Mesoamerican emerald hummingbirds (Aves: Trochilidae: Trochilini). Zootaxa 4748: 581-591.

McGuire, J. A., C. C. Witt, J. V. Remsen, Jr., A. Corl, D. L. Rabosky, D. L. Altshuler, & R. Dudley. 2014. Molecular phylogenetics and the diversification of hummingbirds. Current Biology 24: 1-7.

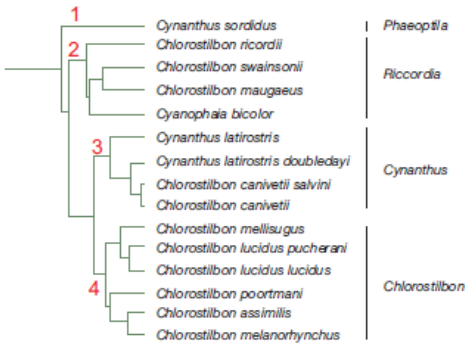
Stiles, F. G., J. V. Remsen, Jr., & J. A. McGuire. 2017. The generic classification of the Trochilini (Aves: Trochilidae): reconciling classification with phylogeny. Zootaxa 4353: 401-424.

Submitted by: Terry Chesser

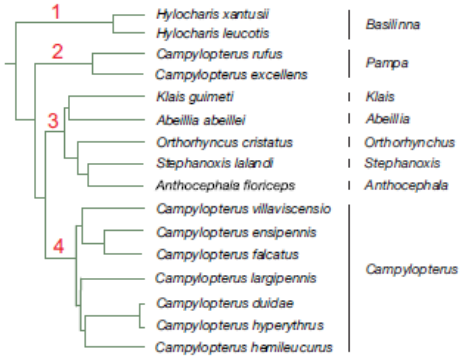
Date of Proposal: 17 March 2020

Trochilini (Emeralds)

