N&MA Classification Committee: Proposals 2013-A

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Make seven nomenclatural revisions based on Gregory and Dickinson (2012)

Gregory and Dickinson (2012) reviewed three papers on avian nomenclature published in Russian by G. N. Kashin during the period 1978-1982. The first of these (Kashin 1978) contains several issues of relevance to the AOU Check-list. Following the recommendations of Gregory and Dickinson, I propose the following:

(a) replace the genus name *Nyctanassa* Stejneger, 1887, with the prior name *Nyctherodius* Reichenbach, 1852. According to Gregory and Dickinson, "*Nyctanassa* was introduced as a new name on the grounds of presumed homonymy of *Nyctherodius* with *Nycterodius* MacGillivray 1842, but the one letter difference is no longer considered a homonym." According to the ICZN (1999), *Nyctanassa* can be retained if *Nyctherodius* has not been used since 1899, but a late edition of Studer's *Birds of North Americ*a (Studer 1903) used this name. Therefore, we should make the change to *Nyctherodius* (or else petition the ICZN to continue using the more recent name *Nyctanassa*).

(b) replace the genus name *Pelionetta* Kaup, 1829 with *Macroramphus* Lesson, 1828. The AOU Check-list (1998) currently uses *Pelionetta* as a subgenus of *Melanitta*. The situation here is the same as in (a): *Macroramphus* had been considered a homonym of *Macrorhamphus* Fischer, 1813, but is no longer.

(c) attribute the genus name *Coragyps* to Le Maout, 1853, rather than to Saint Hilaire in Le Maout, 1853. This is straightforward and was also discussed in Gregory (1998).

(d) change the authority for the genus name *Numida* from Linnaeus, 1766, to Linnaeus, 1764. This was covered by ICZN Opinion 67 (ICZN 1916).

(e) replace the genus name *Philohela* Gray, 1841, with *Microptera* Nuttall, 1834. The AOU Check-list currently uses *Philohela* as a subgenus of *Scolopax* Linnaeus, 1758. Kashin (1978) considered that *Microptera* was not preoccupied by *Micropterus* Lecepède, 1802.

(f) replace the authority for the genus name *Atticora*, currently attributed to Boie, 1844, with Gould, 1842. Gregory and Dickinson (2012) note that "Gould (1842) is the earliest published use, and the point of introduction, of *Atticora* as a genus of swallow."

(g) replace the genus name *Ptilogonys* Swainson, 1827, with *Ptiliogonys* Swainson, 1827. AOU (1983) used the name *Ptilogonys* and gave the authority for the name as Swainson, 1824, but this work was never published (Browning 1989). AOU (1998) considered *Ptilogonys* a justifiable emendation of *Ptiliogonys* Swainson, 1827, but it is an incorrect subsequent spelling and has no nomenclatural standing (Kashin 1978, Browning 1989, Gregory and Dickinson 2012).

Recommendation: I recommend that all these changes be adopted.

Literature cited:

Browning, M.R. (1989) The correct citation and spelling of *Ptiliogonys* and type locality of *Ptiliogonys cinereus. The Auk*, 106 (4): 743-746.

Gregory, S.M.S. (1998) The correct citation of *Coragyps* (Cathartinae) and *Ardeotis* (Otididae). *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club*, 118 (2): 126-127.

Gregory, S.M.S. and E. Dickinson. (2012) An assessment of three little-noticed papers on avian nomenclature by G. N. Kashin during 1978–1982. *Zootaxa*

ICZN [International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature]. (1916) Opinion 67. One hundred and two bird names placed in the Official List of Generic Names. – *Opinions rendered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*. In Opinions Smithsonian Institution publ. No. 2409. 177-182.

ICZN [International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature]. (1999) *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*. 4th Edition. The International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, London. xxix, 306 pp.

Kashin, G.N. (1978) [*Comments on Peters's Checklist of Birds of the World.*] In: *Research of the fauna of the Soviet Union. Birds and reptiles*, Sudilovskaya, A.M. & Flint, V.E. (Eds.). Moscow University, Moscow. 164-176.

Studer, J.H. (1903) *The Birds of North America. One hundred and nineteen artistic colored plates representing the different species and varieties. Drawn and colored from nature. Arranged according to the classification adopted by the American Ornithologists' Union.* 1. The Natural Science Association, New York. 16, 182 [10], 119 pll.

Submitted by: Terry Chesser

Proposal Date: 1 Jul 2012

Split Guatemalan Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium cobanense* from Northern Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium gnoma*

Description of the problem:

The taxonomy of pygmy-owls of the *Glaucidium gnoma* complex is controversial (Holt and Petersen 2000) and A.O.U. currently recognizes only one species, the Northern Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium gnoma*; American Ornithologists' Union 1998). The taxon described as *Glaucidium cobanense* by Sharpe (1875b) – distributed in the highlands of northern Central America and southern Mexico (Howell and Webb 1995) – is considered by the A.O.U. to be part of *G. gnoma gnoma* (resident in Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras). More recent treatments (Marks et al. 1999, König and Weick 2008) recognize four species in the *Glaucidium gnoma* complex: Northern (*G. californicum*), Mountain (*G. gnoma*), Cape (*G. hoskinsii*) and Guatemalan (*G. cobanense*) pygmy-owls.

Sharpe (1875b,c) described *Glaucidium cobanense* based on rufous morph study skins from the surroundings of Cobán, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala. Because coloration is variable in *Glaucidium*, Sharpe's classification based on coloration has not been accepted (Salvin and Godman 1897–1904, American Ornithologists' Union 1998). More recently, *Glaucidium* species have also been classified by differences in their vocalizations (König 1994, Howell and Robbins 1995, Robbins and Howell 1995, Robbins and Stiles 1999). *G. cobanense* has been treated as a species in the Handbook of the Birds of the World (Marks et al. 1999) with an indication that species status may not be warranted. König and Weick (2008) treated the taxon as a species because of vocal differences, but omitted a detailed description of its vocalization.

In the following I use Guatemalan Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium cobanense* for populations of the Chiapas-Guatemala-Honduras highlands and Mountain Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium gnoma* for populations of the Mexican highlands north of the isthmus of Tehuantepec.

New information:

Until recently there was a lack of information on the vocalizations of pygmy-owls of the *Glaucidium gnoma* complex in the highlands of northern Central America and southern Mexico. In a recent paper, Eisermann and Howell (2011) described four vocalization types of *Glaucidium cobanense* from the highlands of Guatemala and Chiapas, Mexico. Territorial *toot* calls were compared with *G. gnoma* of the Mexican highlands north of the isthmus of Tehuantepec. The mean individual call rate of birds in the Chiapas-Guatemala highland was 3.4 ± 0.5 notes/sec (n = 49 call series of six individuals), significantly higher than in birds in the highlands north of the isthmus of Tehuantepec (1.9 ± 0.3 notes/sec, n = 34 call series of eight individuals) (Fig. 1). A classification of six spontaneously calling pygmy-owls from the Chiapas-Guatemala highlands and eight pygmy-owls from the Mexican highland north of the isthmus of Tehuantepec based on cluster analysis of mean call rate resulted in two main clusters supporting taxonomic differentiation (Fig. 2). The geographic ranges of both taxa are separated by approximately 200 km in the lowlands of the isthmus of Tehuantepec (Fig. 3).

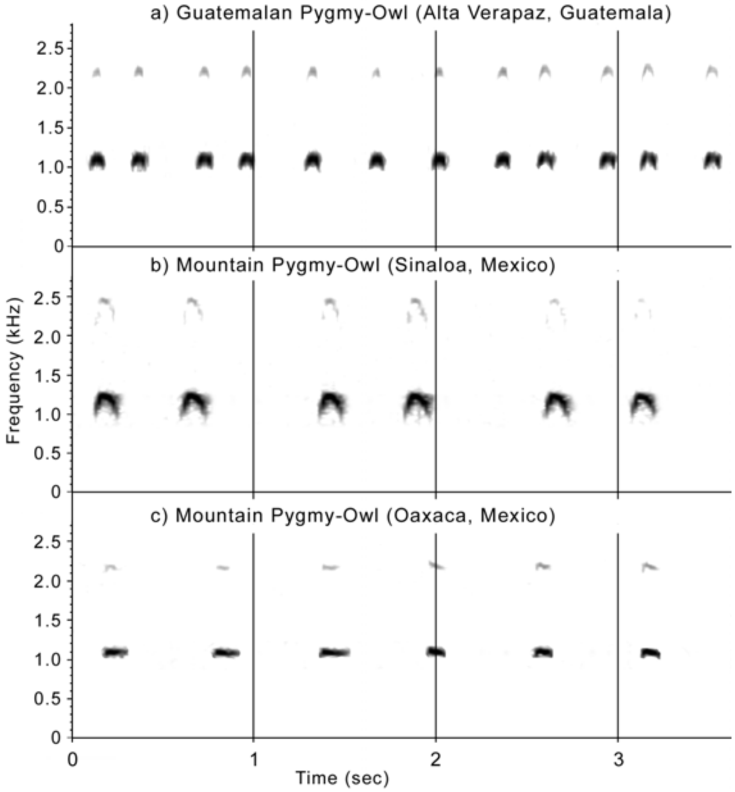

Figure 1. Sonograms of typical *toot* calls illustrate the higher call rate of a) Guatemalan Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium cobanense* (ML #161746, 12 March 2010, K. Eisermann), compared to Mountain Pygmy-Owl *G. gnoma*, here examples from b) Sinaloa (ML #17195, 13 March 1976, T. A. Parker III), and c) Oaxaca (XC #9672, 27 February 1995, A. Chartier). (Figure from Eisermann and Howell 2011)

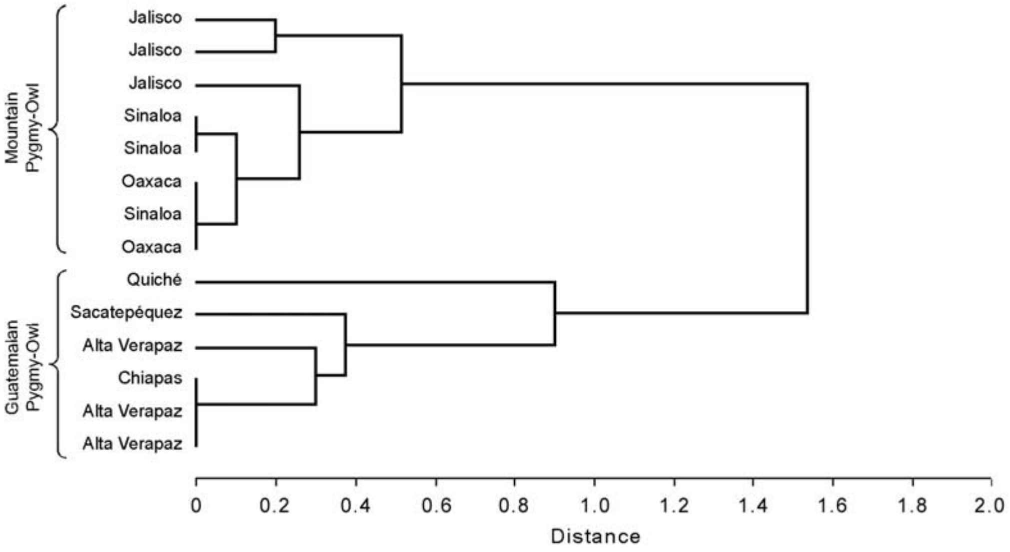

Figure 2. Unweighted pair-group average (UPGMA) cluster analysis of call rates (notes/sec) of toot calls of Mountain Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium gnoma*) and Guatemalan Pygmy-Owl (*G. cobanense*) from different Mexican states and Guatemalan provinces. (Figure from Eisermann and Howell 2011)

