

AOU Classification Committee – North and Middle America
Proposal Set 2015-C
25 Mar 2015

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Split Coiba Spinetail *Cranioleuca dissita* from Rusty-backed Spinetail *C. vulpina***Background:**

The form of *Cranioleuca* found on Isla Coiba, off the Pacific coast of Panama, has long been an enigma. It was originally described as a subspecies of the geographically distant Rusty-backed Spinetail *C. vulpina* (Wetmore 1957), which is found mainly in the Orinoco and Amazon basins, the closest population being about 900 km away. However, Wetmore even at the time expressed some doubt that a subspecific designation was the best course to follow, noting that “the decidedly lighter brown of the lower surface separates it from [the forms belonging to *C. vulpina*] so definitely as to almost warrant species status.” Several authors have treated the taxon as being specifically distinct. Ridgely and Gwynne (1989), under the name Coiba Spinetail, noted that “*dissita* differs from *vulpina* in its forest habitat (*vulpina* being a bird of riparian thickets), and in voice (the song of *dissita* being more or less typical of the arboreal *Cranioleuca* group, which includes *erythroptus*, and quite different from *C. vulpina*.)” This course was also followed by Sibley and Monroe (1993), Ridgely and Tudor (1994), Angehr (2006), and Angehr and Dean (2010). However, in the absence of specific published information about relationships other references have maintained it as a subspecies of *vulpina* (AOU 1998, Stotz et al. 1996, Zimmer 1997, Remsen 2003, Clements 2014).

New Information:

Data published in Derryberry et al. (2011), based on analyses of three mitochondrial and three nuclear genes (Figure 1), show that *dissita* is not closely related to *C. vulpina* despite their morphological similarities. Instead, *dissita* is the basal member of a fairly large clade that includes a clade of *C. demissa*, *C. semicinerea*, *C. subcristata*, and *C. hellmayri* on one hand, and a clade of *C. erythroptus*, *C. baroni*, *C. antisiensis*, and *C. curtata* on the other. *C. vulpina* belongs to an entirely different clade containing *C. vulpecula*, *C. muelleri*, and *Thripophaga berlepschi*.

Vocalizations, nest structure, and habitat also indicate that *dissita* and *vulpina* are not closely related. Spectrograms of the main songs of *dissita* and *vulpina* are shown in Figures 3 and 4. (Examples of *C. dissita* songs and calls are posted on the xeno-canto website, www.xeno-canto.org.) The song of *dissita* resembles typical *Cranioleuca* in having several short introductory notes followed by a series of notes on one pitch. It is atypical, however, in that in the terminal part of the song the notes become longer and

slow down, rather than accelerating or being evenly spaced. The song differs completely from that of *C. vulpina* in note structure and pattern, the latter consisting of a series of harsh grating notes with little change in the timing between them.

The nest of *C. dissita* is a globe-shaped structure with an entrance hole low on the side (Figure 4). Nests are built around a vertical support, such as an upright branch or thin trunk (often at a branching point or around the bases of live leaves) or around several lianas or vines. They consist of a disorderly collection of dry material, mostly plant fibers. The nest of *C. vulpina* is different in placement and materials, being a globular mass of grass, roots, and sticks, wedged in the fork of a partly submerged sapling or bush (Remsen 2003).

Cranioleuca dissita, like most other species of the genus, inhabits forest and forest edge. According to Wetmore (1968), it was found “from the borders of the swampy woodlands along the lower Rio Catival inland to the higher forest of the uplands, ranging through the borders of thickets and in the forest up into the lower branches below the high tree crowns.” According to Ridgely and Gwynne (1989), it is found in “lower and middle growth of forest and forest borders.” In contrast, *C. vulpina* inhabits thickets and vine tangles in gallery forest, seasonally flooded várzea forest, and shrubby edges of savanna woodland, generally near water (Zimmer 1997). Although species may sometimes undergo habitat shifts on offshore islands, the habitat of *dissita* is typical of other members of its clade.

Recommendation:

Because *dissita* does not belong to the same clade as *C. vulpina* and differs in vocalizations, nest construction and placement, and habitat, it clearly deserves full species status. The similarities in plumage between the two forms are superficial, and due to either plesiomorphy or homoplasy. The English name of Coiba Spinetail is recommended, following Ridgely and Gwynne (1989) and others, as recognizing its highly restricted distribution, which consists of Coiba and its nearby satellite island of Ranchería (Coibita) only.

Literature Cited:

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- Angehr, George R., and Robert Dean. 2010. The Birds of Panama: A Field Guide. Cornell University Press: Ithaca, NY.

- AOU. 1998. Checklist of North American Birds. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington DC.
- Clements, J. F., T. S. Schulenberg, M. J. Iliff, D. Roberson, T. A. Fredericks, B. L. Sullivan, and C. L. Wood. 2014. The eBird/Clements checklist of birds of the world: Version 6.9.
- Derryberry, E. P., S. Claramunt, G. Derryberry, R. T. Chesser, J. Cracraft, A. Aleixo, J. Pérez-Emán, J. V. Remsen, Jr. & R. T. Brumfield. 2011. Lineage diversification and morphological evolution in a large-scale continental radiation: the Neotropical ovenbirds and woodcreepers (Aves: Furnariidae). *Evolution*. 65 (10):2973–2986.
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- Ridgely, Robert S., and Guy Tudor. 1994. *The Birds of South America*. Volume II: The Suboscine Passerines. University of Texas Press, Austin, TX.
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- Zimmer, Kevin J. 1997. Species limits in *Cranioleuca vulpina*. *Ornithological Monographs* 48: 849-864.