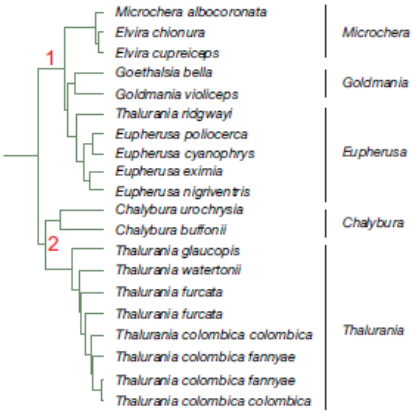
Group A



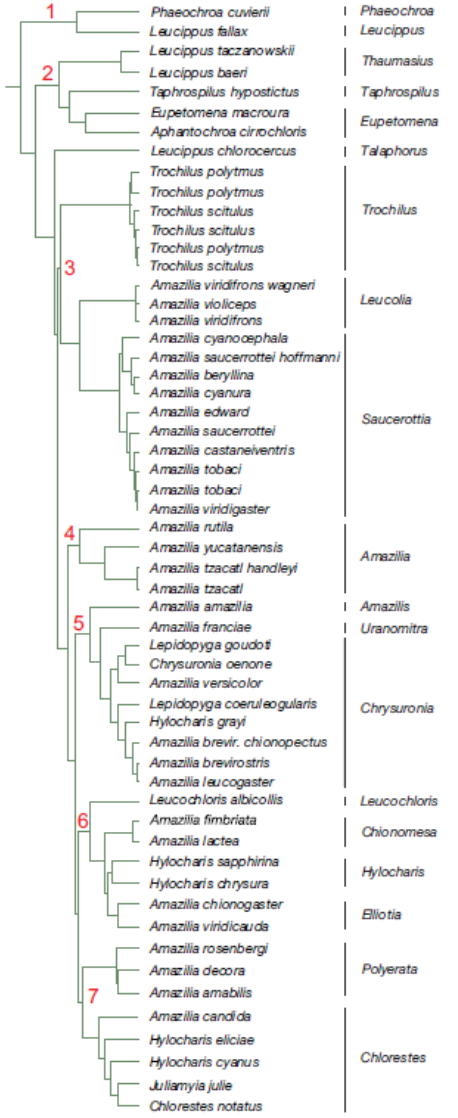
Group B



Group C



Group D



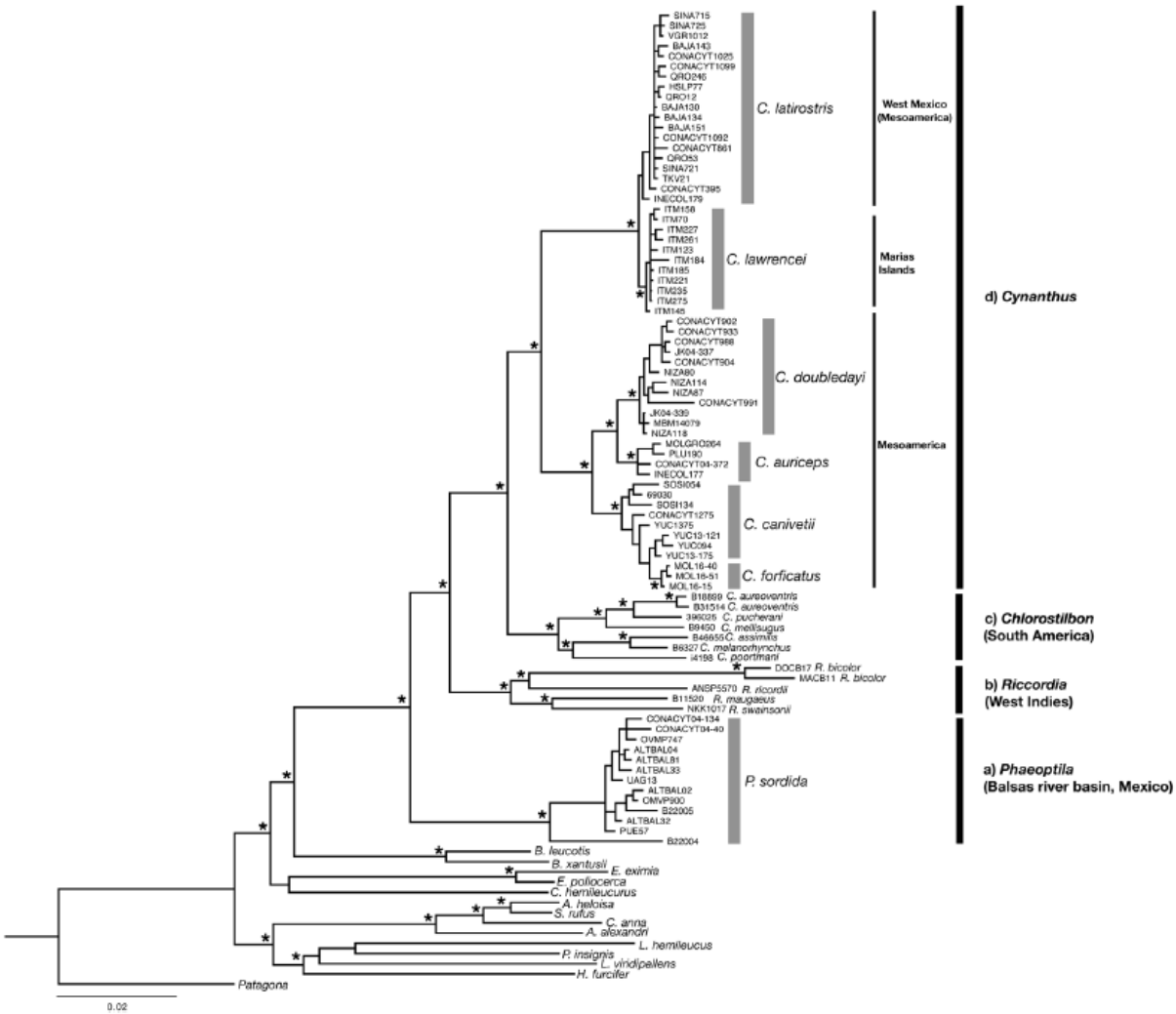


FIGURE 1. Phylogenetic Bayesian Inference reconstruction of *Cynanthus*, *Chlorostilbon* and *Cyanophaia* species using mitochondrial and nuclear markers (ND2, ND4, Bfib, ODC and MUSK). Asterisks indicate posterior probabilities of node support > 0.95.

Add Graylag Goose *Anser anser* to the US list

Background:

The Graylag Goose is a partially migratory species. It migrates to Iceland, where it is a common breeding species in the lowlands, from the U.K. and mainland Europe, arriving in late March. The ABA-CLC first accepted records of this species from Newfoundland, including one from well out-to-sea (Pranty et al. 2008). More recent records have been accepted from Nova Scotia (2010) and Quebec (2011). The species is on the AOS Main List based on these records, along with a record from Greenland.

Two recent records of purported wild birds in the U.S. come from Connecticut and Rhode Island. The Connecticut bird was found by Greg Hanisek on 22 February 2009, at Wallingford, New Haven County, and hung out with "wild" Canada Geese. The record was accepted as valid and likely of wild origin by the Avian Records Committee of Connecticut (Kaplan and Hanisek 2012). It established a first record for the U.S. and was identified as nominate *anser.* In January 2017 another bird was recorded in Rhode Island at Watchemoket Cove, East Providence. Paul Lehman at my asking contacted Greg Hanisek for information about the Connecticut record and he contacted Scott Tsagarakis about the current status of the Rhode Island record. Scott indicated that although the record hasn't been reviewed yet by the Rhode Island Avian Records Committee, he thought it was likely to be accepted.

There is no question of identification here, but origin is a potential issue. The ARCC addressed this as follows:

> Origin raised more questions and resulted in ARCC taking several years of evaluation and solicitation of expert opinions. Key factors in acceptance were: 1/ lack of any of the bands, tags or foot alterations that would prove captive origin; 2/ expert commentary that wild-type western Graylag Geese are seldom held in wildfowl collections; 3/ occurrence in an area of Connecticut where geese known or presumed to originate in Greenland (Greenland race of Greater White-fronted Goose, Barnacle Goose, Pink-footed Goose and neck-banded Canada Geese) now occur regularly; and 4/ continued North American sightings of wild-type Graylag Geese since the bird accepted by ABA (Newfoundland and Nova Scotia in 2010; Nova Scotia and Quebec in 2011). ARRC considered it important to wait for additional North American records, because while Graylag Goose has been reported a number of times in Greenland, the most likely point of origin, it has not yet been confirmed nesting there. (Kaplan and Hanisek, p. 36)

From my own experience with the typical Graylag Geese I see in North America, they are fat and aggressive on the 'bread line' at city parks. These two individuals were in more "wild" situations and with Canada Geese. Moreover, given the pattern of records from Atlantic Canada and Greenland, I think treating these records as representing wild occurrences is reasonable. The pink-billed eastern subspecies, *rubirostris*, is also migratory; some reach northern Indochina in winter. I saw this bird this winter in northern Thailand where it was wintering with wild ducks, principally with Indian Spot-billed Ducks (*Anas poecilorhyncha haringtoni*) and Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*), but also Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*), Garganey (*Spatula querquedula*), and Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca crecca*). Collectively (including the Graylag

Goose), they wouldn't let people get within several hundred yards of them, flying off when one ventured closer.

Recommendation:

I recommend that we add Graylag Goose to the U.S. List. All "wild" type records of this species are from Atlantic Canada, New England, or Greenland. I think that we should follow the decisions of the state committees in this case, and at least for the Connecticut record, we have an accepted record to deal with. I thank Louis Bevier, Greg Hanisek, Paul Lehman, and Scott Tsagarakis for information and treatments of the two U.S. records.

Literature cited:

Kapland, J., and G. Hanisek. 2012. Seventeenth Report of the Avian Records Committee of Connecticut. Connecticut Warbler 32:33-50.

Pranty, B., J. L. Dunn, S.C. Heinl, A.W. Kratter, P.E. Lehman, M.W. Lockwood, B. Mactavish, and K. J. Zimmer. 2008. Annual Report of the ABA Checklist Committee (2007-2008). Birding 40 (6):32-38.

Submitted by: Jon L. Dunn

Date of Proposal: 17 March 2020

Add Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* to the US list

Background:

The highly migratory Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* is on the Main List based on numerous records from Newfoundland and Greenland. It was added to the ABA Checklist based on a first record from Newfoundland in 1994 (DeBenedictis et al. 1996).