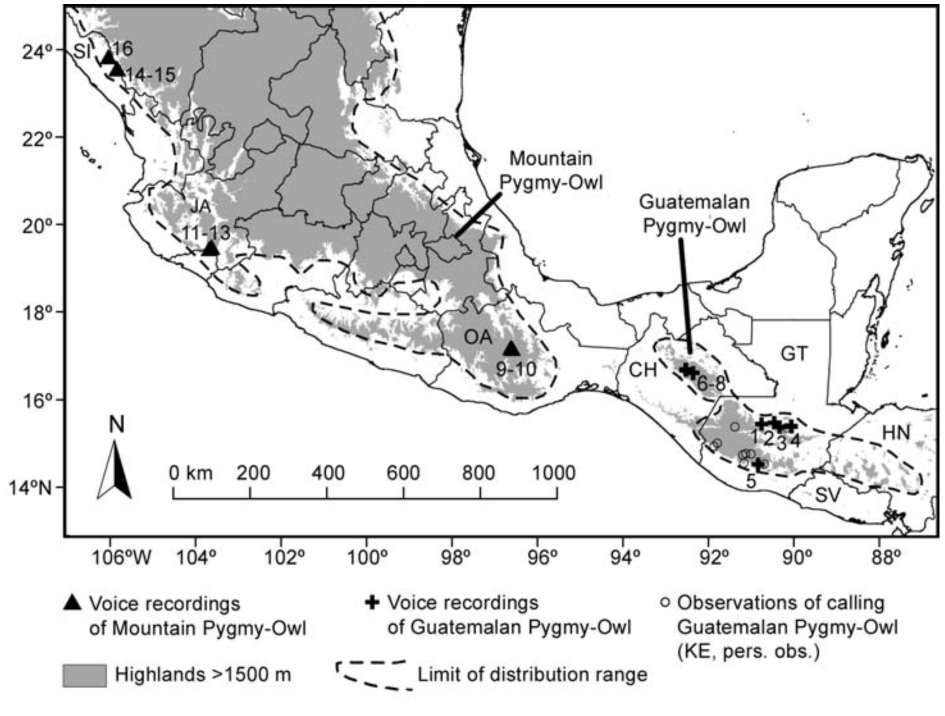

Figure 3. Localities of voice recordings of Guatemalan (*Glaucidium cobanense*) and Mountain pygmy-owls (*G. gnoma*) and geographic ranges of both species. Recording sites: 1 – Finca El Recuerdo, Quiché, 2 – Sanimtacá, Alta Verapaz, 3 – Finca Chilax, Alta Verapaz, 4 – Chelemhá Reserve, Alta Verapaz, 5 – Finca

San Sebastian, Sacatepéquez, 6–8 – San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, 9–10 – La Cumbre, Oaxaca, 11–13 – Volcán de Fuego, Jalisco, 14 – Barranca Rancho Liebre, Sinaloa, 15 – El Palmito, Sinaloa, 16 – Durango highway, Sinaloa. CH – Chiapas, GT – Guatemala, HN – Honduras, JA – Jalisco, OA – Oaxaca, SI – Sinaloa, SV – El Salvador. (Figure from Eisermann and Howell 2011)

Recommendation:

Differences in the territorial *toot* calls between pygmy-owls of the *Glaucidium gnoma* complex of the Chiapas-Guatemala highlands and the Mexican highlands north of the isthmus of Tehuantepec suggest that birds of the Chiapas-Guatemala highlands should be recognized as a distinct species. The scientific name *Glaucidium cobanense* was introduced by Sharpe (1875b) for this population. The common name Guatemalan Pygmy-Owl was suggested by Howell and Webb (1995) and used by Marks et al. (1999) and König and Weick (2008). Below is a suggestion for the species account:

Glaucidium cobanense Sharpe. Guatemalan Pygmy-Owl.

Glaucidium cobanense Sharpe, 1875, Ibis 5 (ser. 3): 260. (Vera Paz [Alta Verapaz], Guatemala)

Habitat.—Humid broadleaf, pine-oak, and coniferous forest and edge, as well as woodland and plantations (e.g. shaded coffee plantations) at 1,500–3,500 m (Subtropical and Temperate zones).

Distribution.—*Resident* in the highlands of Chiapas (Mexico), Guatemala, and western Honduras.

Notes. —Richard B. Sharpe introduced the name *Glaucidium cobanense* (Sharpe 1875b: 260) referring to specimens from Vera Paz (=Alta Verapaz, Guatemala) in the collection of Maison Bouvier (Paris) and Marie Firmin Bocourt (Paris Museum), and to specimens from the same locality in the collection of Osbert Salvin and Frederick DuCane Godman (British Museum), previously described as juvenile *Glaucidium ferrugineum* (*Glaucidium brasilianum* sensu American Ornithologists' Union 1998) (Sharpe 1875a: 47). Thus, specimens in Paris (MNHF) and Tring (BMNH; incl. BM 1875.6.14.45, Dickerman 1987) are syntypes of *Glaucidium cobanense*. In the later published Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum (Sharpe 1875c), the species is illustrated (plate 13) and Sharpe indicated Cobán, Alta Verapaz as locality based on a specimen in the British Museum purchased from M. Bouvier.

Guatemalan Pygmy-Owl occurs in two color morphs, the rufous morph based on which the species was described (Sharpe 1875a), and a brown morph, which by the time of describing Guatemalan Pygmy-Owl was misidentified as *Glaucidium gnoma* (Sharpe 1875c). Subsequent indications that Mountain Pygmy-Owl may occur southeast of the isthmus (Holt and Petersen 2000) are not supported by evidence.

Changes in the account of Northern Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium gnoma*)

Consequently, the account of Northern Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium gnoma*) in the A.O.U. checklist would require a change in the section “Distribution”, line 5: “...; [*gnoma* group] in the interior of Mexico; and [*hoskinsii* group] ...” (delete: Guatemala, and central Honduras).

Literature cited:

American Ornithologists’ Union. 1998. The American Ornithologists’ Union check-list of North-American Birds. Seventh Ed. American Ornithologists’ Union, Washington, D.C.

Dickerman, R. W. 1987. Type localities of birds described from Guatemala. Proceedings of the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology 3: 51-107.

Eisermann, K., and S. N. G. Howell (2011). Vocalizations of the Guatemalan Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium cobanense*). Journal of Raptor Research 45:304–314.

Howell, S. N. G., and M. B. Robbins. 1995. Species limits of the Least Pygmy Owl (*Glaucidium minutissimum*) complex. Wilson Bulletin 107:7–25.

Howell, S. N. G., and S. Webb. 1995. A guide to the birds of Mexico and northern Central America. Oxford Univ. Press, New York, NY.

Holt, D. W., and J. L. Petersen. 2000. Northern Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium gnoma*). *In* A. Poole and F. Gill (Eds.), The birds of North America, No. 494, The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA, and American Ornithologists’ Union, Washington, D.C.

König, C. 1994. Biological patterns in owl taxonomy, with emphasis on bioacoustical studies on Neotropical pygmy (*Glaucidium*) and screech owls (*Otus*). Pages 1–19 *In* B.-U. Meyburg and R.D. Chancellor (Eds.), Raptor conservation today: proceedings of the IV World Conference on Birds of Prey and Owls. Pica Press/World Working Group on Birds of Prey, Sussex, U.K.

König, C., and F. Weick. 2008. Owls of the world, Second Ed. Christopher Helm, London, U.K.

Marks, J. S., R. J. Cannings, and H. Mikkola. 1999. Family Strigidae: typical owls. Pages 76–242 *In* del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott, and J. Sargatal (Eds.), Handbook of the birds of the world, Vol. 5. Barn-owls to hummingbirds. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona, Spain.

Robbins, M. B., and S. N. G. Howell. 1995. A new species of pygmy-owl (Strigidae: *Glaucidium*) from the eastern Andes. *Wilson Bulletin* 107:1–6.

Robbins, M. B., and F. G. Stiles. 1999. A new species of pygmy-owl (Strigidae: *Glaucidium*) from the Pacific slope of the northern Andes. *Auk* 116:305–315.

Salvin, O., and F. D. Godman. 1897–1904. Biologia Centrali-Americana. Aves. Vol. 3. Taylor and Francis, London, U.K.

Sharpe, R. B. 1875a. Contributions on the history of the accipitres. The genus *Glaucidium*. Ibis 5 (Ser. 3):35–59.

Sharpe, R. B. 1875b. Contributions to a history of the accipitres. Notes on birds of prey in the museum at the Jardin des Plantes and in the collection of Mons. A. Bouvier. Ibis 5 (Ser. 3):253–261.

Sharpe, R. B. 1875c. Catalogue of birds in the British Museum, Vol. 2. Trustees of the British Museum (Natural History), London, U.K.

Submitted by: Knut Eisermann, PROEVAL RAXMU Bird Monitoring Program, Cobán, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala.

Date of proposal: 19 Jul 2012

Recognize Cabot's Tern *Thalasseus acuflavidus* as distinct from Sandwich Tern *T. sandvicensis*

Description of the problem:

Thalasseus sandvicensis acuflavidus has been recognized as the North American subspecies of the Sandwich Tern in all our check-lists. We have never recognized it as a distinct species.

New information:

Efe et al. (2009) performed an analysis of nuclear and mtDNA sequences in European, North American, and South American subspecies of this complex and close relatives. They found that the European populations (nominate *sandvicensis*) are distinct from the American birds, the latter being more closely related to *T. elegans* of the Pacific coast. The degree of difference is equivalent to that between other species in this genus. They therefore recommended that *sandvicensis* should be divided into two species, *T. sandvicensis* in Europe and *T. acuflavidus* (+ *eurygnathus*) in North and South America. The BOU has accepted this split.

Efe et al. (2009) suggest that the European birds retain the English name Sandwich Tern (the type locality of the species is Sandwich, Kent, England) and the American birds should be known as Cabot's Tern. The North American birds were named (as a species) by Cabot, and North American populations were known as Cabot's Tern when we used English names for subspecies.

Recommendation:

I recommend that we follow Efe et al.(2009) and recognize the American birds as a distinct species, *Thalasseus acuflavidus* (Cabot, 1847) and call it Cabot's Tern. North and South American populations, which meet and seem to interbreed in parts of the Caribbean, have variously been treated as distinct species or subspecies. Efe et al. found that they do not differ genetically and should not be considered distinct. At the present (AOU 1998) we consider them one species and we should continue to do so, but when subspecies are reconsidered, the question should be reopened.

I am not certain whether there are valid reports of Old World birds in North America, but I am sure there soon will be.

Literature cited:

Efe, M. A., E. S. Tavares, A. J. Baker, and S. L. Bonatto. 2009. Multigene phylogeny and DNA barcoding indicate that the Sandwich tern complex (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*, Laridae, Sternini) comprises two species. Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution 52: 263-267.

Submitted by: Richard C. Banks

Date of proposal: 31 Jul 2012

Change the scientific name of the Common Bush-Tanager from *Chlorospingus ophthalmicus* to *C. flavopectus* (SACC #521)

Ever since Zimmer (1947) lumped *Chlorospingus flavopectus* (Lafresnaye, 1840) into *Chlorospingus ophthalmicus* (Du Bus de Gisignies, 1847), it has been overlooked by all subsequent workers, including Storer (in Peters' Check-List, 1970), Sibley & Monroe (1990), Dickinson (2003), and Rising et al. (in HBW, 2011), that the former name has priority by 7 years over the latter. Zimmer did not present publication dates. I couldn't find any source giving an explanation why the junior *ophthalmicus* should be preferred, contra the Principle of Priority, and consider this to have happened by mistake.

The publication dates have never been disputed, and both original descriptions are online on BHL (see links below). I therefore propose to change the scientific name of the Common Bush-Tanager from *Chlorospingus ophthalmicus* to *Chlorospingus flavopectus*.

Lafresnaye, 1840

Du Bus de Gisignies, 1847

Literature cited:

Zimmer, J.T. 1947. Studies of Peruvian birds. No.52 Amer. Mus. Novit. 1367: 1-26. Online pdf.