Submitted by: George R. Angehr, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

Date of proposal: 7 March 2015

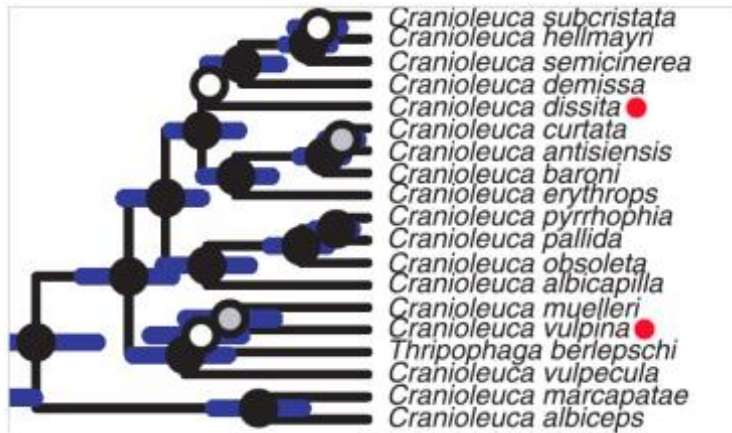


Figure 1. Detail of furnariid phylogeny published in Derryberry et al (2011) showing the clades containing *Cranioleuca dissita* and *C. vulpina* (highlighted).

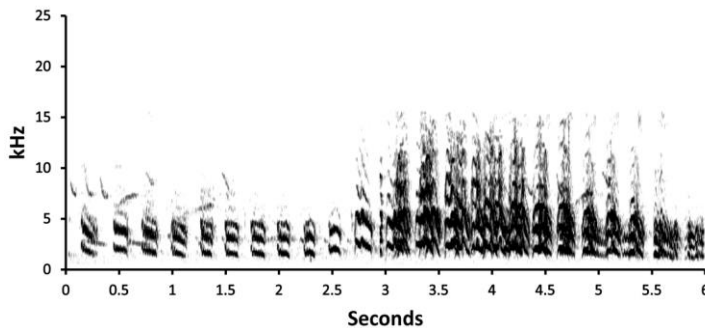


Figure 2. *Cranioleuca dissita*, main song, recorded 28 July 2009, Los Pozos Trail, Coiba, by Christina Blewett. Xeno-canto XC195615.

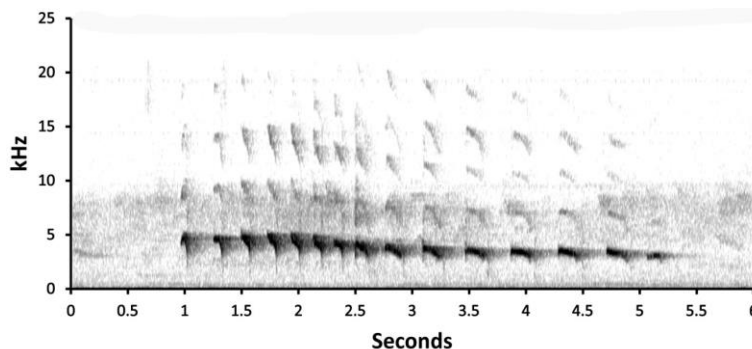


Figure 3. *Cranioleuca vulpina vulpina*, song. One bird is vocalizing initially, then joined by a second in a duet at 3 sec. Recorded 14 February 2009, Hato El Cedral, Los Llanos, Venezuela, by Hans Matheve. Xeno-canto XC202948.



Figure 4. Typical nest of *Cranioleuca dissita*. Photo by Christina Blewett.

Change the specific epithet of the Kauai Amakihi from *kauaiensis* to *stejnegeri*

The Kauai Amakihi was originally described by Wilson (1890) as *Himatione stejnegeri* and was more recently placed in the genera *Chlorodrepanis* (Wilson and Evans 1899) or *Loxops* (Amadon 1950). As noted by Olson and James (1988), creating an expanded *Hemignathus* that included the Kauai Amakihi (as done by Pratt 1979, AOU 1983) made the species name *stejnegeri* Wilson, 1890, unavailable for the Kauai Amakihi, because the name *Hemignathus stejnegeri* had already been published by Wilson (1889) for the Kauai Akialoa. Therefore, Pratt (1989) coined the new species name *kauaiensis* for the Kauai Amakihi. It is now well established that the expanded *Hemignathus* is a polyphyletic group (e.g., Lerner et al. 2011) and, with the passage of Proposal 2015-B-3a, we have now returned the Kauai Amakihi to the genus *Chlorodrepanis*. The Kauai Amakihi and the Kauai Akialoa are no longer congeneric and the name *stejnegeri* has priority over *kauaiensis*, so the species should again be known as *Chlorodrepanis stejnegeri*.

Recommendation:

Change the species name of Kauai Amakihi back to *stejnegeri*.

Literature Cited:

- Amadon, D. 1950. The Hawaiian honeycreepers (Aves, Drepaniidae). Bull. AMNH 95: 155-270.
- Lerner, H. R. L., M. Meyer, H. F. James, M. Hofreiter, and R. C. Fleischer. 2011. Multilocus resolution of phylogeny and timescale in the extant adaptive radiation of Hawaiian honeycreepers. Current Biology 21: 1838-1844.
- Olson, S. L., and H. F. James. 1988. Nomenclature of the Kauai Amakihi and Kauai Akialoa (Drepanidini). 'Elepaio 48: 13-14.
- Pratt, H. D. 1979. A systematic analysis of the endemic avifauna of the Hawaiian Islands. Ph.D. dissertation, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.
- Wilson, S. B. 1889. On three undescribed species of the genus *Hemignathus* Lichtenstein. Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., series 6, 4: 400-402.
- Wilson, S. B. 1890. Descriptions of some new species of Sandwich-Islands birds. Proc. Zool. Soc. London [for 1889]: 445-447.