There was recently a well-documented record of this species from the western Aleutians, Alaska; thus, the species needs to be added to the U.S. list. The bird was at Buldir Island from 26 May through 13 June 2012. Photographs were taken and a sharp color image of the bird in flight is reproduced in Gibson et al. (2013). The identification is straightforward: the published color photo shows the broad white wingbar extending out prominently onto the inner primaries, the black back, and the broad white wedge extending up into the lower back, all characteristic of this species.

Recommendation:

I recommend adding this species to the U.S. list. I see no issues with this record. The appearance of this species on the Aleutians is not surprising given that it breeds north to northeastern China, Korea, the Sea of Okhotsk, and Kamchatka (Gibson et al. 2013).

Literature Cited:

DeBenedictis, P.A., D. L. Dittmann, J. L. Dunn, K. Garrett, G. Lasley, S. Tingley, and T. Tobish. 1996. 1995 ABA Checklist Report. Birding 28 (6):399-405.

Gibson, D. D., L. H. DeCicco, R. E. Gill, S. C. Heinl, A. J. Lang, T. G. Tobish, Jr., and J. J. Withrow. 2013. Third Report of the Alaska Checklist Committee, 2008-2012. Western Birds 44:183-195.

Submitted by: Jon L. Dunn

Date of Proposal: 17 March 2020

Add European Golden-Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* to the US list

Background:

The European Golden-Plover has long been on the Main List, and the ABA Checklist (see, e.g., Pranty et al. 2008), based on records from Atlantic Canada, where it is considered casual (AOU 1998). The great majority of records have come from eastern Newfoundland in spring, particularly after strong nor'easters. The species is a common breeder in Iceland and also breeds in east-central Greenland. In the last two decades it has been documented from Maine, Delaware, and New Jersey. There is also a slightly earlier record from southeastern Alaska, a bird present 13-14 January 2001 near the Ketchikan Airport. It was collected on the latter date. The plover was associating with a flock of shorebirds that included 35 Black Turnstones (*Arenaria melanocephala*), three Rock Sandpipers (*Calidris ptilocnemis*) and two Surfbirds (*Calidris virgata*). The specimen was deposited at the University of Alaska Museum (UAM 12100) and was a first winter male with heavy fat. This record is thoughtfully detailed by Piston and Heinl (2001). There have been a few additional records in Alaska, but the Ketchikan bird is the only specimen from the United States.

Maine has one accepted record, one (photos) at Scarborough Marsh, Scarborough, Cumberland County, 9-11 October 2008 (Sheehan and Vickery 2008). New Jersey has two accepted records, both photographed, one at Franklin Township 19-20 July 2014 (Annual Report of the New Jersey Records Committee 2015) and the other at Holgate, Ocean County, on 3 August 2016 (Annual Report of the New Jersey Bird Records Committee 2017). The Delaware record came from a field near Bombay Hook, Kent County, on 14 September 2009 (black-and-white photo published in North American Birds 64(1):46; in flight, it shows a nice pure white underwing) and was detailed by Veit et al. (2010) and accepted by the Delaware Bird Records Committee (Rohrbacher 2011).

Discussion:

The appearance of birds (not all in spring) from New England and the mid-Atlantic region, is not surprising given the status of this species in Iceland, Greenland, and Atlantic Canada. Records from Alaska are more surprising because it only breeds in northern Asia east to the Taymyr Peninsula (Vaurie 1965). I am unaware of any records from eastern Asia. Interestingly, there is a winter sighting with mediocre photos from coastal Santa Barbara County, California. Killian Mullarney, an expert European birder, artist, and author, believes it was a European Golden-Plover. The record did not pass the California Bird Records Committee, but all agreed that it was likely that species.

Recommendation:

I recommend that we add the species to the U.S. List. The Ketchikan specimen is the best documented record.

Literature cited:

American Ornithologists' Union [AOU]. 1998. Check-list of North American Birds, 7th ed. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington.

Piston, A.W. and S.C. Heinl. 2001. First record of the European Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) from the Pacific. Western Birds 32:179-181.

Pranty, B., J. L. Dunn, S.C. Heinl, A.W. Kratter, P.E. Lehman, M.W. Lockwood. B. Mactavish, and K.J. Zimmer. 2008. ABA Checklist: Birds of the Continental United States and Canada, seventh edition. American Birding Association. Colorado Springs, CO.

Rohrbacher, F. 2011. Delaware Bird Records Committee annual report for 2010. Delmarva Ornithologist 40:100-109.

Sheehan, W., and P. Vickery. Third report of the Maine Bird Records Committee (2008). Bird Observer 37 (5):290-294.

Vaurie, C. 1965. The Birds of the Palearctic Fauna. H. F. & G. Witherby, London.

Veit, R.R., R.O. Paxton, and F. Rohrbacher. 2010. Fall migration: August through November 2009. Hudson-Delaware. North American Birds 64 (1):44-49.

Submitted by: Jon L. Dunn

Date of Proposal: 17 March 2020

Add Tahiti Petrel *Pseudobulweria rostrata* to the US list

Background:

The Tahiti Petrel *Pseudobulweria rostrata* was added to the Main List based on photos of an individual off Costa Rica (Obando-Calderon et al. 2010, Chesser et al. 2011). On 26 January 2012, one was captured on board the cruise ship *Pride of America* 2 km west of Nā-wiliwili Harbor on the island of Kauai. The bird was handed off to the harbor security agency, who passed it on to personnel with Save Our Shearwaters (SOS). It was initially identified as a Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus*) but was quickly determined not to be that species. It was photographed, weighed, and measured. These data, along with a detailed description and four color photos (Morin et. al. 2018), indicated that the bird was too large for Phoenix Petrel (*Pterodroma alba*) and the similarly plumaged Beck's Petrel (*Pseudobulweria becki*), which is 25% smaller and has a more slender bill. The record was accepted by the Hawaii Bird Records Committee (Vanderwerf et al. 2018). It was subsequently banded and released. Previously there had been sightings off Hawaii, but these were treated as Tahiti/Phoenix petrels (Vanderwerf et al. 2018). Tahiti Petrel was added to the ABA list when Hawaii was added to the ABA area (Pyle et al. 2017).

A bird was also well-photographed off Hatteras, North Carolina, on 29 May 2018. I presume that it has been accepted by the state committee, but I am unaware of a publication on it. A record is also mentioned from off Durban, South Africa, on 11 November 2018. Obviously, the species can venture far from its usual range.

Recommendation:

I recommend that the species be added to the U.S. List. The Hawaii record detailed in Western Birds is well documented, and the North Carolina record looks equally obvious.