Submitted by: Rainer Massman

Date of proposal: 26 Sep 2012

Comments on SACC proposal 521:

Comments from Stiles: "YES, the priority issue seems clear (however, a recent but as yet unpublished study by Jorge Avendaño has recommended a split of this complex into two species based on morphology, genetics and distribution, so hopefully the change will be only temporary)."

Comments from Pacheco: "YES. The adoption of the oldest name for this polytypic species repairs an unsuspected mistake."

Comments from Jaramillo: "YES – this is a puzzling one; usually there is a clear reason why something like this happened. Could it just be a mistake? I guess that is the only probable cause for this unusual usurpation of priority."

Comments from Cadena: “YES. I have to wonder if something else influenced Zimmer's decision to use the name *ophthalmicus*, but given the publication dates, the issue appears clear. As Gary mentioned, when my student Jorge Avendaño publishes his work at least two South American species of "*ophthalmicus*" will likely be recognized so we will have to return to the issue of nomenclature then.”

Move the Hawaiian honeycreepers (Drepanidinae) to subfamily Carduelinae

Description of the problem:

The Hawaiian honeycreepers are one of the best examples of an adaptive radiation in birds, consisting of over 50 species with bill types ranging from conical to long and decurved. The systematic relationships of the Hawaiian honeycreepers have long caused problems for ornithologists and have long been debated. When originally described, the birds that constitute the Hawaiian honeycreepers were not thought to be closely related to each other, and it wasn't until the early 1900's that the various species were allied (James 2004). Since that time, the Hawaiian honeycreepers have been recognized as monophyletic and have been allied with the New World honeycreepers (Thraupidae) or the finches (Fringillidae). They have also been considered their own family, the Drepanididae, allied with one of these groups, or classified as a subfamily within the Fringillidae or Thraupidae (James 2004).

New information:

Recently, the Hawaiian honeycreepers have been classified as subfamily Drepanidinae in the family Fringillidae (Dickinson 2003, James 2004, Clements 2009) or as their own family, the Drepanididae (James 2004, Pratt 2010). Using morphological analyses, James (2004) found strong support for the Hawaiian honeycreepers as a monophyletic group within the Carduelinae, with the Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) sister to the clade. Other studies, including Sibley and Ahlquist (1982), using DNA-DNA hybridization, and Fleischer and McIntosh (2001), using mtDNA sequence data, found a close relationship between the honeycreepers and the Carduelinae, suggesting a sister relationship, although taxon sampling was not extensive enough to resolve the precise relationship. More recent studies using DNA sequence data (13+ nuclear loci and mtDNA genome) support the results of James (2004), in which the Hawaiian honeycreepers are nested within the Carduelinae (Lerner *et al*. 2011, Zuccon *et al*. 2012) (Figs. 1-3). Both Lerner *et al*. (2011) and Zuccon *et al*. (2012) found strong support for the Asian rosefinches (*Carpodacus*) as sister to the Hawaiian honeycreepers.

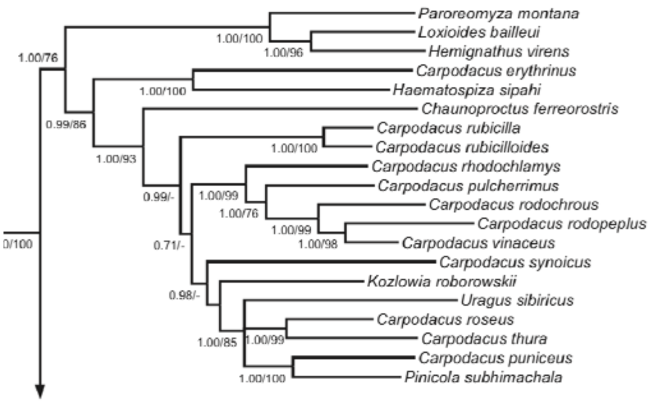

Figure 1: Part of the phylogeny from Zuccon *et al*. (2012) showing the Hawaiian honeycreepers (top clade) as sister to a clade of mostly Old World *Carpodacus*. This phylogeny was based on two mitochondrial and 3 nuclear genes.

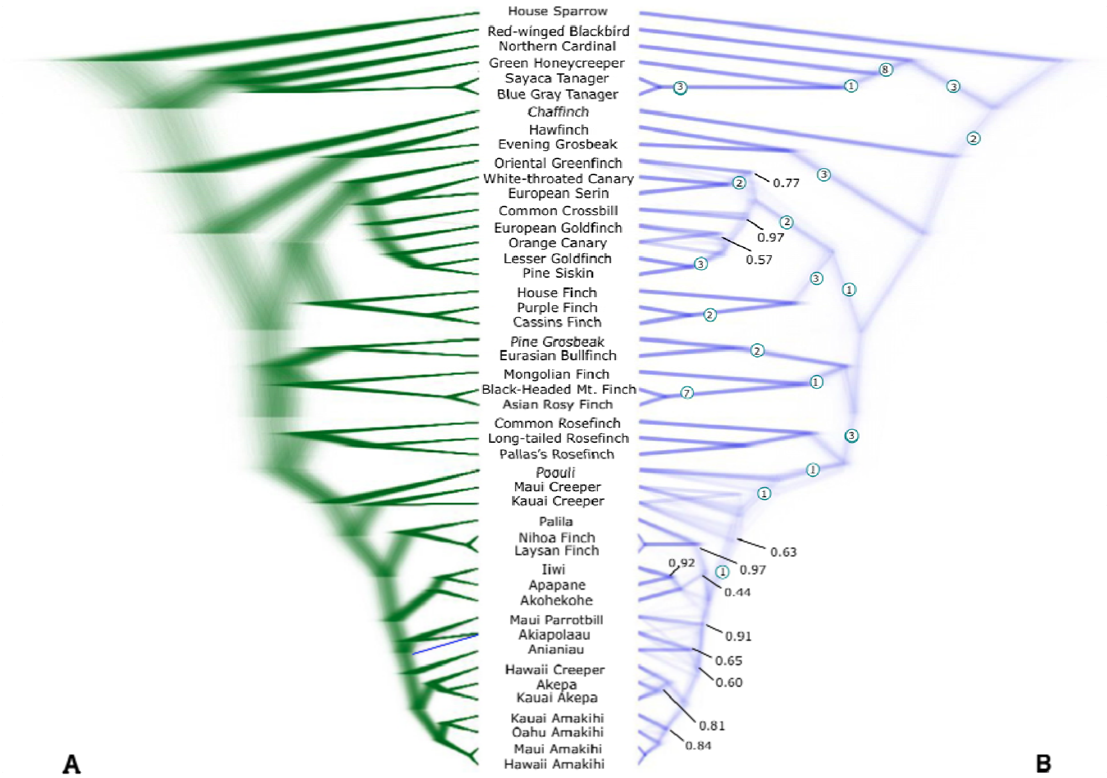

Figure 2. Phylogeny from Lerner *et al*. (2012) showing the Hawaiian Honeycreepers as sister to the Old World *Carpodacus* within the Carduelinae. This phylogeny is based on 13 nuclear genes and the entire mtDNA genome.

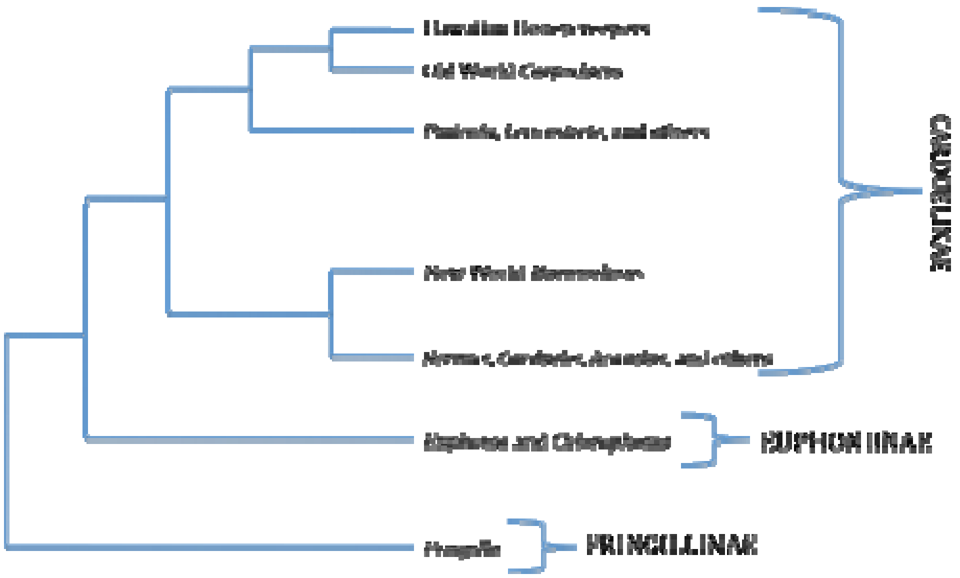

Figure 3. Simplified phylogeny (based on Zuccon *et al*. (2012) and Lerner *et al*. (2011) showing how the Hawaiian honeycreepers fall out well within the Carduelinae, sister to the Old World *Carpodacus* finches.

Recommendation:

Based on the strong support in the molecular studies of Lerner *et al*. (2011) and Zuccon *et al*. (2012), the Hawaiian honeycreepers should be moved from their own subfamily (Drepanidinae) to the subfamily Carduelinae. The order of the Hawaiian honeycreepers themselves will remain unchanged, but they should be moved to a position within the cardueline finches. I propose that the Hawaiian honeycreepers be moved to a position in the linear sequence after Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) and Eurasian Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) and before Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*).

Literature Cited:

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Dickinson, E.C. ed. 2003. *The Howard and Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World*. 3rd Edition. Christopher Helm, London.

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Lerner, HRL, M Meyer, HF James, M Hofreiter, and RC Fleischer (2011) Multilocus resolution of phylogeny and timescale in the extant adaptive radiation of Hawaiian honeycreepers. *Current Biology*, 21: 1838-1844.

Lovette, IJ, E Bermingham, and RE Ricklefs (2002) Clade-specific morphological diversification and adaptive radiation in Hawaiian songbirds. *Proceedings of the Royal Society, B*, 269: 37-42.

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Sibley, CG and JE Ahlquist (1982) The relationships of the Hawaiian honeycreepers (Drepaninini) as indicated by DNA-DNA hybridization. *Auk*, 99(1): 130-140.

Zuccon, D, R Prys-Jones, PC Rasmussen, PGP Ericson (2012) The phylogenetic relationships and generic limits of finches (Fringillidae). *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, 62: 581-596

Submitted by: Shawn M. Billerman, University of Wyoming

Date of proposal: 27 Sep 2012

Split Barolo Shearwater *Puffinus baroli*

Description of the problem:

Species limits in Audubon's and Little shearwaters *Puffinus lherminieri* and *P. assimilis* have always been problematic, and although the treatment as two species is long-standing, several taxa have been moved from one to the other species in different treatments. They have even been considered to comprise a single species with 19 races (Bourne 1986). Morphological characters used to assign taxa to one species or the other include darkness of upperparts (blacker in *assimilis*), leg color (blue in *assimilis*, pink in *lherminieri*), undertail coverts color (white in *assimilis*, brown in *lherminieri*), and color of inner webs of primaries (white in *assimilis*, gray in *lherminieri*). Taxa from tropical and subtropical waters tend to have longer wings and tail, and were placed with *lherminieri*, while taxa from sub-Antarctic and Antarctic waters have short wings and tail and were placed with *assimilis* (Murphy 1927, Olson 2010). Taxa that do not fit easily into the two species on the basis of these characters include both of the Macaronesian (eastern Atlantic Island) breeding taxa, which, although occurring as populations breeding relatively close together geographically, differ strikingly from each other (e.g., Bannerman 1914; Murphy 1924, 1927).