Submitted by: Terry Chesser

Date of proposal: 12 March 2015

Add Common Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) to main list

Background:

On 8-9 October 2013 a Common Redstart was found on St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska. The bird was well-photographed and the record was unanimously accepted by the Alaska Checklist Committee (<http://www.universityofalaskamuseumbirds.org/products/checklist.pdf>) and by the ABA CLC (Pranty et al. 2014, incl. color photo); another color photo was published in *North American Birds* (68:167). The bird was identified as an immature male. Text detailing the record and the species' range (including vagrancy to the coast) was written by Thede Tobish (*North American Birds* 68:132, 2014). An article detailing this occurrence is in preparation for submission to *Western Birds* by Scott Schuette and Doug Gochfield.

Recommendation:

We recommend that this species be added to the Check-list. We have heard no dissent on the identification.

English name:

The British still call it 'Redstart', one of their perennials with 'Swallow', 'Wren', and 'Blackbird'. Recently, however, respected European field guides have taken a global approach (e.g., Svensson [2009] identified this species as "(Common) Redstart"). Dickinson and Christidis (2014) used Common Redstart, and that name was used by the Alaska Checklist Committee and by ABA. There are seven species in the genus across Eurasia. Dickinson and Christidis (2014) excluded from *Phoenicurus* the very different-acting *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus* (White-capped Water Redstart).

Position on Check-List:

The AOU (2011) cited Sangster et al. (2010) and Zuccon and Ericson (2010) as the authorities for sequence of a revised Muscicapidae; the AOU's linear sequence apparently followed the latter's tree, wherein *Phoenicurus* follows *Ficedula* and precedes *Saxicola* (followed by *Oenanthe* – it is not obvious to us why AOU [2011] reversed the order of *Saxicola* and *Oenanthe* as presented by both Sangster et al. [2010] and Zuccon and Ericson [2010].)

Effect on the Check-list: We suggest the following Supplement entry:

p. 494, after the account for *Ficedula albicilla*, insert:

Genus **PHOENICURUS** Forster

Phoenicurus T. Forster, 1817. Synop. Cat. Br. Birds, p. 16. Type by monotypy and tautonymy = *Sylvia phoenicurus* Latham et auct. = *Motacilla phoenicurus* Linnaeus, 1758.

Phoenicurus phoenicurus (Linnaeus). Common Redstart

Motacilla phoenicurus Linnaeus, 1758, Syst. Nat. ed. 10, 1, p. 187 (“in Europa “ = Sweden).

Habitat. – Open woodland, parkland. In migration and winter also scrublands.

Distribution. – *Breeds* from the United Kingdom and western Europe, northern Morocco, east to Iran and across Asia to northwest China and eastern Siberia (east to Lake Baikal).

Winters from the southwest Arabian Peninsula and across central Africa south of the Sahara; in east Africa south to the north shore of Lake Victoria.

Migrates across desert areas of North Africa and the Middle East.

Rare migrant to Iceland. Casual to Madeira, offshore Japan and the Kuril Islands.

Accidental in Alaska (an immature male at St. Paul Island, Pribilofs, 8-9 October 2013—photos *North American Birds* 68:167, 2014; Pranty et al. 2014)

Literature Cited:

Dickinson, E.C. and L. Christidis (Eds.). 2014. The Howard & Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World. 4th Edition. Vol. 2, Aves Press.

Pranty, B., J. Barry, J. L. Dunn, K. L. Garrett, D.D. Gibson, M.W. Lockwood, R. Pittaway, and D.A. Sibley. 2014. 25th Report of the ABA Checklist Committee 2013-1014. *Birding* 46:26-36.

Sangster, G., P. Alström, E. Forsmark, and U. Olsson. 2010. Multi-locus phylogenetic analysis of Old World chats and flycatchers reveals extensive paraphyly at family, subfamily and genus level (Aves: Muscicapidae). *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 57:380-392.

Svensson, L. 2009. *Birds of Europe*. 2nd Edition. Princeton University Press.

Zuccon, D., and P. G. P. Ericson. 2010. A multi-gene phylogeny disentangles the chat-flycatcher complex (Aves: Muscicapidae). *Zool. Scripta* 39:213-224.

Submitted by: J. L. Dunn and D.D. Gibson

Date of proposal: 18 March 2015

Add Zino's Petrel (*Pterodroma madeira*) to the main list

Background:

Pranty et al. (2014) detailed this record nicely, and much of the information that follows is from that reference. On 16 September 1995 Brian Patteson photographed a *Pterodroma* petrel and tentatively identified it as a Fea's Petrel (*Pterodroma feae*). The bird's occurrence took place at a seasonally odd time of year, as most Fea's Petrels photographed off North Carolina have been in late spring/early summer. For 17 years no additional information surfaced, but then two new seabird books (Howell 2012, Flood and Fisher 2013) identified Patteson's bird as a Zino's Petrel (*P. madeira*). Shortly after Howell's (2012) book was published, the North Carolina Bird Records Committee (NCBRC) reviewed the record and rejected the identification by a vote of 3-4.

At that point the ABA CLC inserted itself into the review. Since its formation in 1973, the ABA CLC had never entertained a record already rejected by a local records committee. Correspondence with the NCBRC resulted in polemics from that organization's Secretary. Nevertheless, the ABA CLC proceeded with its review in November 2013 and ultimately accepted the identification unanimously (8-0) as Zino's Petrel. Pranty et al. (2013) then provided the NCBRC several recent publications on *Pterodroma* identification, including Howell (2012) and Flood and Fisher (2013), along with important articles on the subject by Shirihai et al. (2010) and Zino et al. (2011). In addition, seabird experts Killian Mullarney and Hadoram Shirihai reviewed the photographs and they also endorsed the identification as Zino's. Based on this information, the NCBRC then voted unanimously to accept the identification as Zino's Petrel.

Color photos by Patteson of the 16 September 1995 bird have been published by Howell (2012), Flood and Fisher (2013), and Pranty et al. (2014). Numerous color photos of Zino's Petrels from the vicinity of Madeira can be found in numerous references (e.g., Shirihai 2010, Zino 2011, Howell 2012, Flood and Fisher 2013). Flood and Fisher (2013:219) also published four photographs of a Zino's Petrel off Graciosa, Azores, taken 1 August 2012. Along with the North Carolina record detailed above, I think these are the only two records documented away from Madeira, yet geolocator (datalogger) studies indicate that Zino's Petrel is regular to Azorean waters (see below).