Literature Cited:

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. 2011. Fifty-second supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union *Check-list of North American Birds*. *Auk* 128: 600-613.

Morin, M.P., E. Haber, A.F. Raine, and R. Z. Torres. 2018. First record of the Tahiti Petrel (*Pterodroma rostrata*) from Hawaiian waters. Western Birds 49:77-81.

Obando-Calderón, G., J. Chaves-Campos, R. Garrigues, A. Martinez-Salinas, M. Montoya, O. Ramirez, and J. Zook. 2010. Actualización de la Lista Oficial de las Aves de Costa Rica 2010. Zeledonia 14-2. Boletín de la Asociación Ornitológica de Costa Rica. San José, Costa Rica. [Online.] Available at www.avesdecostarica.org/?q=content/revista-zeledonia

Pyle, P., M. Gustafson, T. Johnson, A. W. Kratter, A. Lang, M. W. Lockwood, R. Pittaway, and D. Sibley. 2017. 28th Report of the ABA Checklist Committee 2017. Birding 49:28–35.

Vanderwerf, E.C., R.E. David, P. Donaldson, R. May, H. D. Pratt, P. Pyle, and L. Tanino. 2018. First report of the Hawaii Bird Records Committee. Western Birds 49:2-23.

Submitted by: Jon L. Dunn

Date of Proposal: 17 March 2020

Add Dark-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus melacoryphus* to the US list

Background:

A potential first US record of Dark-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus melacoryphus* was brought to a wild bird rehabilitation facility in Weslaco, Texas, on 10 February 1986 (Robbins et al. 2003). After it died, the bird was sent to the LSU Museum of Natural Science with other salvaged specimens from the rehabilitation center. It had been initially identified as a Black-billed Cuckoo, which would have been exceptional given the winter date. It remained in an LSU freezer for several years before being re-identified and prepared as a study skin in 1993 (LSUMZ #164956). According to Robbins et al. (2003), the only information associated with the specimen was "10 February 1986, Weslaco, TX, dead on arrival." The record was accepted by the Texas Bird Records Committee (Lockwood 1999) but was not accepted for the main list by the ABA-CLC, which stated that "there was no information concerning the circumstances surrounding the bird's arrival at the center (who found it, when it was found, or where it came from)" (Robbins et al. 2003). Although the ABA-CLC unanimously accepted the identification, three members believed the bird's provenance to be uncertain. As I recall at the time as an ABA-CLC member, these members specifically thought that the bird might have been initially procured in Mexico. The above is chronicled by Pyle et al. (2019).

More recently, a Dark-billed Cuckoo was present in Delray Beach, Florida, 6-10 February 2019 (Kratter et al. unpublished MS) and was unanimously accepted by the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee. Subsequently it was unanimously accepted by the ABA-CLC (Pyle et al. 2019). The specimen of the Texas bird and photos of the Florida bird indicate that they are both first-cycle birds, retaining flight feathers (Pyle et al. (2019). Members of the ABA-CLC vote to add a species to the Checklist or not, and don't vote on individual records, but Pyle et al. (2019) indicated that members supported both records. A color photo of the Florida bird and a photo of the Texas specimen appeared in Pyle et al. (2019).

The species is already on the Main List based on records from Clipperton Island, Grenada, and eastern Panama. Like other members of this family, strays have the capacity to wander far from the normal range.

Recommendation:

I see nothing controversial about the Florida record and for that matter supported the earlier Texas record. I recommend adding this species to the U.S. List.

Literature cited:

Lockwood, M.W. 1999. Texas Bird Records Committee Report for 1998. Bulletin of the Texas Ornithological Society 32:26-37.

Pyle, P., M. Gustafson, T. Johnson, A.W. Kratter, A. Lang, K. Nelson, M.W. Lockwood, and D. Sibley. 2019. 30th Report of the ABA Checklist Committee 2019. Birding 51:36-42.

Robbins, M.B., D.L. Dittmann, J.L. Dunn, K.L. Garrett, S. Heinl, A.W. Kratter, G. Lasley, and B. Mactavish. 2003. ABA Checklist Committee annual report 2002. Birding 35(2):138-144.

Submitted by: Jon L. Dunn

Date of Proposal: 19 March 2020

Add Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* to (a) the Main List or (b) the Appendix

Background:

A *Lanius* shrike was present at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, 3-22 October 2017. Although identified initially as a Brown Shrike (*L. cristatus*), red flags were raised by Julian Hough and Nial Moores (Lehman et al. 2019), who believed it could well be a juvenile Red-backed Shrike. More intensive study of the bird in the field (gradually the bird became more accommodating) led to a consensus that this bird was indeed a juvenile Red-backed Shrike. The record was further vetted, notably by Lars Svensson, and it was agreed that there was nothing amiss with the identification as Red-backed Shrike. The record circulated through the Alaska Checklist Committee (AKCLC) and was accepted. The AKCLC publish their reports in Western Birds every five years, so the next report will appear in 2022. It was also reviewed by the ABA-CLC and the record was unanimously accepted (Pyle et al. 2018). This represented a first record for North America and for the Western Hemisphere.

Discussion ("A Tale of Two Shrikes"):

Normally, the NACC defers to national/state/provincial committees on issues of identification and origin, and there are compelling reasons to do so in this case as well. However, there is another side to this. The vote within the AKCLC wasn't unanimous (5-1), and this dissenting opinion by Daniel D. Gibson offered compelling reasons why caution should be exercised:

> I think the identification in autumn 2017 (by Lehman, Pyle, Moores, Hough, and Rosenberg) of a hatching-year "Red-backed" shrike at St. Lawrence Island provides a *peak* of overweening confidence in an ability to establish identification of apparently any bird with fulfilling accuracy by extrapolation from *beyond-arm's-length photos* and *utterly exhaustive* details of field observation (a peak perhaps outdone in recent memory only by California's "Mendocino" shrike—see Pyle et al. 2015). Solid information to be learned from study of the bird—not photos of the bird—in hand and the possibility that there might exist *important* information about birds (e.g., plumages, geographic variation) that is yet to be discovered and articulated, especially when involving populations of western and central Asia, areas quite distant from the 'birding' centers of western Europe and North America, do not seem to be factors considered at all. At Gambell no individual bird is ever too flighty, no age-class ever too difficult to parse in minute detail, and no identification ever too arcane to be solved satisfactorily by beyond-arm's-length photos and copious written details of observation (*as well as* the copious details *of others* asked *to evaluate* those details of observation), i.e., no 'tick' is allowed to get away.
>
> I recognize that over the recent decades many "first records for North America" have been added to the ornithological literature of Alaska from St. Lawrence Island (see Lehman 2000, 2003, 2008, Lehman and Ake 2001, Lehman and Rosenberg 2007, Rosenberg and Lehman 2008, Lehman and Zimmer 2013, and Helmericks 2017), and I hasten to agree that many of those identifications have been straightforward and readily enough substantiated by satisfactory photo evidence (e.g., Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*, Yellow-browed Warbler *P. inornatus*, Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*, Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*, Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*, Asian Rosy-Finch