New information:

Austin *et al.* (2004) published a molecular phylogeny of the small *Puffinus* shearwaters based on 917 bp of mtDNA cyt-*b.* Their phylogeny showed massive lack of concordance with all morphologically based treatments of *assimilis* and *lherminieri*. Their analysis included 68 specimens of about 21 ingroup taxa, plus several outgroups, but almost all their samples were footpads, feathers, or blood. The findings of particular relevance here concern *Puffinus assimilis baroli*, which breeds in the Azores, Canaries, Selvages, and Madeira. This is the form long included in Little Shearwater that has occurred as a vagrant to the eastern U.S. (see e.g. Murphy 1927; map in eBird.org; Howell 2012); Hawaiian records are irrelevant given our recent recognition of Bryan's Shearwater *Puffinus bryani*. According to Austin *et al.* (2004), *baroli* is much more closely related to Audubon's Shearwater than to other taxa of *P. assimilis*.

Robb and Mullarney (2008), in a largely informal and birder-oriented book, published extensively on *baroli* and *boydi* from personal experience, photographs, and sound recordings made at colonies. They show with sonograms that there are differences between the colony calls of the two taxa "in pitch, timing, and the number of exhaled notes" (Robb & Mullarney 2008). To sum up the differences, Boyd's typically contains fewer exhaled notes, delivered more slowly, and the inhaled notes of the corresponding sex are lower in frequency (Robb & Mullarney 2008). They note that statistical analysis has shown these differences to be significant, and cite Sangster (in litt., undated).

In addition, Olson (2010) has found *boydi* to be osteologically indistinguishable from *P. parvus* (Shufeldt, 1916) of Bermuda, which bred on the island for around a million years, from the Middle Pleistocene right through to the Holocene. After the extinction of *parvus* (now synonymized by Olson with *boydi*), *lherminieri* that are indistinguishable from the nominate colonized Bermuda, only to be extirpated very recently (Olson 2010).

It has long been considered odd that *baroli* occurs so far from other members of the *assimilis* complex (Bannerman 1914), and Fleming (1943) considered *baroli* and *boydi* to be more closely related to *lherminieri* than to *assimilis*. Although *baroli* could be thus removed from *assimilis* and lumped with *lherminieri*, *baroli* is very distinct morphologically (relative to other group members) and moderately so genetically (mtDNA distance from *lherminieri* 0.022; Austin *et al.* 2004), so much so as to be a serious candidate for a split. Morphologically, *baroli* is much smaller than *lherminieri*, with short wings and tail, and with plumage characters most typical of *assimilis*, with which it has long been treated by most authors. On the basis of cyt-*b*, *baroli* is more distinct from *lherminieri* than e.g. *P. huttoni* and *P. gavia* are from each other, but less distinct than some other taxa traditionally (and still) considered subspecies.

In addition, *Puffinus assimilis boydi*, which breeds on the Cape Verde Islands and has not been recorded in our area except as fossils from Bermuda (Olson 2010), is most closely related to *baroli*, according to data presented in Austin *et al.* (2004; mtDNA distance *baroli-lherminieri* 0.025, *baroli-boydi* 0.012). Compared to *baroli*, *boydi* has browner upperparts, with the dark cap extending to below the eye, broader dark underwing margins, and mostly dark brown undertail-coverts (Clarke 2006). This degree of difference in morphology is greater than that characterizing some other shearwater and petrel species generally considered specifically distinct. In fact, *boydi* was originally described as a subspecies of *lherminieri*, and retained as such by Bannerman (1914). Murphy (1924) argued that it made little sense to consider *boydi* a separate species from the taxon inhabiting nearby Madeira (now treated as *baroli*), but later changed his position (Murphy 1927).

Subsequent treatments:

Other major sources (e.g. Onley & Scofield 2007, Clements *et al*. 2012 [followed by eBird Version 1.53], Gill & Donsker 2012) have already adopted the treatment of *baroli* as a separate species, called either Barolo Shearwater *Puffinus baroli* when it is limited to the breeding form of Canary Islands, Azores and Madeira (e.g., Howell 2012), or Macaronesian Shearwater when it includes *boydi* of the Cape Verde Islands as a race (e.g., Sangster et al. 2005 [followed by BOU], Clarke 2006, Garcia-del-Rey 2011) and also when *boydi* is included with *lherminieri* (Onley & Scofield 2007). Several sources have also split the Canaries taxon *boydi* as a full species, Boyd's Shearwater *P. boydi*. The two taxa are close in mtDNA, approximately at the same level as *gavia* and *huttoni*, but as noted above, quite different in plumage and proportions (for members of this group). Whatever the case, on the basis of Austin *et al.* (2004) it appears untenable to continue treating *baroli* as a race of *P. assimilis*. It is of less importance whether we consider *boydi* as a race of *baroli* or not, since the latter name has priority. Given that *baroli* is a vagrant to our area, and *boydi* has not yet been recorded except as fossils from Bermuda, some may prefer to follow BOU in considering the two conspecific; however, only *baroli* is known to have occurred in Britain (Sangster *et al.* 2005), the several differences between *baroli* and *boydi* in plumage and vocalizations are not typical of species in this group, and many new data (especially Olson 2010) are available since the decision to keep *boydi* as a subspecies was taken by Sangster *et al.* (2005). Olson (2010) considered the differences in proportions between *baroli* and *boydi* to be indicative of adaptations for different oceanic realms, and that the presence of *boydi* on Bermuda for so long kept *lherminieri* from colonizing until the extirpation of the former. Howell (2012) suggested that *baroli* may be a pelagic feeder, unlike *boydi,* which feeds right around its nesting islands.

Recommendation:

I recommend splitting *P. baroli* from Little Shearwater *P. assimilis*. If approved, this will remove Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis* from and add *P. baroli* to the Check-list area.

Furthermore I recommend following Olson (2010) and most other recent sources in treating *baroli* as monotypic, with a note as to the status of *boydi* and its former presence on Bermuda. (It might be questioned whether osteological indistinguishability really equates to conspecificity of *boydi* and *parvus*, however, but that is beyond the scope of this proposal.) Three options that have been followed by various authorities exist, so I summarize the possibilities for change as follows:

<u>Option 1</u>: Split *Puffinus baroli* (monotypic) from *P. assimilis*.

The English names already in use when treated as monotypic are Barolo Shearwater (most sources) or Barolo's Shearwater (Robb & Mullarney 2008). The species was named after Marquis Carlo Tancredi Falletti di Barolo (Marquis of Barolo, Italy) or his wife, of whom I see no specific mention in the description (Bonaparte 1857), but the possessive has been deemed inappropriate given that Barolo is a place name (Howell 2012).

If you are voting to split *baroli* but reassign *boydi* to *lherminieri* (as done by Onley & Scofield 2007) you would also vote for option 1.

Option 2: Split *Puffinus baroli* (including *P. boydi*) from *P. assimilis*

The common name already in use when treated as comprised of two subspecies is Macaronesian Shearwater, although this has also been used for *baroli* alone.

Option 3: Treat *baroli* (with *boydi*) as a race of *Puffinus lherminieri*

If voting for change from the current treatment of *baroli* as a race of *assimilis*, please specify which of the above options you are voting for, including common name preference.

Literature cited:

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Submitted by: Pamela C. Rasmussen, Michigan State University

Date of proposal: 17 Oct 2012

2013-A-7 N&MA Classification Committee pp. 164-175

Revise the classification of sandpipers and turnstones

Description of the problem:

The highly diverse smaller sandpipers and turnstones have long been considered to constitute one or two subfamilies or tribes of 26 closely related genera and species.

New information:

Gibson and Baker (2012) produced a DNA sequence-based phylogeny of the shorebird suborder Scolopaci, which includes the sandpiper genera and species under consideration here. They concluded that these sandpipers constitute one of 8 monophyletic subfamilies in the shorebird family Scolopacidae. They found that the sandpiper subfamily consists of two clades, the two species of *Arenaria* in one, and 24 species in an assemblage containing the genus *Calidris* in the other. Combining the turnstones and "typical" sandpipers into a single subfamily creates a classification novelty, and the name Arenariinae has priority over Calidridinae (Banks 2012). Gibson and Baker (2012) also found that the sandpipers now placed in that the currently recognized monotypic genera *Aphriza*, *Tryngites*, *Limicola*, *Eurynorhynchus*, and *Philomachus* could be merged into the genus *Calidris*. They did not, however produce an actual listing of these taxa with the proper nomenclatural acts. This was done by Banks (2012).

Recommendation:

I propose that we accept the phylogenetic results of Gibson and Baker (2012) and the resultant classification and nomenclature of Banks (2012) and list these sandpipers and turnstones as follows:

Subfamily Arenariinae Stejneger 1885 (1840)

Genus *Arenaria* Brisson, 1760

interpres (Linnaeus, 1758)	Ruddy Turnstone
melanocephala (Vigors, 1829)	Black-bellied Turnstone

Genus *Calidris* Merrem, 1804

tenuirostris (Horsefield, 1821)	Great Knot
canutus (Linnaeus, 1858)	Red Knot
virgata (Gmelin, 1789)	Surfbird
pugnax (Linnaeus, 1758)	Ruff

falcinellus (Pontoppidan, 1763)	Broad-billed Sandpiper
acuminata (Horsefield, 1821)	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
himantopus (Bonaparte,1826)	Stilt Sandpiper
ferruginea (Pontoppidan, 1763)	Curlew Sandpiper
temminckii (Leisler, 1812)	Temminck's Stint
subminuta (Middendorff, 1851)	Long-toed Stint
pygmea (Linnaeus,1758)	Spoon-billed Sandpiper
ruficollis (Pallas, 1776)	Red-necked Stint
alba (Pallas, 1764)	Sanderling
alpina (Linnaeus, 1758)	Dunlin
ptilocnemis (Coues, 1873)	Rock Sandpiper
maritima (Brünnich, 1764)	Purple Sandpiper
bairdii (Coues, 1861)	Baird's Sandpiper
minuta (Leisler, 1812)	Little Stint
minutilla (Vieillot, 1819)	Least Sandpiper
fuscicollis (Vieillot, 1819)	White-rumped Sandpiper
subruficollis (Vieillot, 1819)	Buff-breasted Sandpiper
melanotos (Vieillot, 1819)	Pectoral Sandpiper
pusilla (Linnaeus, 1766)	Semipalmated Sandpiper
mauri (Cabanis, 1857)	Western Sandpiper

It follows that the generic names *Aphriza*, *Tryngites*, *Limicola*, *Eurynorhynchus*, and *Philomachus* be placed in the synonymy of *Calidris*, along with those already there.

The designation of the type species of the generic name *Erolia* should be corrected, as well, as indicated by Banks (2102). We (and others) now, for a long time, give it as "type, by monotypy, *Erolia variegata* Vieillot = *Scolopax testacea* Pallas." Because *ferruginea* is an earlier name for the same species as *testacea*, it should read "type species, by monotypy, *Erolia variegata* Vieillot = *Tringa ferruginea* Pontoppidan.

Literature cited:

Banks, Richard C. 2012. Classification and nomenclature of the sandpipers (Aves: Arenariinae). Zootaxa 3513: 86-88. [pdf available on request, rcbalone@aol.com]

Gibson, R., and Baker, A. (2012) Multiple gene sequences resolve phylogenetic relationships in the shorebird suborder Scolopaci (Aves: Charadriiformes). Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution 64: 66-72.

Submitted by: Richard C. Banks

Date of proposal: 22 Oct 2012

Split Sage Sparrow (*Artemisiospiza belli*) into two species

Description of the problem:

The 7th edition of the AOU Check-list recognizes one species of Sage Sparrow (*Artemisiospiza belli*) with two groups: the *nevadensis* group, which breeds primarily in the Great Basin, and the *belli* group, which breeds from western California to central Baja California (subspecies *belli* and *cinereus*), San Joaquin Valley and Mojave Desert (subspecies *canescens*), and San Clemente Island (subspecies *clementae*). The Check-list notes: "The two groups…differ in morphology, ecology, and genetics, and generally behave as reproductively isolated species in areas where both are found (Johnson and Marten 1992)…In spite of the closer appearance of the subspecies *canescens* to *nevadensis*, *canescens* is more closely related to *belli* (Johnson and Marten 1992). The two groups were treated as separate species by Rising (1996), although *canescens* was mistakenly placed in *nevadensis*."