Shirihai's (2010) long paper on this subject was the first to break the logjam on the identification of Zino's Petrel in the field at sea. Much identification information has since been published on this subject (Howell 2012, Flood and Fisher 2013, Howell et al. 2012). Robb et al. (2008) provided color photos at the species' nesting burrows and included recordings of their calls on a CD. They also included much anecdotal

information about the Zino's and their major role in the rediscovery, study, and conservation of this species.

Identification of the North Carolina bird:

The identification of this individual, as visible in the photos, rests primarily on the underwing, which shows an extensive bar of white, more extensive than that of any Fea's Petrel, and for that matter, with more white than many other Zino's Petrels. Shirihai (2010) was the first to detail this feature on Zino's and to indicate that those that showed such a mark were Zino's. Beyond that, the bill in the photos is quite slender, unlike the thicker bill of Fea's. Howell (2012) pointed out that the bird was in primary molt (inners missing), another supporting character. He indicated that within Fea's, the birds on the Cape Verde Islands molt in March-September, while the Desertas population molts mainly November-May.

Movements of Zino's Petrels:

This critically endangered species was known only from Madeira, where it nests at the highest elevations. Only a few decades ago what was known about it was limited to study of specimens and of live birds pulled from burrows and photographed at night. Over the last 20 years diagnostic photos have been taken, but nearly all were from around Madeira. A most informative article by Zino et al. (2011) revealed much information about the movements of this species away from Madeira. They indicated that the recent invention of lightweight geolocators (1.5 g) made by the British Antarctic Survey made it possible to attach such an item to plastic leg bands. Their study began in 2007, when they attached four dataloggers ('loggers') to four adult birds. In the 2008 breeding season all four dataloggers were recovered. Given that success, an additional 10 dataloggers were deployed in the following years, also on breeding adults. Through the end of the 2010 breeding season they had recovered 12 of the 14 loggers. As an aside Zino *et al.* (2011) mentioned that on 13 August 2010, catastrophic fires swept through the main breeding colony on Madeira, destroying the vegetation and killing at least four adults and 38 juveniles—from a nesting population estimated at only 80 pairs.

The results of these studies showed there were distinct differences in distribution between the breeding and non-breeding seasons. During the breeding season (April-late September) the birds ranged widely in the northeastern Atlantic, predominantly to the north and northwest of Madeira, but a couple of birds traveled to the south and southeast as far as the West African Upwelling. In the non-breeding season, only one bird was recorded in the waters (north of) near Madeira. The rest were distributed off Mauritania and Senegal, northeast Brazil, and in warm waters off the south Mid Atlantic Ridge to Saint Helena and west of the Gulf of Guinea. In looking at the mass of purple dots for the Atlantic, there are dots to west of the UK, within a few hundred miles of

Ireland and a few hundred miles south of Iceland. There are some a few hundred miles east of Newfoundland.

Just to go on a bit more about how these dataloggers work, I'll quote from Zino et al. (2011) directly:

“The loggers measured light intensity every minute and recoded the maximum light value at the end of each 10 minute period. They were tested for salt-water immersion every 3 seconds and recorded the number of positive tests (a value between 0 and 200) binned into 10 minute period. Upon the recapture of the birds and the recovery of the datalogger, the light data were used to derive sunrise and sunset times, and then latitude estimated from day length and longitude estimated from the time of local noon, according to standard methods (Phillips et al. 2004). This provided two locations of each bird per day, with a mean estimated error of about 185 km per location. The loggers were ground-truthed near the breeding site before and after deployment.”

The mean estimated error comment deserved special attention, and Zino et al. (2011) commented further: “However, we should note that the mean geolocation error after filtering is around 200 km and some records are potentially 500 km or more from the true location (Phillips et al. 2004); hence the outlying locations should be treated with caution.” This is all very useful information and should be flagged by any rare bird committee. In our view they support the general movements and locations for a particular species, but should **not be used** alone to support any record of a vagrant. We're thinking in particular of the datalogger geographical points on Black Swifts (*Cypseloides niger*) which showed locations in western Texas, yet the species has not yet been recorded for the state. Five hundred km or more away from an apparent location pretty much can take a “location” well away from any state. The reported locations of Zino's Petrels from the dataloggers have birds over the mainland of eastern Brazil and in the tropical interior of West Africa, locations that the authors know are erroneous (Zino et al. 2011).

Recommendation:

We recommend that this species be added to the Check-list. The record has been reviewed by the ABA Check-list Committee and accepted (Pranty et al. 2014) and also by the North Carolina Bird Records Committee (don't know if they have published their report yet). We have heard no dissenting opinions, other than initially by the Secretary of the NCBRC.

English name:

The English name of Zino's Petrel now seems to be in wide use. Madeira Petrel is an alternate English name, but this invites confusion with Madeiran Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*). In this case the patronym is fully appropriate as Francis ('Frank') Zino has done so much for the study and conservation of the species. We should add that his father, Paul Alexander ('Alec') Zino rediscovered (with son Frank) the species on Madeira in 1969 and also was instrumental in the conservation of the species. Paul Alexander Zino died in 2004. Perhaps both should be honored (Zinos' Petrel?), but why invite confusion? Too bad we can't come up with some excuse to call *Pterodroma cahow* Wingate's Petrel. We are not advocating that, of course, but sticking with Zino's now follows widespread usage and honors Zino, one of them anyway.

Taxonomy:

The split of Zino's Petrel as a separate species has been widely followed since the publication of Zino et al. (2008), but is probably worth reiterating in a footnote.