Leucosticte arctoa, and Yellow-browed Bunting *Emberiza chrysophrys*; only one has been substantiated by a voucher specimen—from Middleton, not St. Lawrence, Island). Others (e.g., see other species in *Phylloscopus*, *Acrocephalus*, *Locustella*) continue to involve more-difficult identifications (not least because they are of ordinarily nonvocal migrants), such as the "first record for North America" of Blyth's Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus dumetorum*), which was *not* accepted by the AKCLC and which species was only added to the Alaska list after a satisfactorily documented occurrence several years after the "first" (see Gibson et al. 2018).

My vote: '**DO *NOT* ADD**' *Lanius collurio* to the Checklist of Alaska Birds. (With due respect for the efforts Lehman et al. have invested in this matter, I recommend adding Red-backed Shrike to the Alaska unsubstantiated list — as a 'tick' that, finally, 'got away' at Gambell).

Although the decision by the ABA CLC was unanimous (8-0), some of the members (see comments on the Google Drive) expressed some misgivings. My reading of their comments indicates a general unease on this topic, understandably so, because who really does have a firm grasp on the extent and frequency of hybridization between certain *Lanius* shrike species in Central Asia, and the appearance of such hybrids, particularly birds in juvenal plumage?

With the above in mind, a brief review of the wintering *Lanius* from Mendocino County, CA, is in order. The entire saga is exhaustively presented by Pyle et al. (2015). Basically, an immature shrike was found at the mouth of Alder Creek on 5 March 2015. It was thought initially, but briefly, to be a Northern Shrike (*L. borealis*), then likely (with reservations) a Brown Shrike (*L. cristatus*), and then after alarms were raised by Nial Moores (living in Korea), quite possibly a Red-backed Shrike. Within a few days the bird started molting into an adult-like plumage. It became clear that it was a male, and that it *certainly was not* a Brown Shrike. New outer tail feathers showed extensive white at the base, a feature which eliminated any subspecies of Brown Shrike. It was widely expected that as the bird kept molting, a nice male Red-backed Shrike would appear. Birders were encouraged to keep visiting Alder Creek and taking photos. The bird was present until 22 April, by which point an adult-like plumage had been reached. From careful analysis of the photos, it became clear that the bird was a hybrid Red-backed Shrike x Turkestan Shrike (*P. phoenicuroides*), no doubt originating from Central Asia. Pyle et al. (2015) included many photos of the bird, including one in color on the cover of North American Birds, and carefully detailed why this hybrid combination was almost certainly involved.

My uncertainty involving a recommendation is heavily weighted by the experience of the Mendocino shrike. Close photos of the bird in essentially juvenal plumage would have completely excluded Brown Shrike from consideration, and likely indicated Red-backed. What then? I don't recall the word "hybrid" being used until it had largely molted into adult-like plumage, at which point it just didn't fit a pure adult male Red-backed Shrike.

I would encourage all in considering this issue to check out the long article by Tim Worfolk (2000) in Dutch Birding (available in English by tinkering with links through the web page of the Dutch Birding Association). It includes color plates, illustrating all species and plumages in this related complex. It also includes many color photos, many of which are in-hand. There are maps detailing the ranges and areas of hybridizations. Hybrids are illustrated and photos of hybrids are included too. Worfolk (2000) reported that the only instances of extensive hybridization reported are between *L. collurio* and *L. phoenicuroides* (Stegmann 1930, Kryukov 1995, Panov 1995, Panov 1996, Lefranc and Worfolk 1997). One subspecies (*karelini*) is

somewhat intermediate, including its wing measurements. These birds are treated by some as a hybrid population between Red-backed and Turkestan (Stegmann 1930, Kryukov 1995, Panov 1995, and Panov 1996), but Worfolk (2000) chose to treat them as a color morph of *phoenicuroides* (Turkestan).

Worfolk (2000) stated that the situation between hybrids of the above taxa is "extremely complicated and open to different interpretations, while it is beyond the scope of this article to go into any detail…" He did offer that "birds, particularly adult males, showing mixed characters of both *collurio* and *phoenicuroides* or *isabellinus* are well known, though apparently uncommon, and should be easily identifiable as such." He wrote that "hybrids are rare in skin collections and so must be assumed to be rare in the field." Worfolk stated: "In most of the hybrid males held at the Zoological Museum of Moscow, the tail pattern provides the most obvious evidence, typically showing dark brown or blackish marks to otherwise rufous rectrices." A study by Pearson (1979) described six hybrids, all but one an adult male, the other a probable female. The birds closely resembled Red-backed but had a duller, less reddish back. Dickinson and Christidis (2014) treated Red-backed Shrike as monotypic, synonymizing the formerly recognized subspecies *juxtus*, *pallidifrons*, and *kobylini.* Vaurie (1959) recognized these subspecies and described Asian *pallidifrons* and *kobylini* as duller or paler above, stating for *kobylini*: "Individually very variable but chestnut of the mantle in males always duller and sometimes darker, not so bright as in nominate *collurio*, similar in its extent or (usually) more reduced to very much reduced and nearly obsolete, approaching *phoenicuroides;* ashy crown and hind neck usually paler to very much paler than in nominate *collurio."* Vaurie treated Red-backed Shrike more broadly, considering Turkestan and Isabelline to be subspecies of Red-backed Shrike. That treatment might be particularly appropriate for Turkestan. Although I haven't scrutinized the references cited above by Worfolk (2000), I recall reading at one point that *kobylini* and *pallidifrons* were hybrid populations between Red-backed and Turkestan.