Debate over the taxonomic status and subspecific relationships of Sage Sparrows has a 115 year history (Cicero 2010). Grinnell (1898) collected adults and fully fledged young of both *belli* and "*nevadensis*" at the same locality in southern California during July 1897, found no evidence of intergradation, and argued that they should be considered separate species. Fisher (1898) countered that intermediates had been collected on the east slope of the Sierra Nevada during the Death Valley expedition of 1891, and that the birds which Grinnell collected "had evidently wandered from their desert home." Thus, he concluded that the two forms were only subspecifically distinct. Later, Grinnell (1905) described *canescens* as a new subspecies, and referred his earlier specimens from southern California to this subspecies. Grinnell (1905) was convinced that the desert forms *canescens* and *nevadensis* were specifically distinct from *belli* because of their phenotypic distinctiveness, apparent lack of intermediates, and their seemingly close breeding proximity. However, he stated: "…current rulings being overwhelmingly against it…it is therefore only under protest that I use the combination *Amphispiza belli canescens* instead of *Amphispiza nevadensis canescens.*"

Grinnell and Miller (1944) countered earlier views on the lack of intergradation by reporting intergrades between *belli* and *canescens* in the interior Coast Range of California (San Benito County), based on specimens of both subspecies collected together in June-July 1936 and August 1944, which they assumed were on breeding grounds. They also reported intergradation between *canescens* and *nevadensis* in Mono County, California.

Johnson and Marten (1992) examined the specimens collected by Grinnell and Miller (1944) and concluded that the birds were non-breeding (small gonads, molting, flocking) and represented typical *canescens* that had moved upslope post-breeding into the range of *belli* while the latter subspecies was still actively nesting. They also provided the first genetic (allozymes) and quantitative morphological data on *belli*, *canescens*, and *nevadensis*, which showed that the three subspecies are distinctive and that *canescens* is sister to *belli*, contrary to Grinnell's (1905) view that *canescens* and *nevadensis* are more closely related. Although Johnson and Marten (1992) were hesitant to recommend a taxonomic revision at the time because of evidence for possible contact between *canescens* and *nevadensis* in northern Owens Valley, Rising (1996) used their study to split the species, although he mistakenly placed *canescens* as a subspecies of *nevadensis* rather than *belli*.

Patten and Unitt (2002) used Sage Sparrows to test a new diagnosability index for subspecies. Their data showed that *canescens* as well as *clementae* are not diagnosable statistically, and thus recommended a taxonomic revision that recognizes only three subspecies: *belli* (including *clementae*), *cinera*, and *nevadensis* (including *canescens*). Cicero and Johnson (2006) applied the same diagnosability index to morphological data for *canescens* and *nevadensis*, but limited the material to specimens of known breeding status. Their contrasting results showed *canescens* as clearly diagnosable from *nevadensis.* Thus, they concluded that the inclusion of non-breeding specimens in the analysis by Patten and Unitt (2002) confounded those results, and that *canescens* should not be synonymized with *nevadensis.*

New information:

Ongoing studies of relationships among Sage Sparrow subspecies (Cicero and Johnson 2007, Cicero and Koo 2012) shed new light on relationships and taxonomic status. Detailed study of the putative contact zone between *canescens* and *nevadensis* (Cicero and Johnson 2007) using mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), morphology, and ecological niche modeling showed that these two subspecies are genetically, morphologically, and ecologically distinct, and that any contact between them is limited to a narrow zone of ~10 km at the northern end of Owens Valley, eastern California, where the Great Basin meets the Mojave Desert. Furthermore, their data suggested limited intergradation as well as evidence for possible sympatry (one breeding *canescens* in the range of *nevadensis* in Benton Valley, and one breeding *nevadensis* in the range of *canescens* near Independence).

More recently, Cicero and Koo (2012) analyzed mtDNA, morphology, and ecological niche models for multiple populations of *belli*, *canescens*, and *nevadensis* (mostly the same as those analyzed for allozymes by Johnson and Marten 1992, plus some additional populations). They found strong evidence for the distinctiveness of *nevadensis* from the other two subspecies, and also found evidence for limited sympatry between *nevadensis* and *canescens* in extreme western Nevada (Palmetto Wash). With regard to *belli* versus *canescens*, Cicero and Koo (2012) showed that *canescens* is morphologically and ecologically distinct but that it is comprised of two genetic groups: San Joaquin Valley and Mojave Desert, with the San Joaquin Valley populations sharing the same mtDNA haplotype group with coastal *belli*, while Mojave Desert populations are characterized by a different haplotype group. They concluded that the independent evolutionary lineage of *nevadensis*, combined with the evidence for limited sympatry between *canescens* and *nevadensis*, argues for species status of *nevadensis*. Because of the discordance between mtDNA and phenotype in San Joaquin Valley populations of *canescens* (similar genetically to *belli*, similar phenotypically and ecologically to Mojave Desert *canescens*), Cicero and Koo (2012) recommend maintaining these two subspecies for now. Current unpublished studies (microsatellites, song) should help to shed light on relationships between *belli* and *canescens*.

Recommendation:

The distinctiveness of *nevadensis* in mtDNA, morphology, and ecology, along with evidence for limited secondary contact and sympatry with *canescens*, provides a strong case for splitting *nevadensis* as a separate species. Additional data are needed before further taxonomic revision of this complex. I recommend adopting this split, with the following English names:

Great Basin Sage Sparrow (*A. nevadensis*) – monotypic

California Sage Sparrow (*A. belli*) – subspecies: *A. b. belli, A. b. canescens, A. b. cinerea, A. b. clementae.*

If accepted, replace the current account for *Artemisiospiza* (formerly *Amphispiza*) *belli* with the following accounts:

***Artemisiospiza nevadensis* (Ridgway). Great Basin Sage Sparrow.**

Poospiza belli var *nevadensis* Ridgway, Bull. Essex Inst., 5, no. 11, Nov. 1873, p. 191. (Entire area of the Middle Province of the U.S. = West Humboldt Mts., Nevada.)

Habitat.— as in *nevadensis* group.
Distribution.— as in *nevadensis* group.
Notes.— Formerly considered conspecific with *A. belli*, but separated on the basis of differences in mitochondrial DNA, morphology, and ecology (Cicero and Johnson 2007, Cicero and Koo 2012).

***Artemisiospiza belli* (Cassin). California Sage Sparrow.**

Habitat.— as in *belli* group.
Distribution.— as in *belli* group.
Notes.— See comments under *A. nevadensis.*

Literature cited:

Cicero, C. 2010. The significance of subspecies: A case study of Sage Sparrows (Emberizidae, *Amphispiza belli*). Ornithological Monographs 67:103-113.

Cicero, C. and N. K. Johnson. 2006. Diagnosability of subspecies: Lessons from Sage Sparrows (*Amphisipiza belli*) for analysis of geographic variation in birds. Auk 123:266-274.

Cicero, C. and N. K. Johnson. 2007. Narrow contact of desert Sage Sparrows (*Amphispiza belli nevadensis* and *A. b. canescens* in Owens Valley, eastern California: Evidence from mitochondrial DNA, morphology, and GIS-based niche models. Ornithological Monographs 63:78-95.

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Submitted by: Carla Cicero

Date of proposal: 27 Oct 2012

Make changes to generic allocation and linear sequence in family Pipridae

Description of the problem:

The phylogeny of the manakins has been investigated substantially over the last 20 years or so, and the arrangement in the checklist does not correspond to the most recent results of either morphological or molecular studies of the family. Recent molecular studies suggest that we need to make at least some changes in the allocation of species to genera.

Based on syringeal morphology, Prum (1992) concluded that the large manakin genus *Pipra* was polyphyletic and transferred the small manakins of the *serena* group into the genus *Lepidothrix*, and recognized *Dixiphia* for the White-crowned Manakin, *P. pipra.* The recognition of *Lepidothrix* has been accepted by nearly all subsequent authors, but was only accepted by our committee this last year (Chesser et al. 2012). *Dixiphia* has not yet been accepted by us.

Prum (1992) also found that *Xenopipo* and *Chloropipo* were at least sister taxa and based on syringeal morphology concluded that *Chloropipo* was paraphyletic with respect to *Xenopipo.* He recommended that these genera be combined under the oldest name, *Xenopipo*. This treatment has been broadly but not universally adopted. Besides the North American checklist, Ridgely and Tudor (1994), Ridgely and Greenfield (2001), and HBW (Snow 2004) stand out as having maintained *Chloropipo*.

Recently three molecular studies (Rego et al 2007, Tello et al 2009 and McKay et al 2010) have provided additional data regarding relationships in Pipridae. Based on this data, we split *Lepidothrix* at long last, but have been waiting for SACC to consider a proposal to more widely apply the molecular results to the taxonomy of manakins. That proposal (SACC proposal 534) has passed, and I am adapting it here for the much less diverse set of manakins that reaches Central America.

New information:

Since 2007, three studies using DNA sequences have provided data and analysis that bears on this issue. Rego et al (2007) used mitochondrial cytochrome-b and rRNA 16S to examine relationships within the Pipridae. They sampled 18 species representing 13 genera. McKay et al (2010) used two mitochondrial genes (ND2 and COl) and the nuclear Musk intron 3 to look at Pipridae, sampling 14 species representing 14 genera. Tello et al (2009) used two nuclear genes (RAG-1 and RAG-2) to look at the broader radiation (Tyrannides) from Tyrannidae though Cotinga to Pipridae. They sampled a total of 19 manakin species including representatives of the relevant genera.

The relevant portions of the trees for Pipridae from all three molecular studies are reproduced below. One thing you will note is that the taxon sampling is not close to complete in any of these studies, but that there is a fair amount of complementarity among the taxa used in the studies. There are a number of things going on, and certainly not complete agreement among the studies. All three studies identify a clade of what I would call classic manakins (plus the weird *Heterocercus*), including the genera *Pipra, "Dixiphia," Heterocercus, Manacus, Lepidothrix* and *Machaeropterus*. There is some disagreement on the relationships among these genera. However, one subclade is consistently returned by all 3 studies. That clade contains *Machaeropterus*, *Pipra* (or *Dixiphia*) *pipra* and the *cornuta* species group of *Pipra* (represented by *rubrocapilla, erythrocephala* and/or *mentalis* in the three studies). The remaining species of *Pipra* (the *aureola* species group) do not cluster with these taxa in the Rego et al (2007) or the Tello et al (2009) studies. Unfortunately, McKay et al (2010) lack a representative of the *aureola* group.

The clade with *Machaeropterus*, *Pipra pipra* and the *cornuta* group does not have a consistent topology in the 3 studies. Rego et al. (2007) have *Machaeropterus* interposed between *Pipra pipra* and the *cornuta* group, while the other two studies have *Machaeropterus* at the base of the clade.