Position on Check-List:

Dickinson and Remsen (2014) placed Zino's Petrel immediately after Fea's Petrel. We provisionally follow that here. We have no idea why the ABA CLC (Pranty et al. 2014) placed it provisionally after Providence Petrel (*Pterodroma solandri*) but acknowledge that the authors of this motion were also authors on that publication!

Effect on Check-List: We suggest the following Supplement entry:

p. XXX, after the account for *Pterodroma feae*, insert:

Pterodroma madeira Mathews, 1934, *Pterodroma mollis madeira* Mathews, 1934, Bull. Brit. Ornith. Club, 54, p 179, Madeira.

Habitat.--Pelagic waters; nests in burrows at highest elevations on Madeira.

Distribution.--Breeds on Madeira, where it is critically endangered.

Ranges at sea in waters around Madeira, also recorded around the Azores. Geolocator data from Zino et al. (2011) showed birds ranging widely in the northeastern Atlantic during the breeding season; during the non-breeding season they were mostly found off west Africa, along the Mid Atlantic Ridge to Saint Helena, and off Brazil.

Accidental off North Carolina: one photographed off Hatteras on 16 September 1995 (Howell 2012, Flood and Fisher 2013).

Notes.--Along with Fea's Petrel (*P. feae*) as a subspecies of Soft-plumaged Petrel (*P. mollis*). The treatment as a separate species follows Zino et al. (2008).

Literature Cited:

Flood, B, and A. Fisher. 2013. *Pterodroma* Petrels. Pelagic Birds & Birding Multimedia Identification Guides.

Howell, S. N. G. 2012. Petrels, Albatrosses & Storm-Petrels of North America. Princeton Univ. Press.

Howell, S. N. G., I. Lewington, and W. Russell. 2014. Rare Birds of North America. Princeton University Press.

Pranty, B., J. Barry, J. L. Dunn, K. L. Garrett, D. D. Gibson, M. W. Lockwood, R. Pittaway, and D. A. Sibley. 2014. 25th Report of the ABA Checklist Committee 2013-2014. *Birding* 46:26-36.

Robb, M., K. Mullarney & The Sound Approach. 2008. Petrels night and day. The Sound Approach.

Shirihai, H., V. Bretagnolle, and F. Zino. Identification of Fea's, Desertas, and Zino's petrels at sea. *Birding World* 23:239-275.

Zino, F., R. Brown, and M. Biscoito. 2008. The separation of *Pterodroma madeira* from *Pterodroma feae* (Fea's Petrel). *Ibis* 150:326-333.

Zino, F., R. Phillips, and M. Biscoito. 2011. Zino's Petrel movements at sea – a preliminary analysis of datalogger results. *Birding World* 24:216-219.

Submitted by: J. L. Dunn and D.D. Gibson

Date of proposal: 19 March 2015

**Add Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*) to the main list
as an established exotic species**

Background:

Pranty and Ponzio (2014) and Pranty et al. (2014) detailed and summarized, respectively, a large and increasing population of Egyptian Geese in southeastern Florida: 1200+ birds, occupying 1900 mi² from Martin County south through Miami-Dade County during 2012-2013. More than 75 breeding observations were tallied, most of them recently. In August 2014, the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee (FOSRC) voted 6-1 to add the Egyptian Goose to the Florida list as an established exotic, having determined that it met the Committee's 15-year persistence criterion and that the birds constitute a stable or increasing population that occupies a range sufficiently large to survive "major perturbations" such as hurricanes or habitat disruptions. Egyptian Geese have been present in Martin County since 1993-1994. Also in August 2014, the ABA CLC (Pranty et al. 2014) voted 8-0 to add the species to the ABA Checklist and referred to another small population (300 birds), in Orange County, California. The California Bird Records Committee has not yet considered adding this species to their state list. Egyptian Geese are also present in Arkansas, central Florida, Texas, and elsewhere, but none of those populations is regarded as established. Pranty et al. (2014) also mentioned that established exotic populations (up to 11,000 birds in The Netherlands) are widespread in Europe.

It seems pretty clear that this species warrants being included on the main list, and it fits the criteria established by both the FOSRC and the ABA CLC.

Recommendation:

We recommend that the species be added to the Main Check-List as an established exotic.

English-name: We know of no other widely used name other than Egyptian Goose.

Position on Check-List:

Dickinson and Remsen (2013) placed the monotypic genus *Alopochen* just before *Tadorna* (shelducks), but no *Tadorna* is on the Main List (*Tadorna ferruginea* is in the Appendix). Madge and Burn (1988) placed *Alopochen* immediately after *Tadorna*. The closest species on the Main List are swans (*Cygnus*). We haven't carefully researched other phylogenies within waterfowl for other linear sequences and will leave placement to the Committee.

Effect on Check-List: We suggest the following Supplement entry:

P. xxx, after the account for xxx, insert:

Genus ***ALOPOCHEN*** Stejneger

Alopochen Stejneger, 1885, in Kingsley, Standard Nat. Hist., **4**, p. 141. Type, by subsequent designation (Oberholser, 1918, Journ. Washington Acad. Sci., **8**, p. 572), *Anas aegyptiaca* Linnaeus.

Alopochen aegyptiaca (Linnaeus)

Anas aegyptiaca Linnaeus, 1766, Syst. Nat., ed. 12 **1**, p. 197 (Egypt)

Habitat.--In sub-tropical Africa, inland freshwater rivers and near lakes and pools; in Florida and Europe, where introduced, managed aquatic habitats (parks, golf courses, etc.).

Distribution.--Resident in Africa south of the Sahara, and north along the Nile to about Aswan Dam, Egypt. Some northward movement during the wet season. Formerly found north to the Danube Valley (until early 18th century).

Casual north to Israel, Cyprus, Malta and the Red Sea coast of Arabia.