I've looked for features to separate juvenile Red-backed and Turkestan shrikes. The only things I see detailed in Worfolk (2000) are that in Turkestan, the median coverts have quite whitish feather centers (warmer buff in *L. isabellinus isabellinus* and *L. isabellinus arenarius*, and rufous in *L. collurio*), and that the bill in Turkestan is typically more pale gray-pink than in *L. collurio*. I looked at the wing coverts and had a difficult time applying Worfolk's characters to the photos he included. I didn't check bill colors carefully but noted that he uses the word "typically" to mean that the character is likely non-diagnostic. Worfolk (2000) wrote that primary projection averages shorter on the closed wing on Turkestan, that typically only 6-7 primary tips are visible on the closed wing. Turkestan averages duller, less rufous above, but keep in mind that Red-backed has gray and rufous color morphs in juveniles. Worfolk (2000) discussed structural differences between Red-backed and Turkestan. He stated that Turkestan usually appears shorter winged and longer tailed than Red-backed, although considerable overlap of measurements occurs.

Worfolk (2000) stated that only two hybrids are known between Red-backed and Brown Shrikes, although the two overlap "fairly widely" in Asia (Kryukov 1995). Brown Shrike (nominate subspecies) is also widely sympatric with *L. isabellinus isabellinus* in eastern Mongolia, but hybridization is unrecorded. Intergrades between the various subspecies in Brown Shrike were briefly detailed in Worfolk (2000).

Conclusions:

I've wrestled with this issue (adding Red-backed Shrike to the Main List) for a few years. I've gone through the comments of the various individuals who have reviewed it previously.

Although both AKCLC and ABA CLC accepted the record, there were certainly misgivings. I believe the evaluations by Lars Svensson and others were determinative, or at least there was deference to them. This is understandable. However, it is obvious that hybridization between Red-backed and Turkestan is not rare, and in looking at the maps, it occurs over a wide longitudinal, if not latitudinal, range. Subspecies appear to have been named based on hybrid populations. Also, the hybrids described are based on adults, primarily adult males. No one has described (to my knowledge) a hybrid juvenile. Nevertheless, the acceptance of this juvenile from Gambell is based on its similarity to juvenile Red-backed Shrikes from western Europe. While I have strong respect for Lars Svensson and the others involved, I wonder whether they have extensive experience in central Asia and the issues involved with hybridization with these taxa of *Lanius*, and in particular the separation of juvenal plumaged hybrids. Pearson (1979) stated that the hybrids (small sample size) closely resembled Red-backed Shrikes in terms of dorsal color. If that's true for the adults, what about the juvenal plumaged hybrids? They are undescribed (to my knowledge). How can assumptions be made about their appearance when they are undescribed?

A statement in the ABA CLC comments and referenced by Pyle et al. (2018) indicated: "One ABA-CLC member pointed out that not accepting this record, due to possible genetic impurity could call into question all records of Brown Shrikes in the ABA Area." I do not agree with this. Of the 20 or so records of Brown Shrike from the ABA area, some involved birds in adult-like plumage. These birds looked like pure *cristatus* Brown Shrikes. Moreover, Gibson and Withrow (2015) listed two specimens of Brown Shrike from Alaska, both of which are now identified to nominate *cristatus.* Hybridization between Brown Shrike (recognized as a separate species by Vaurie, 1959) and other species is very rare. Brown Shrike is well-established on the Main List of AOS and on the Alaska and California state lists. In the case of the Gambell Red-backed Shrike, a juvenal-plumaged bird, we are adding a species to the Main List. Many, including those that voted for this record in the AKCLC and the ABA CLC, were uneasy with the acceptance. I'm uneasy too. I called this a "tale of two shrikes" for a reason. It is arguable that if the Mendocino bird hadn't molted into an adult-like plumage, a case could have been made that it would have been accepted as a Red-backed Shrike by the CBRC and maybe the NACC. I doubt the hybrid issue with Turkestan would have been seriously considered. But that's not what happened, as exhaustively detailed by Pyle et al. (2015). Perhaps this hybrid turning up in California should be treated as a one-off, but I can't embrace this philosophy. As has been pointed out, there is a fairly long list of species that have occurred at Gambell and elsewhere that primarily breed in central rather than eastern Asia.

Recommendation:

I find myself agreeing with much of Dan Gibson's dissent. I do appreciate the NACC giving great deference to the ABA-CLC on identification issues, just as they rightly defer to us on issues of taxonomy and nomenclature. If those are overriding, I'd recommend an acceptance to the Main List. I find myself (at least for today) believing that the bird might be better placed in the Appendix. If you find yourself agreeing with much of Dan's dissent, I'd recommend placing the species in the Appendix. Dan's use of the "arm's length" views brings to mind that there are no measurements of this bird, and no blood or tissue for genetic analysis, let alone a voucher specimen. Andy voted on this for the ABA-CLC and accepted the record. I'd welcome his further comments. I'm persuadable!

Voting:

Please vote on (a) adding Red-backed Shrike to the Main List. If voting NO on (a), then also vote on (b) adding Red-backed Shrike to the Appendix.

Position on the Checklist:

Dickinson and Christidis (2014) placed Red-backed Shrike after Brown Shrike in the linear sequence.

Literature cited:

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Submitted by: Jon L. Dunn

Date of Proposal: 19 March 2020

Add Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus* to the Main List

Background:

An individual of this migratory western and central Asian, and North African species, turned up on St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska, on 15 November 2018, and remained until 7 April 2019. Despite the remoteness of St. Paul Island, the bird was seen by a number of birders and well-photographed (excellent published photos, one in flight and one perched on a hummock with wings raised, were published in color in Birding 51:40). The record was reviewed by several Eurasian raptor experts and they concluded that it was a pure Long-legged Buzzard (Pyle et al. 2019). The record was accepted by the AKCLC (to be published in their report in Western Birds in 2022) and later by the ABA-CLC (Pyle et al. 2019).

Recommendation:

I recommend that this polytypic species be added to the Main List. In parts of this species' range, it is obviously highly migratory, and in winter some reach east-central Africa. Strays have reached Senegal, Zambia, Sri Lanka, northern Burma, and the Andaman Islands (Ferguson-Lees and Christie 2001). Geographical variation in this species is moderate. The more eastern, nominate subspecies is much larger, and the plumage variation includes a dark morph, which is more frequent in the eastern part of its range (Ferguson-Lees and Christie 2001). More western *cirtensis* is significantly smaller and averages a paler, more rufous belly, and it does not have a dark morph (Ferguson-Lees and Christie 2001). I have not heard, or read, any opinions on the subspecies of the St. Paul bird.