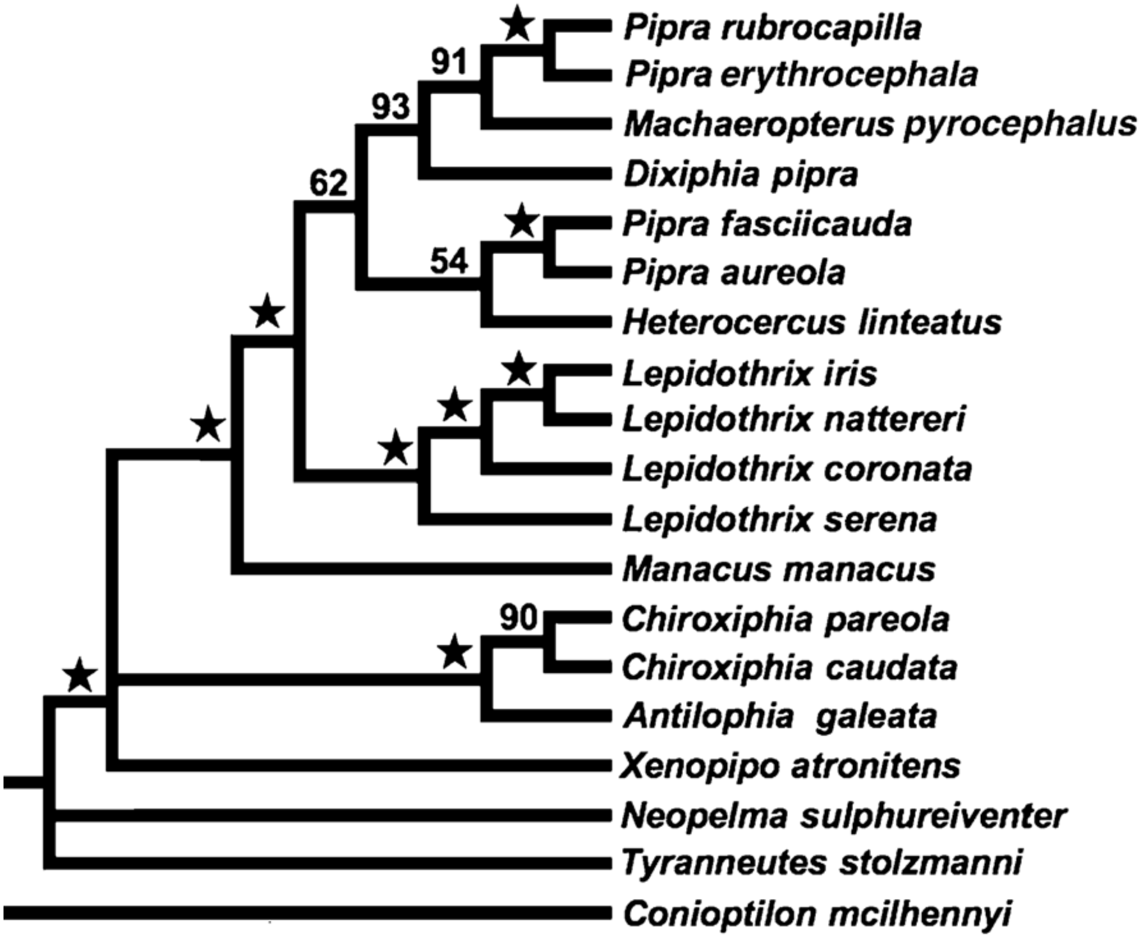
It appears from these studies that the genus *Pipra*, even with the removal of *Lepidothrix* and "*Dixiphia*" *pipra*, is not monophyletic. The generic name *Pipra* belongs with the *aureola* group. That group seems to form a straightforward clade. There are 3 generic names associated with the clade that includes the *cornuta* group currently placed in *Pipra*. *Dixiphia* is the oldest name, and *P. pipra* is the type. *Machaeropterus* applies to those species currently in that genus and *Ceratopipra* would be the appropriate name for the *cornuta* group.

There would seem to be 3 possible treatments for the *Dixiphia, Machaeropterus* and *Ceratopipra* clade. A) The taxa could all be placed in the genus *Dixiphia*, the oldest name for the group. B) The three names available could all be used, recognizing *Machaeropterus* as currently defined, *Dixiphia* as monotypic, consisting of just *pipra*, and *Ceratopipra* for the *cornuta* group. C) *Machaeropterus* could be retained and *pipra* and the *cornuta* group placed in *Dixiphia*. The first two treatments are consistent with all three molecular studies. The third, however, conflicts with the tree of Rego et al. Thus I think the two appropriate options are using *Dixiphia* for all these taxa or the 3 genera treatment. Because *Machaeropterus* stands out morphologically, in plumage pattern and behavior from the other species, I am disinclined to place all species in *Dixiphia*.

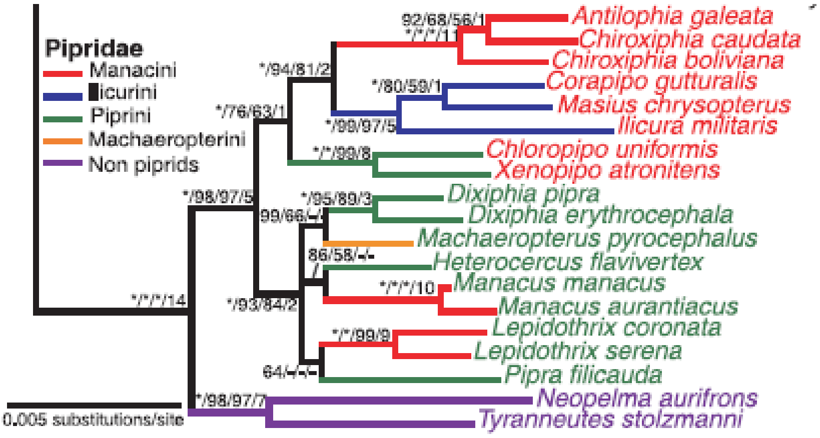
The only tree of the three molecular studies that includes multiple taxa in the *Xenopipo* and *Chloropipo* complex is Tello et al. (2009). *Xenopipo atronitens* and *Chloropipo uniformis* are sisters in that study, suggesting that these two genera form a clade. The arguments for lumping *Chloropipo* into *Xenopipo* are that

Prum's syringeal study found that *Chloropipo* was paraphyletic with respect to *Xenopipo*, the two taxa are at least sister to one another, and one species of *Chloropipo*, the extralimital *C. unicolor*, shares the black male plumage with *Xenopipo* (other *Chloropipo* are some version of green in the males). Ridgely and Tudor (1994) provide the only explicit argument I have found for maintaining *Chloropipo,* saying " we continue to maintain the genera as distinct, in part because of *Xenopipo*'s [*atronitens*] extensive vocal repertoire (the *Chloropipo* manakins are, on the contrary, notably quiet birds)."

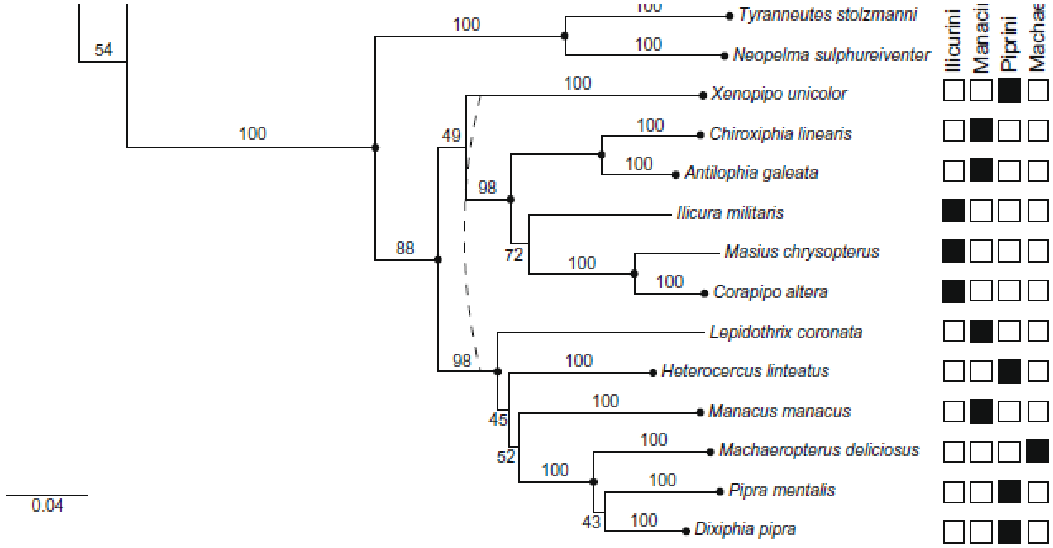
Rego et al (2007) tree:



Tree from Tello et al (2009):



Tree from McKay et al (2010):



Recommendation:

A. Split *Pipra,* placing *pipra* in *Dixiphia*, and *mentalis* and *erythrocephala* in *Ceratopipra.*

The molecular data clearly indicate that *Pipra* as currently constituted is not monophyletic. So I recommend removing *Pipra pipra* , *mentalis* and *erythrocephala* from *Pipra.* None belong to the clade that would retain the name *Pipra* based on the molecular work. This will mean that no *Pipra* will be in the checklist area. All of the current *Pipra* will have been moved to other genera. Two possible treatments for the clade found in all three studies that includes these species plus the genus *Machaeropterus* are possible: 1) All taxa placed in the genus *Dixiphia*, the oldest name for the group. 2) The three names available could all be used, recognizing *Machaeropterus* as currently defined, *Dixiphia* as monotypic, consisting of just *pipra*, and *Ceratopipra* for the *cornuta* group including the Central American *mentalis* and *erythrocephala*. Because *Machaeropterus* stands out morphologically, in plumage pattern, and behaviorally from the other species, I am disinclined to place all species in *Dixiphia*, and recommend choice 1.

B. *Xenopipo* and *Chloropipo*

There are really no new data that bear on whether *Xenopipo* and *Chloropipo* should be treated as congeneric. The taxa are at least sisters based on Tello et al. 2009, but that comes as no surprise. They have been adjacent in sequences for quite some time. Our current treatment is consistent with the molecular data, but there is not much molecular data. The two genera are sisters, but neither extremely close nor extremely distant. Vocally, *Xenopipo atronitens* stands out from *Chloropipo*, as mentioned by Ridgely and Tudor (1994). On the other hand, Prum's syringeal data indicate that *Chloropipo* is paraphyletic with respect to *Xenopipo*. If we maintain the two genera treatment, we could have to later make a change. Lumping everything into *Xenopipo* appears to be a safe treatment.

I am going to recommend that we treat *Chloropipo* as congeneric with *Xenopipo*. It puts us in step with SACC, where the genera have been treated as one since the very beginning, it is consistent with molecular and syringeal data, and it is basically bulletproof. If the two genera form a monophyletic clade, no matter what the arrangement of species within the clade ends up being, treating them as a single genus will not be inconsistent with that treatment. Having made this recommendation, I recognize the allure of the status quo. However the two genus treatment is very unlikely to be adopted by SACC, so this will remain an inconsistency between the two lists.

C. Sequence of genera in Pipridae

Assuming that the Checklist committee splits *Pipra*, and basically accepts the results of these molecular studies, we need to adjust the order of genera in Pipridae to reflect the results from the molecular studies. All 3 studies have the extralimital *Tyranneutes* and *Neopelma* basal. The studies also identify two clades, one consisting of *Ilicura, Masius, Corapipo, Antilophia, Chiroxiphia* and *Xenopipo*. The other clade contains the remaining genera: *Pipra, Lepidothrix, Manacus, Heterocercus* and *Dixiphia* (sensu lato). The topology of the first clade seems well-established. Central America includes the taxa *Xenopipo* (or *Chloropipo* if B is not adopted), *Corapipo* and *Chiroxiphia*. *Xenopipo* is basal.

The other clade has much more variation across the 3 studies and bootstrap values for much of the structure are poor. However, as noted in part A, a clade containing *Machaeropterus*, *Dixiphia*, and *Ceratopipra* is returned by all three studies, and a sequence of those taxa with *Dixiphia* between the other two is consistent with all of the topologies. The remaining genera, *Pipra, Lepidothrix, Manacus,* and *Heterocercus* have very different arrangements in the three studies. A sequence of *Manacus, Heterocercus, Pipra* and *Lepidothrix* seems like it would best reflect the potential relationships suggested in these studies.