Introduced in Martin County, Florida, in 1993-1994, and now established in southeast Florida (some 1200 birds as of 2012-2013; Pranty and Ponzio 2014). A small population is present in Orange County, California, and scattered individuals have been noted elsewhere in North America. Also introduced and established in parts of western Europe, notably Great Britain and The Netherlands.

Literature Cited:

Pranty, B. and V. Ponzio. 2014. Status and distribution of Egyptian Geese (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*) in southeast Florida. Florida Field Naturalist 42:91-107.

Pranty, B., J. Barry, J. L. Dunn, K. L. Garrett, D. D. Gibson, M. W. Lockwood, R. Pittaway, and D. A. Sibley. 2014. 25th Report of the ABA Checklist Committee 2013-1014. Birding 46:26-36.

Submitted by: J. L. Dunn and D.D. Gibson

Date of proposal: 19 March 2015

Add Demoiselle Crane (*Anthropoides virgo*) to the Appendix

Background:

From 30 September 2001 to 18 February 2002 an adult Demoiselle Crane wintered with Sandhill Cranes in California in the vicinity of Lodi and Staten Island, San Joaquin County. Later, probably the same individual was photographed on 2 May 2002 with Sandhill Cranes near Smithers, British Columbia, and almost certainly the same bird was photographed at Gustavus, southeastern Alaska, on 13-14 May 2002 (Hamilton et al. 2007, Howell et al. 2014). Published photos of the bird in California appear in Hamilton et al. (2007), including a color photo on page 277, figure 320.

The California Bird Records Committee (CBRC) reviewed this record, which ultimately was not accepted (suspect origin) on a 3-7 vote (Dunn voted for it). Arguments against included that the species was not unusual in captivity. A query by CBRC on 10 March 2005 to the International Species Information System found a total of 83 captive Demoiselle Cranes at zoos and other participating institutions in North America, including six in San Diego County, three in Arizona, and one in Washington; further, between May 2003 and 2 June 2004 a color-banded escapee from Aylmer, Ontario (near the north shore of Lake Erie), was sighted as far west as the Holiday Beach Conservation Area, roughly 160 miles west of Aylmer and not far from Detroit, Michigan (Hamilton et al. 2007). Doubters thought a truly wild Demoiselle Crane had a better chance of turning up on the Great Plains, where most subspecies of the Sandhill Crane, including the breeding population in the Russian Far East, occur on migration. Shortly after the “non-acceptance” vote, the CBRC added the species to the Supplemental List (meaning species of uncertain natural occurrence). Basically, the list includes species that the CBRC felt had merit, but were uneasy about putting them on the Main List. Species automatically qualify for this list if they receive a majority of accept votes during the vote, or if not (as with Demoiselle Crane), can be placed on this list at a meeting by majority vote.

As for sightings of what was likely the same bird, British Columbia did not have a rarities committee at that time (they may have just recently established one); the Alaska Checklist Committee agreed with the identification (Gustavus photos, which surfaced several years after the event), but they have not entertained a proposal to accept the species as a natural occurrence.

It is worth nothing that Howell et al. (2014) included the species in the main section of their book, where they pointed out that it is highly migratory and that it has occurred as

a vagrant as close to North America as Kamchatka. (Hooded Crane *Grus monacha* was relegated to their Appendix B – species of hypothetical occurrence).

In researching this motion we noted records of this species scattered throughout Western Europe, although some (most?) are questioned on origin. It has occurred as far north as Scandinavia and the Orkney Islands. Beyond the nesting range in Russia the species straggles to “Podolia, southern Chernigov Region, Poltava, Smolensk and northern Chkalov regions, Kustanai vicinity, Krasnoyarsk area, Lena R. valley at 61 20’ degrees N lat., and around Verkhoyansk and Vladivostok” (Dement’ev and Gladkov 1951).

Recommendation:

We recommend that this species be added to the Appendix of the Check-List. A determining criterion for inclusion on this list is not clear, but the Appendix seems to be pretty inclusive. Dunn voted for the record in the CBRC and feels a case for its having been a wild, natural occurrence can be made. In any event, the record is accepted and published within the main text of Howell et al. (2014) and for that reason alone the species belongs in our Appendix.

English name:

Every reference we have seen refers to this species as the Demoiselle Crane.

Position on Check-List:

No other member of the family Gruidae is currently listed in the Appendix, so linear position of this entry is simple: Gruidae are listed between Rallidae and Charadriidae and thus (in 7th Check-list Appendix) follow Purple Swamphen and precede Pied Lapwing. *But if* there is to be a reference to this species in linear sequence *in text* of AOUC, life gets complicated. Peters (1934) and Voous (1973) listed *Anthropoides* following *Grus*; Dickinson (2003) listed *Anthropoides* preceding *Grus*. Dickinson and Remsen (2013) did not recognize *Anthropoides*, merging it in *Grus* (while removing *Grus canadensis* to the genus *Antigone*) and listing *G. virgo* before *Grus americana* and *G. grus* – which is, in turn, a reversal of the sequence in 7th AOU Check-list. (At least Dickinson and Remsen [2013] listed *Antigone* preceding *Grus* – so among cranes known in our area Sandhill Crane, either in *Grus* or in *Antigone*, would still be listed first, as currently listed by AOU.) Del Hoyo et al. (1996), Krajewski et al. (2010—cf. Dickinson and Remsen 2013), and Howell et al. (2014) recognized *Anthropoides*. We note that Svensson (2009) moved Demoiselle Crane from *Anthropoides* to *Grus* and listed it following *G. grus*. We have tentatively retained this species in *Anthropoides*, but will be interested to hear from others on the subject.

Effect on Check-List: We suggest the following Supplement entry:

p. 691, after the account for *Rallus aquaticus*, insert:

Anthropoides virgo Linnaeus. Demoiselle Crane

Anthropoides virgo , Linnaeus, 1758. Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758, p. 141. (“In Oriente” = India).