Position on the Checklist:

Dickinson and Remsen (2013) and Clements et al. (2019) placed Long-legged Buzzard after Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*) in the linear sequence. I've seen a few in the field in Israel in November and have always been reminded how similar they are to Ferruginous Hawk in shape, behavior, and (somewhat) in plumage.

Literature cited in the motion:

Clements, J.F., T.S. Schulenberg, M.J. Iliff, S.M. Billerman, T.A. Fredericks, B.L. Sullivan, and C. L. Wood. The e-Bird-Clements Checklist of Birds of the World, V. 2019 (tinyurl.com/eBird-Clements). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca.

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Submitted by: Jon L. Dunn

Date of Proposal: 19 March 2020

Retain the English name Comb Duck for *Sarkidiornis sylvicola*

Effect on Checklist:

NACC recently approved a proposal (2020-B-2) to split Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* into two species, following the lead of SACC Proposal 825. NACC adopted the names previously used for groups of the pre-split species by AOU 1998 (American Comb-Duck for *S. sylvicola* and African Comb-Duck for *S. melanotos*), in keeping with the adoption of American Comb-Duck by SACC. Approval of this proposal would instead retain the English name Comb Duck for *S. sylvicola* and adopt the widely used English name Knob-billed Duck for *S. melanotos*.

Note from Chair: *Because* Sarkidiornis sylvicola *is primarily a South American species, final approval of this proposal is subject to approval of the English names by SACC, which is considering the proposal concurrently.*

Background and analysis:

Sarkidiornis melanotos sensu lato consists of two taxa, the New World *sylvicola* and the Old World nominate *melanotos*. These taxa variably have been recognized as a single species or as two species. Several English names have been applied to these taxa, but far and away the most common of these are Comb Duck and Knob-billed Duck.

There are some general patterns in how these names have been applied, although always with some exceptions. Also note that some sources simply use one name or the other, whereas others acknowledge the existence of both names, but end up choosing one. Most authors who recognize only a single species have used Comb Duck (Phillips 1922, Delacour and Mayr 1945, Delacour 1959, Johnsgard 1978, Soothill and Whitehead 1978, Ripley 1982, Sick 1983, Madge and Burn 1988, Sibley and Monroe 1990, Robson 2000, Dickinson 2003, Hockey et al. 2005, Dickinson and Remsen 2013), but a few opted for Knob-billed Duck (Britton 1980, Brown et al. 1982, Maclean 1988).

Also worth mentioning are regional works that are silent on the question of how many species to recognize. Many of these used Knob-billed Duck (e.g., Newman 1983, Brickell 1988, Lewis and Pomeroy 1989, Dowsett and Forbes-Watson 1993, Barlow and Wacher 1997, Borrow and Demey 2001, Stevenson and Fanshawe 2002), but a few used Comb Duck (e.g., Inskipp et al. 1996, Grimmett et al. 1999).

Many of the references that recognized two species were regional, and so provided an English name only for the relevant taxon. In this category, the split primarily has been adopted by sources dealing with the Old World taxa, the majority of whom have adopted Knob-billed Duck (e.g., Roberts 1940, Mackworth-Praed and Grant 1952, Bannerman 1953, McLachlan and Liversidge 1957, Mackworth-Praed and Grant 1962, Clancey 1964, McLachlan and Liversidge 1978, Clancey 1980). Worth noting here is Rasmussen and Anderton (2005), which used Comb Duck, but these authors adopted Knob-billed Duck a few years later (Rasmussen and Anderton 2012). Gill and Wright (2006) addressed both taxa, adopting Knob-billed Duck for *melanotos* and Comb Duck for *sylvicola*; this approach also was taken by the eBird/Clements Checklist v2018.

There is a third way, which is to use modifiers to Comb Duck to distinguish the two taxa. This trend began with authors who still recognized only a single species, and so were giving English names to each subspecies. Delacour (1959) may have been the first in this vein, using Old World Comb Duck for *melanotos* and American Comb Duck for *sylvicola*; these names also were adopted by Soothill and Whitehead (1978). Sibley and Monroe (1990), however, proposed African Comb Duck and American Comb Duck, names also used by the AOU (1983, 1998) and del Hoyo and Collar (2014). Hilty and Brown (1986) and Hilty (2003) suggested South American Comb Duck for *sylvicola* but did not propose a name for *melanotos*. Livezey (1997) split the two, offering Gray-sided Comb-Duck for *melanotos* and Black-sided Comb-Duck for *sylvicola*. Ridgely and Greenfield (2001) endorsed either American Comb-Duck or Black-sided Comb-Duck, without commenting on a name for *melanotos*. Kear (2005) split *Sarkidiornis* and used the names South American Comb Duck and African Comb Duck. One other point perhaps worthy of consideration is the geographic range of *melanotos*. It is widespread across sub-Saharan Africa, but also occurs in southern and southeastern Asia, suggesting that African Comb Duck is a poor choice for *melanotos*.

Our view is that adoption of any version of a modifier + Comb Duck is problematic. Some options on the table, such as "Gray-sided/Black-sided", "South American", or "Old World", result in complex compound bird names. We've all learned to accept such names when we have to, but we prefer simpler name constructions wherever possible. A subtext of the precedents that were documented above, for example, is that the literature on African birds overwhelmingly endorses Knob-billed Duck for *melanotos*. Admittedly Africa does not represent the whole of the geographic range of *melanotos*, but Africa clearly is the heart of the range of this species.

An informal survey of field ornithologists active in southeast Asia (David Bakewell, David Bishop, Tim Boucher, Wich'yanan ("Jay") Limparungpatthanakij, and Robert Tizard) suggested widespread support for Knob-billed Duck. Praveen J, first author on the recent India Checklist (Praveen J. et al. 2016), wrote that "As a general direction, the intent of our checklist is also to gradually transition the regional community to more widely accepted names while minimizing the local impact of the same. Hence, it is also in our interest to transition to Knob-billed Duck".

Therefore we suggest a simple Comb Duck for *sylvicola*, and Knob-billed Duck for *melanotos*.