So I recommended that we place the genera of Pipridae in the following sequence, which is consistent with the molecular topologies and maintains the current sequences as much as possible:

Neopelma
Tyranneutes
Ilicura
Masius
Corapipo
Antilophia
Chiroxiphia
Xenopipo
Machaeropterus
Dixiphia
Ceratopipra
Manacus
Heterocercus
Pipra
Lepidothrix

Restricting this to the Central American taxa would produce the following sequence:

Corapipo altera
Chiroxiphia lanceolata
Chiroxiphia linearis
Xenopipo holochlora
Dixiphia pipra
Ceratopipra mentalis
Ceratopipra erythrocephala
Manacus candei
Manacus aurantiacus
Manacus vitellinus
Lepidothrix coronata

Literature cited:

Chesser, R. T., Banks, R. C., 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. 2012. Fifty-third supplement to the American Ornithologists’ Union *Check-list of North American Birds.* Auk 127:573-588.

Snow, D. W. 2004. Family Pipridae (Manakins). Pg. 110-169 in del Hoya, J., A. Elliot, and D. A. Christie (eds.), Handbook of the Birds of the World. Vol. 9. Cotingas to Pipits and Wagtails. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.

McKay, B. D., F. K. Barker, H. L. Mays, Jr., S. M. Doucet, and G. E. Hill. 2010. A molecular phylogenetic hypothesis for the manakins (Aves: Pipridae). Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution 55:733-737.

Prum, R. O. 1992. Syringeal morphology, phylogeny, and evolution of the Neotropical manakins (Aves: Pipridae) American Museum Novitates 3043.

Rego, P. S., J. Araripe, M. L. V. Marceliano, I. Sampaio, and H. Schneider. 2007. Phylogenetic analyses of the genera *Pipra*, *Lepidothrix* and *Dixiphia* (Pipridae, Passeriformes) using partial cytochrome b and 16S mtDNA genes. Zoologica Scripta 2007:1-11.

Ridgely, R. S. and P. J. Greenfield. 2001. The Birds of Ecuador. Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, New York.

Ridgely, R. S. and G. Tudor. 1994. The Birds of South America Vol. II. The Subocsine Passerines. Univ. of Texas Press, Austin.

Tello, J. G., R. G. Moyle, D. J. Marchese, and J. Cracraft. 2009. Phylogeny and phylogenetic classification of tyrant-flycatchers, cotingas, manakins and their allies (Aves: Tyrannides). Cladistics 25:429-465.

Submitted by: Douglas F. Stotz

Date of proposal: 2 Dec 2012

Change the generic placement of *Otus flammeolus*

Description of the problem:

The Flammulated Owl was recognized as *Megascops flammeolus* in the first edition of the AOU Checklist (1886), but by the third edition (1910) it was moved to the genus *Otus,* where it has remained. Most current authorities continue to recognize this species as *Otus flammeolus* (e.g., Clements 6th edition, Howard and Moore 3rd edition). An exception is the IOC World Bird Names v3.1, which lists it as *Megascops flammeolus*.

New information:

Proudfoot et al. (2007) used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) to study variation in Eastern and Western screech-owls (*Megascops asio* and *M. kennicottii*) and to assess the taxonomic affinity of Flammulated Owls (*Otus flammeolus*) and Whiskered Screech-owls (*M. trichopsis*). They included additional species of *Megascops* and Old World *Otus* in their analysis. Their data strongly supported monophyly of the genus *Megascops* (99% Bayesian support), with *Otus flammeolus* basal to that clade and genetically distinct from Old World *Otus* (100% Bayesian support).

Wink et al. (2009) published a molecular phylogeny of Strigiformes based on both mtDNA and the nuclear RAG-1 gene (see figure below). This study included 97 owl taxa from 15 of the larger genera, and likewise showed that the Flammulated Owl is basal to *Megascops* and genetically distinct from Old World *Otus*. In their paper, they treated the Flammulated Owl in the monotypic genus *Psiloscops* (Coues 1899), because of its genetic as well as vocal distinctiveness from *Megascops*. Their combined dataset of cytochrome *b* and RAG-1 sequences resulted in posterior probabilities of 100% for the clade containing *Megascops* plus *Psiloscops flammeolus*, and 100% for *Megascops* by itself with a relatively long branch leading to *Psiloscops flammeolus*.

Recommendation:

The molecular data unequivocally show that the Flammulated Owl does not belong in the genus *Otus*. This leaves two options: (1) move the species into the genus *Megascops*; or (2) resurrect the monotypic genus *Psiloscops* (Coues 1899). I recommend that we follow the treatment of Wink et al. (2009) and recognize *Psiloscops flammeolus* because of genetic, vocal, and morphologic differences between this species and *Megascops* screech-owls.

Literature cited:

Proudfoot, G. A., F. R. Gehlbach, and R. L. Honeycutt. 2007. Mitochondrial DNA variation and phylogeography of the Eastern and Western Screech-owls. Condor 109:617-627.

Wink, M., A. El-Sayed, H. Sauer-Gurth, and J. Gonzalez. 2009. Molecular phylogeny of Owls (Strigiformes) inferred from DNA sequences of the mitochondrial cytochrome *b* and the nuclear *RAG-1* gene. Ardea 97:581-591.

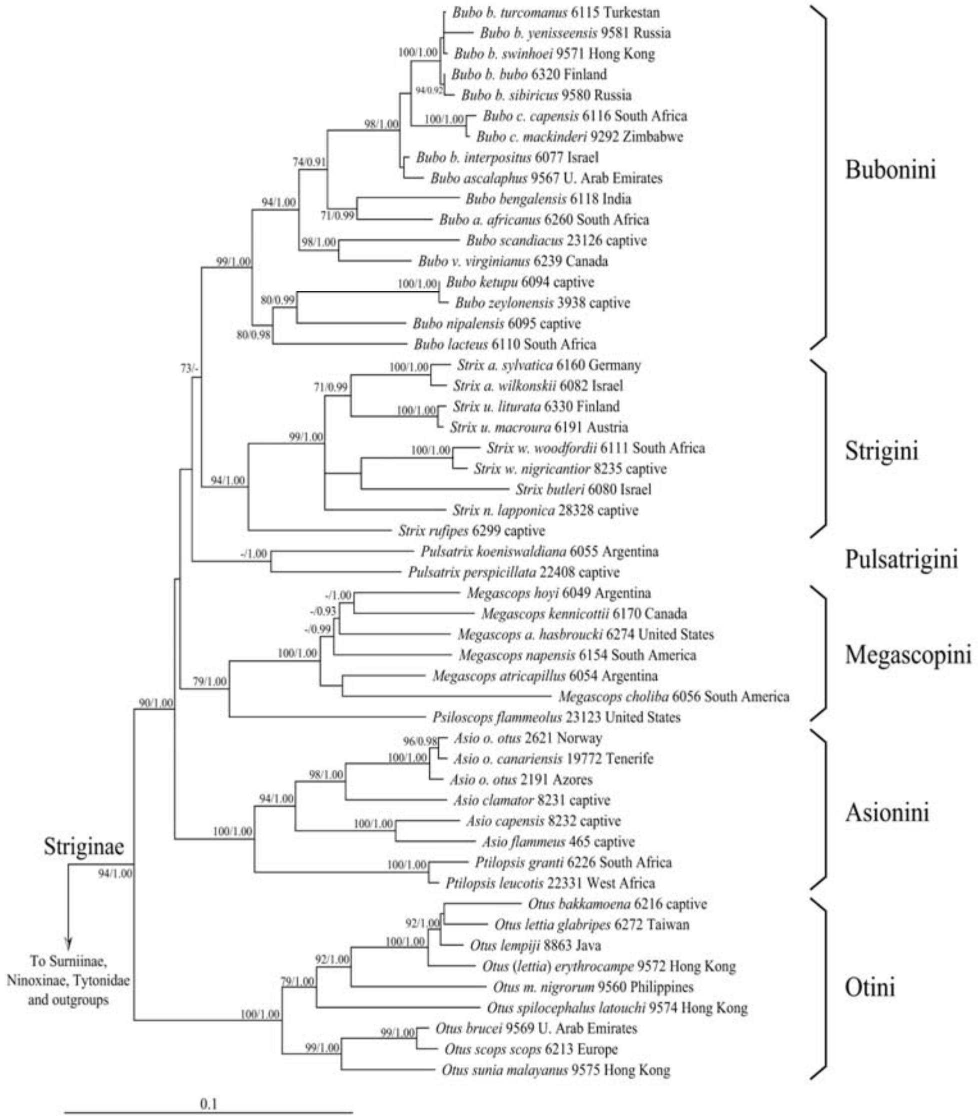


Figure 1. ML bootstrap phylogram of the generic relationships in owls based on a combined dataset of *cytb* and *RAG-1* sequences. ML bootstrap values/BI posterior probability values indicated for each node. The tree is separated in two parts in order to make it readable.

Submitted by: Carla Cicero, Univ. Calif. Berkeley

Date of proposal: 5 Jan 2013

Recognize a new generic name for *Gymnoglaux lawrencii*

Description of the problem:

The two species of Antillean "screech" owls (Bare-legged Owl of Cuba, *Gymnoglaux lawrencii*; Puerto Rican Screech-owl, *Megascops nudipes*) are distinctive in that they have unfeathered tarsi and lack erectile "ear" tufts. Their taxonomy has been complicated by the rarity of specimens in museum collections, thus making it difficult to compare them.

The Puerto Rican Screech-Owl was described as *Strix nudipes* (Daudin 1800), then later put in the monotypic genus *Gymnasio* (Bonaparte 1854), with *Strix nudipes* as the type. The Cuban owl was first thought to be the same species as the Puerto Rican owl (Lembeye 1850) and was listed as *Noctua nudipes*. A few years later, Cabanis (1855) reviewed the Cuban owl without reference to Puerto Rican owl specimens, but also considered the Cuban and Puerto Rican owls to be the same species. He proposed the new genus *Gymnoglaux* – unaware that Bonaparte (1854) had already proposed a new genus *Gymnasio* for the Puerto Rican owl. Thus, *Gymnoglaux* is a junior objective synonym of *Gymnasio.*

Lawrence (1860) compared Cuban specimens with published illustrations of Virgin Island owls (Newton and Newton 1859) and concluded that the Virgin Island birds were a different species, which he called *Gymnoglaux newtoni*. Sclater and Salvin (1868) compared specimens from Cuba and the Virgin Islands, which they had earlier compared with the types of *nudipes*. They concluded that the owls from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands were the same species (*Gymnoglaux nudipes*), and they called the Cuban species *Gymnoglaux lawrencii*. Lawrence (1878), the first to compare specimens of all three populations together, concluded that the Virgin Island birds are distinctive. Thus, he recognized three species of *Gymnoglaux*. The Virgin Island population is now recognized as a subspecies of *nudipes*.

Sharpe (1875) resurrected *Gymnasio*, with *Gymnoglaux* as a synonym. Since then, *lawrencii* and *nudipes* have been treated in the same genus (*Gymnasio* or *Otus*) or in different genera (*Gymnoglaux lawrencii*, *Otus* [=*Megascops*] *nudipes*). AOU (1998) merged *Gymnoglaux* in *Otus*, but later resurrected the monotypic genus because of the vocal and morphologic distinctiveness of Cuban birds and because there was no justification for the prior merger into *Otus*.

New information:

The only new information is a nice summary of the above situation by Olson and Suárez (2008). The distinctiveness of the Bare-legged Owl is not disputed, and

Gymnoglaux is a clear synonym of *Gymnasio*. Thus, a new generic name is needed for *Gymnoglaux lawrencii.* Olson and Suárez (2008) proposed the name *Margarobyas* for this species.

Recommendation:

I recommend that we follow the name proposed by Olson and Suárez (2008) and change *Gymnoglaux lawrencii* to *Margarobyas lawrencii.*

Literature cited:

American Ornithologists' Union. 1998. *Check-list of North American Birds*. Seventh edition. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D. C., 829 pp.