Breeds from roughly the Black Sea across Central Asia to Manchuria (formerly northwest Africa and Balkans); winters in India and central and east Africa south of the Sahara. One was found and photographed wintering with Sandhill Cranes near Lodi and Staten Island, San Joaquin County, California, from 30 September 2001 to 18 February 2002; probably the same individual was photographed later near Smithers, British Columbia, on 2 May 2002, and again probably the same bird was photographed at Gustavus, southeast Alaska, during 13-14 May 2002 (Hamilton et al. 2007, Howell *et al.* 2014). The species was placed on the Supplemental List, indicating uncertain origin, by the California Bird Records Committee. It is not rare in captivity in North America, and previous escapes are known. On the other hand, the species is highly migratory, and it has occurred as a stray throughout Western Europe, north to the Orkney Islands and Scandinavia, and to over 61 degrees north in Russia.

Literature Cited:

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Submitted by: J. L. Dunn and D.D. Gibson

Date of proposal: 19 March 2015

Add Hooded Crane (*Grus monacha*) to the Appendix

Background:

Pranty et al. (2014) detailed “what may have been the same, wandering adult ... photographed over a 22-month period in Idaho (April 2010), Nebraska (April 2011), Tennessee (December 2011-January 2012), and Indiana (February 2012). Records committees in Indiana (6-1 vote), Nebraska (8-0 vote), and Tennessee (5-1) accepted the records as representing a natural vagrant or vagrants; the Idaho committee has not voted.” These committees thoroughly researched the issue, in particular the issue of the number and status of all Hooded Cranes held in captivity in North America. Their research indicated that some 25 Hooded Cranes were held in 13 registered facilities in various states, but that earlier more had been held, some of which had been sent to private holders who were not identified. For those that were known, four disappeared from a farm at Payette, Idaho, in late 2007. These cranes were apparently banded and surgically pinioned. The Nebraska committee therefore concluded they could not account for any of the various records of free-flying birds. A color photo of the Indiana sighting appears in Pranty et al. (2014).

After acceptance by the various states, the record was submitted to the ABA CLC and circulated three rounds, the tallies being 4-4, 2-6, and 3-5 in favor of natural vagrancy. The reasons for the dissenting and affirmative votes are detailed by Pranty et al. (2014). Both Dunn and Gibson, then members of the ABA CLC, voted against it. Our reasons were/are basically that this species is a relatively short-distance migrant and doesn't get that far south. It is true that Sandhill Cranes, a few of which winter annually in Kyushu, at Arasaki, associate with Hooded Cranes, but there is no suggestion that Japanese-wintering Sandhill Cranes ever migrate to North America (taking with them a Hooded Crane). The main movement is south through the Korean Peninsula to their wintering grounds in Kyushu, Japan; the species is casual even in Hokkaido. There has not been an Alaska report.

Recommendation:

We recommend the species be added to the Appendix. Arguments about origin are often vexing because there is no right or wrong answer. Kimball Garrett (*in* Pranty et al. 2010) says it best: “[a]case where we all agree that the ‘truth’ is probably unknowable, and that the split vote simply reflects our individual feelings about likelihood of natural vagrancy vs. likelihood of a human transport/escape. My point of view is no more (or less?) valid than the points of view of those in support of the record, merely putting different weight on different things.” Despite the fact that the records were accepted by

three states, the ABA CLC did not endorse the various states' decisions. Because of that we think that the proper place to detail these records is in the Appendix.

English name:

All that we have seen list this species as the Hooded Crane.

Position on Check-List:

Dickinson and Remsen (2013) listed Hooded Crane following Common Crane (*Grus grus*). For our Appendix it would now be inserted after (?) Demoiselle Crane (*Anthropoides virgo*).

Effect on Check-list: We suggest the following Supplement entry:

p. 691, after the account for *Anthropoides virgo*, insert:

Grus monacha Temminck

Grus monacha Temminck, Pl. col., livr. 94, 1835, pl. 555. (Hokkaido and Korea.)

This species breeds in Siberia from the Lake Baikal region southeast to northwest Manchuria. Most winter in Kyushu, Japan, but some winter in South Korea, southern Honshu, and eastern China. Casual in Hokkaido, northern Southeast Asia, and Sakhalin. Sightings from Idaho (April 2010), Nebraska (April 2011), Tennessee (December 2011-January 2012), and Indiana (February 2012), perhaps all of the same bird, are detailed by Pranty et al. (2014). Though accepted by three states' rare bird committees (not yet reviewed by Idaho committee), the origin of these records was questioned by the American Birding Association's Checklist Committee (Pranty et al. 2014). The issue of origin (wild versus escape) is best considered unresolved at this time.

Literature Cited:

Pranty, B., J. Barry, J. L. Dunn, K. L. Garrett, D. D. Gibson, M. W. Lockwood, R. Pittaway, and D. A. Sibley. 2014. 25th Report of the ABA Checklist Committee 2013-2014.

Submitted by: J. L. Dunn and D.D. Gibson

Date of proposal: 19 March 2015

**Change the English name of *Anthus rubescens* from
American Pipit to Buff-bellied Pipit**

Background:

The English name for what we now know as the American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*) has a tangled history within the AOU. In the 1st (AOU 1886) and 2nd editions (AOU 1895) it was called the American Pipit. In the 3rd edition (1910) it was just called the Pipit. In the 4th edition (AOU 1931), the edition that included English names for all recognized subspecies, *Anthus spinoletta rubescens* became known again as American Pipit. By the 5th edition (AOU 1957), the English name for the species, and the one that was used in the Old World, became Water Pipit, and that name carried through the 6th edition (AOU 1983). Studies in the Old World in the 1980s resulted in the splitting of *Anthus spinoletta* into three species, the Old World Rock Pipit (*A. petrosus*), Water Pipit (*A. spinoletta*), and a third species, which is found in the Old World and the New World (*A. rubescens*). The AOU (1989) adopted this split and restored American Pipit as the English name for *A. rubescens*. Old World authorities, on the other hand, adopted the English name Buff-bellied Pipit, which is now used in all Old World treatments of these birds.