We are aware of the guiding rule that when a species is split, the parental name (in this case, Comb Duck) is modified or is set aside completely for the daughter species; indeed, arguably we have done as much as anyone has to promote this practice (e.g., AOS-NACC Proposal 2011-C-14). This rule exists for a reason, to reduce confusion when the same English name is applied to two different concepts (*sensu lato* versus *sensu stricto* versions of the relevant English name). In the case of the *Sarkidiornis*, however, we are fairly confident that the risk of confusion from retaining Comb Duck for *sylvicola* will pose little problem. For one thing, the two taxa are widely allopatric. Furthermore, the name Comb Duck already is standard throughout the range of *sylvicola*, and Knob-billed Duck is the preferred name in most of the range of *melanotos*. Finally, given that eBird/Clements already split these a year and a half ago, we now have empirical data to bear on the question: there has been no confusion at all with the name Comb Duck in the New World, and while errors in the Old World do occur, these happen at a very low and manageable rate. In short, the simpler names do not represent a case that would, in practice, cause the problem that NACC's guidelines on English names are designed to circumvent. Also note that this would be consistent with other similar cases of names recently adopted by NACC in the case of Old World/New World splits, such as Velvet and White-winged scoters, Common and Black scoters, Hen and Northern harriers, and others.

Recommendation:

Our interpretation of the history of the names is that there already exists a clear preference in the literature for Knob-billed Duck for *melanotos*, at least on the part of ornithologists who have the greatest experience with this taxon. Therefore, we recommend that AOS-NACC retain Comb Duck for *Sarkidiornis sylvicola*, and that NACC go one step further and explicitly endorse Knob-billed Duck for *S. melanotos*.

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Submitted by: Tom Schulenberg and Marshall J. Iliff, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Date of Proposal: 20 March 2020

Add Amazilia Hummingbird *Amazilis amazilia* to the Main List

***Note from Chair*:** This species, previously known as *Amazilia amazilia*, was transferred to *Amazilis* by Stiles et al. (2017). This change would have been included in Proposal 2020-A-3 had *A. amazilia* already been part of the Checklist.

Background:

Amazilia Hummingbird *Amazilis amazilia* has not previously been reported to occur in North America.

New Information:

A hummingbird was observed feeding on flowers of a *Samanea saman* tree near Juan Hombrón, Coclé Province, Panamá, on 16 March 2016, by James and Susan Hengeveld, and several photographs (attached) were obtained by the latter.

The following additional notes were provided in an email by J. Hengeveld (9 December 2016) to the submitter:

- size - small to medium (3.5 - 4 inches)
- bright hot pink bill with a black tip, broad-based
- dark green head and back with a dark throat
- white post-ocular spot
- white chest with abrupt border with dark throat; rufous lower breast/upper belly; lighter (grayish or whitish) lower belly & under tail coverts (latter from photos only)
- very prominent white leg “boots”
- rufous tail with hint of darker terminal band (in the photos it looks like it’s only the central rectrices)
- rufous mixed with green upper tail coverts & rump (from the photos only)

The photos and description match no hummingbird known to occur in Panama, but instead show characteristics of Amazilia Hummingbird *Amazilis amazilia* of western South America, notably a white chest patch, white postocular spot, “booted” legs with elongated white feathers, a pale rufous tail and upper tail coverts, and back with a bronzy cast, showing no strong contrast between tail and back.

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl* is common in Panama and bears some similarities to the photographed bird, including green head and back, rufous tail, red bill, and white leg feathers. Therefore, the possibility that the individual could have been an aberrant *A. tzacatl* with white feathers on the chest was considered.

To resolve the identification, the submitter examined the series of specimens of *Amazilis amazilia* and its subspecies at the American Museum of Natural History, including *A. amazilia amazilia, A. a. leucophoaea, A. a. dumerilii,* and *A. a. alticola*, as well specimens of *A. tzacatl.*

The photos closely match *A. amazilia leucophoea.* Of other subspecies of *A. amazilia,* the nominate and *dumerilii* have mostly green tails, and the white breast spot of *alticola* (if present) is smaller.

Diagnostic features distinguishing *A. a. leucophoea* from *A. tzacatl* that are evident in the photos include:

- white breast patch (photo A)
- distinct white postocular spot (photo A)
- "booted" legs (photos A, B, C). *A. amazilia* has elongated white feathers on the legs that extend down to the foot joint and are about as long as the foot. Although *A. tzacatl* has white leg feathers, they do not extend to the foot and are much shorter than it. Photos comparing the leg feathering of *A. amazilia* and *A. tzacatl* are attached.
- tail/back color and contrast between them. In *A. tzacatl*, the tail is chestnut, as are the upper tail coverts. These contrast with the emerald green to bronzy green back. In *A. a. leucophoea*, the tail is a somewhat lighter tawny, as are the upper tail coverts. The back is golden green to bronzy green, with no abrupt contrast between tail and back. In photos A and B, the back is bronzy well above the upper tail coverts, and there is little contrast with the tail.

In addition, bill length and breadth are suggestive but not definitive. *A. amazilia* has a much shorter bill with a relatively broader base than *A. tzacatl*. The bill is shorter and wider (almost like a *Hylocharis*) than is typical for *A. tzacatl*.

Based on this information, the record was reviewed and accepted by the Panama Records Committee of the Panama Audubon Society. The record and photos A and C were published in *North American Birds* (van Dort and Komar 2019).

Amazilis amazilia occurs in dry forest and other arid areas from western Ecuador to southwestern Peru. Subspecies *leucophoea* is found in northwestern Peru, about 1400 km from where the bird was observed. This instance of vagrancy is exceptional but could have been prompted by a strong ENSO event that took place in 2015/2016. The bird was observed in a dry region of Panama, in a habitat similar to that occupied by the species in Peru.

Recommendation:

Add Amazilia Hummingbird *Amazilis amazilia* to the main list as a vagrant.

Literature Cited:

van Dort, John, and Oliver Komar. 2019. Central America. Spring/Summer 2016. North American Birds 70(3/4): 394-396.

Submitted by: George R. Angehr, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, and Chair, Panama Records Committee, Panama Audubon Society

Date of proposal: 30 March 2020

Figures below:

Photos by Susan Hengeveld, near Juan Hombron, Coclé Province, Panamá, 16 March 2016

Photo A.

Photo B.

Photo C.

Comparison of leg feathers of *A. amazilia* and *A. tzacatl.*

Amazilis amazilia

Amazilia tzacatl