Bonaparte, C. L. 1854. Tableau des oiseaux de proie. *Revue et Magasin de Zoologie*, ser. 2, 6, 530–544.

Cabanis, J. 1855. Dr. J. Gundlach's Beitrge zur Ornithologie Cuba's. *Journal für Ornithologie*, 3, 465–480.

Daudin, F. M. 1800. *Traité Elmentaire et Complet d'Ornithologie*. Vol. 2. Bertrandet, Paris, 473 pp.

Lawrence, G. N. 1860. Notes on some Cuban birds with descriptions of new species. *Annals of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York*, 7, 247–275.

Lawrence, G.N. 1878. On the members of the genus *Gymnoglaux. Ibis*, ser. 4, 2, 184–187.

Lembeye, J. 1850. *Aves de la Isla de Cuba*. Imprenta del Tiempo, Habana, 136 pp.

Newton, A. and E. Newton. 1859. Observations on the birds of St. Croix, West Indies. *Ibis*, 1, 59–69.

Olson, S. L. and W. Suárez. 2008. A new generic name for the Cuban Bare-legged Owl *Gymnoglaux lawrencii* Sclater and Salvin. Zootaxa 1960:67-68.

Sclater, P. L. and O. Salvin, 1868. Descriptions of new or little-known American birds of the families Fringillidae, Oxyrhamphidae, Bucconidae, and Strigidae. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London*, 1868, 322–329.

Sharpe, R. B. 1875. *Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum*. Vol. 2. British Museum, London, 325 pp.

Submitted by: Carla Cicero, Univ. Calif. Berkeley

Date of proposal: 12 Jan 2013

Split *Melanerpes santacruzi* from *M. aurifrons*

Description of the problem:

Ridgway (1914) recognized four species – *Melanerpes aurifrons, M. dubius, M. polygrammus*, and *M. santacruzi* – that were subsumed under *M. aurifrons* by Selander and Giller (1963) and remain lumped in the AOU's current taxonomy. In the words of Garcia-Trejo et al. (2009): "No studies since those of Selander and Giller (1963) and Short (1982) have addressed the taxonomy of the entire group, even though many have highlighted the need of a thorough revision of it."

New information:

A molecular study by Garcia-Trejo et al. (2009) found that *M. aurifrons* consisted of two well-supported clades: a northern, temperate clade (*aurifrons* proper) and a southern, tropical clade consisting of all subspecies from Veracruz south. They found that the northern clade was sister to *M. carolinus*, and recommended splitting the southern clade into a separate species, *Melanerpes santacruzi*. They found little support for splitting *polygrammus* or *dubius* from *santacruzi*.

In addition to the genetic data, online audio recordings show that at least one call type appears to differ consistently between the two clades. Northern birds give a single-syllable "gaf" call not unlike that of *M. carolinus*, whereas southern birds give a distinctive two-noted "CHUCK-a" call. The sample size is not particularly large, but the vocal differences appear to consistently follow the geographic boundaries between the clades.

The single available recording of *polygrammus* sounds almost exactly like "CHUCK-a" calls from the *santacruzi* group. The few available recordings of *dubius* suggest that in this subspecies the call is slightly different, more of a "chuck-trrr", sometimes shortened to a single-noted "chuck" rather like the call of *aurifrons*.

The English name "Velasquez's Woodpecker" has been in use for *Melanerpes santacruzi* since Ridgway (1914).

List of recordings available online:

aurifrons (1-noted "gaf"):
http://blb.biosci.ohio-state.edu/LongData.asp?RecordingID=11890
(east of Canyon, Armstrong County, Texas)
http://xeno-canto.org/109193
(Rio Grande Village, Brewster County, Texas)
http://xeno-canto.org/5773

(NABA Park, Hidalgo County, Texas)
http://blb.biosci.ohio-state.edu/LongData.asp?RecordingID=10351
(SE of McAllen, Hidalgo County, Texas)
http://macaulaylibrary.org/audio/23117
(17 km north of Valles, San Luis Potosi, Mexico)

***santacruzi* group (2-noted "chuck-a"):**
http://xeno-canto.org/118430
(Amatlan, Veracruz, Mexico)
http://macaulaylibrary.org/audio/23102
(near Lake Catemaco, Veracruz)
http://xeno-canto.org/33955
(Minatitlan, Veracruz, Mexico)
http://xeno-canto.org/118429
(near Tehuantepec, Oaxaca, Mexico –ssp. *polygrammus*)
http://macaulaylibrary.org/audio/137684
(Suchitepequez, Guatemala)
http://macaulaylibrary.org/audio/20912
(Morazan, El Salvador)

***dubius* (2-noted "chuck-trrr," sometimes shortened to "chuck"):**
http://macaulaylibrary.org/audio/23110
(near Hopelchen, Campeche, Mexico)
http://macaulaylibrary.org/audio/23111
(near Carrillo Puerto, Quintana Roo, Mexico)
http://macaulaylibrary.org/audio/103346
(Calakmul, Campeche, Mexico – including single-note versions)

Recommendation:

Split *Melanerpes aurifrons* into two species:

- ***Melanerpes aurifrons*, Golden-fronted Woodpecker** (Wagler, 1829). Monotypic, incl. *incanescens*.
- ***Melanerpes santacruzi*, Velasquez's Woodpecker** (Bonaparte, 1858). Includes the subspecies *grateloupensis* (incl. *veraecrucis*), *dubius*, *leei*, *turneffensis*, *polygrammus*, *santacruzi*, *hughlandi*, *pauper*, *insulanus*, and *canescens*.

Literature cited:

García-Trejo, E. A., Espinosa De Los Monteros, A., Del Coro Arizmendi, M., and A. G. Navarro-Siüenza. 2009. Molecular systematics of the Red-bellied and Golden-fronted Woodpeckers. Condor 111(3):442-452.

Ridgway, R. 1914. The birds of North and Middle America. Bulletin of the United States National Museum 50 6:65-88.

Selander, R. K., and D. R. Giller. 1963. Species limits in the woodpecker genus Centurus (Aves). Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History 124:217-273.

Submitted by: Nathan Pieplow, Program for Writing and Rhetoric, University of Colorado, Boulder.

Date of proposal: 19 Jan 2013

Recognize Hanson's new species of White-cheeked Geese, *Branta* spp.

Part 1. Elevation of three subspecies to species level

Harold Hanson published (posthumously) a massive 2-volume work (2006, 2007) on variation in White-cheeked Geese, the *Branta canadensis* complex. These works were reviewed, negatively, by Banks (2007, 2008). A major emphasis of Hanson's work was the naming of well over 100 new subspecies, mainly of *B. canadensis* and *hutchinsii*, most based on specimens of migrant or wintering birds, with no knowledge of the breeding grounds of the newly named supposed populations. The volume of this taxonomic excess was so great and shocking that it overshadowed the fact that he also elevated three generally recognized subspecies of *canadensis* to specific status, naming also new subspecies within them. Although this action is evident from the title of the work (on the title pages, but not on the covers) and noted in the introduction of part 1, the nomenclatural actions were not actually taken until the second (2007) volume, and page numbers herein refer to that volume. The three elevated forms are *maxima, minima*, and *leucopareia*. English names were given to each of these, but will be ignored here. The last two were originally described as species, long ago, and were recognized at the species level by some authors until Delacour and Mayr (1945) merged all forms into a single species. The form *hutchinsii* was also part of that species until recognized as distinct by the AOU (Banks et al. 2004).

The introduction, in part 1, briefly summarized the characters that Hanson considered in elevating some forms to species status, without attributing them to specific taxa. These included the fact that large (*canadensis* type) versus small (*hutchinsii* type) taxa were distinguished on the basis of sternum width versus length. Traditional skin and long bone measurements suggested that there were 6 species.

In vol. 2, on p. 156-158, *maxima* is distinguished from *canadensis* by its larger size, especially longer neck and bill, tarsus, and middle toe. There are a series of size and color/pattern differences. A major character of *maxima* is the pitted scutelation of the tarsus. Most of the characterization of *maxima* here is the same as the subspecific distinction by Delacour when he named it as a subspecies in 1951. Illustrations indicate that it is a large, long-necked bird. Hanson recognized 8 subspecies of *maxima* in the midwestern prairies.

The form *leucopareia* is distinguished from *hutchinsii* (p. 400) by characters of bill shape, the long tarsus relative to body size, and long toe relative to tarsus length. The latter also generally distinguishes *hutchinsii* from *canadensis*. There are also ecological and geographic differences. Particular measurement differences are hidden because some of the many tables of comparative measurements were prepared before species-level decisions were made and not later revised, and

thus combine more than one final species. Hanson would recognize up to 16 subspecies of this, the Aleutian Goose, many extinct with guesswork insular ranges.
The form *minima* is distinguished from *leucopareia* on p. 385, mainly on the basis of morphometric data. It is restricted to the Alaska coastal area of the Yukon-Kuskokuim Delta and there are supposedly 2 subspecies.

In summary, the characters used in elevating these three taxa to the species level are essentially those that have characterized them as subspecies of the broader *canadensis* over the past several decades, and the supporting data are not well presented. There has long been some suggestion that *minima* may breed sympatrically, or with interdigitating territories, with a form of *canadensis*, but even the goose biologists have not separated them. There are no DNA data, certainly none presented by Hanson. I would not be surprised if Hanson is correct on some of these instances, and when we recognized *hutchinsii* (Banks et al. 2004) we stated that "Additional analysis may result in further splitting." But for now, **on a motion to recognize these three taxa, *Branta maxima, minima*, and *leucopareia*, at the species level, I suggest a vote of NO.**

Part 2. Recognition of the new species *Branta lawrensis* Hanson, 2007

This new species (p. 195) was based on specimens from the Toronto, Canada, region that Hanson considered "shockingly different from races of both *B. canadensis* and *B. maxima*." They were "dramatically darker," especially with dark gray breasts, than most other White-cheeked Geese. They have stocky (wide and deep) bodies, relatively short wings and short and heavy tarsi. The tarsal scutes are poorly delineated. The bill is massive, cheek patches small, at least in some, and the neck is relatively short. It is presumed to be non-migratory.

Hanson noted that Van Wagner and Baker (1986) had done some early DNA work on geese, and "Although the taxonomic relationships and identifications of the populations sampled by these authors were mostly unknown or in partial error, it is highly significant that the DNA patterns of the Toronto population of *B*. "*lawrensis*" were found to be different from samples of *B. maxima*."

The southern Ontario range of this form is partially shared with an introduced population of *B. maxima*. Geese from several other populations apparently have been released in the area of southern Ontario. Because he was convinced that *lawrensis* is genetically distinct, Hanson did not believe that remnants of the original population, if any, would have interbred with introduced populations.

Following the "biography" of *lawrensis,* the editor of the volume, B. W. Anderson, inserted a section of comments presenting his statistical analysis of several measurements and ratios of *lawrensis* compared to those of one race of *maxima* and two of *canadensis*. There were relatively few significant differences in his pair-wise comparisons.

There is some question whether we even need to consider *lawrensis* an available name properly published under the Code. Hanson certainly intended it to be published. However, in the introduction to volume 1, the editor, B. W. Anderson, noted that Hanson's manuscript named several (many) taxa on the basis of single specimens of migrant geese, and that there was thus no information on their breeding grounds. In a deliberate effort to avoid making these names available, he placed them into quotation marks wherever used and did not use the term "new subspecies" where the names were introduced. Anderson was not totally consistent in this. In the case of *lawrensis,* Hanson stated that he had six specimens, and they were not migrants. However, Anderson placed the name in quotation marks wherever used, although he did use the term "new species" where the name was introduced. His statistical commentary, noted above, was noncommittal on the validity of *lawrensis*. In his own 2010 follow-up book on these geese, in which he analyzed all of Hanson's races, Anderson did not mention *lawrensis*.

On a motion to recognize *Branta lawrensis* as a species, I urge a vote of NO.

Literature cited (in brief):

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