What we now recognize as *Anthus rubescens* is composed of a New World grouping of subspecies (*rubescens* and *alticola*; *pacificus* is still recognized by some) and an Old World group (*japonicus*) that strays regularly to Alaska and casually to the west coast of North America. It is found not only in eastern Asia, but breeds west to the eastern portion of Taimyr, several thousand miles west of Chukotka in the Russian Far East. It winters widely, mostly in Japan and eastern China, but some as far west as the Middle East.

Asian *A. r. japonicus*

The Asian subspecies is distinct morphologically in basic plumage and can be fairly easily identified in the field, but in alternate plumage it is quite similar to nominate *rubescens*, being separated by, on average, a more densely streaked breast, and especially by the pale legs. But some *japonicus* have darker legs, and some *rubescens* have paler legs. Certain recognition of any alternate plumaged bird in the breeding season from regions where either could occur (e.g., Bering Sea islands) is problematic. Various genetic studies (Zink et al. 1995) and Voelker (1999) have suggested that the groups (*rubescens* and *japonicus*) be treated as separate species.

When turning to the issue of separating these two groups as species, a brief reading of the thorough treatment by Alström and Mild (2003) should discourage any enthusiasm

for that approach. For starters it is entirely unclear whether our *rubescens* breeds in northeast Russia, a region where both the *rubescens* group might come into contact with *japonicus*. Some say yes, others say no, and Alström and Mild (2003), who summarized the distributional treatments by various authorities, joined the latter camp in referring to all Old World representatives as *japonicus*. They concluded: “we have not seen any *rubescens* anywhere in Asia, neither in the field nor in museums, so we firmly believe that if it occurs at all it must be very rare.” Given the difficulties of separating (with certainty) alternate plumaged birds, a suggested course to resolve this issue, might be to collect a series in northeast Russia (e.g., from Chukotka) in early August after the prebasic molt but before any fall migrants might have arrived. Timing such a trip and surmounting what would likely be significant logistical hurdles is perhaps one reason it hasn’t been done, nor is likely to be done anytime soon. Suffice it to say resolving the issue of whether *japonicus* is or is not a species is likely to be unresolved in the near and distant future.

It may well be that the calls differ, and Alström and Mild (2003) described calls of *japonicus* that do indeed sound different from typical *rubescens*. Indeed Dunn has heard (in former years when the ears were sharper!) birds (which also showed a more streaky breast and had yellow legs) at St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, that sounded higher and shriller (but this is all anecdotal as no specimens were taken or tape recordings made of their calls). On the other hand Paul Holt, a very sharp and respected birder with vast experience in Asia and in North America, feels that the calls are very similar (pers. comm.). More troubling is the statement by Alström and Mild (2003) that the calls of *japonicus* may be geographically variable and that some calls are shared within all subspecies of what is known as *A. rubescens*.

Suffice it to say, separating *japonicus* from *rubescens* as separate species is a quagmire. But let’s stipulate that the split is a possibility down the road. Even if we adopt the English name used widely in the Old World, Buff-bellied Pipit, and *japonicus* is later split, Buff-bellied Pipit is still a better name for the North American group than it would be for Asian *japonicus*. This is because, except for a short period of time in late winter and late summer when birds are worn/faded, our North American races of this species are indeed buff bellied, often intensely so. On the other hand, *japonicus* is white bellied throughout the year, except for the brief breeding season. Keep in mind too that the thousands of European birders that have studied *Anthus rubescens* in the field as strays to Europe, have studied vagrants from North America (*A. r. rubescens*), not from Asia (*japonicus*). The English name they use—Buff-bellied Pipit—is for our birds (*A. r. rubescens*).

Recommendation:

We recommend adopting the descriptive English name for *A. rubescens* that is used throughout the Old World, Buff-bellied Pipit. We encourage this not because of any effort to be accommodating to the BOU, or anyone else, but because it is a better name. American Pipit, despite its earlier usage by the AOU, is misleading, as much of its range (*japonicus*) is in Asia. Moreover, Buff-bellied Pipit is an excellent descriptive name for our North American group of races for this species. If and when *japonicus* is ever split, then we might suggest Japanese Pipit as the English name for that taxon as it complements the specific epithet, and the subspecies is common and widespread in Japan in winter. It is much more numerous and widespread in Japan than *Bombycilla japonica*, the Japanese Waxwing, another species that does not breed in Japan.

As to the justification, keep it simple, we are adopting an English name that enjoys widespread usage and is found widely in the Old World as well as in 'America.'

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Submitted by: J. L. Dunn and D.D. Gibson

Date of proposal: 19 March 2015

Split Northern Harrier *Circus hudsonius* from Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus***Background:**

The Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* was long treated as an exclusively Palearctic species, with the Northern Harrier (formerly Marsh Hawk) *C. c. hudsonius* as a full species in the Nearctic, until Hartert (1914), who did not provide any explicit justification beyond brief comparisons, treated *hudsonius* as a subspecies of *cyaneus*. [There was however a much earlier period during which several ornithological works treated *hudsonius* as conspecific with or a variety of *cyaneus*, e.g. Wilson and Bonaparte (1831) and Coues (1877).] Hartert's (1914) treatment was evaluated by Oberholser (1919), who stated

“An examination of a large series of both these birds has been made with the object of determining the desirability of this change, with the following result...All the characters that separate *Circus hudsonius* from *Circus cyaneus* are clearly but average, with the exception of the spots on the posterior under surface, which appear to be nearly, if not quite, always present to a greater or less extent in the former bird. There are, however, occasional specimens of *Circus hudsonius*, which in this respect so closely approach the unspotted condition of *Circus cyaneus*, and some of *Circus cyaneus* so much like *Circus hudsonius*, that a trinomial designation best serves to express the relationship now existing between the two birds. This is apparently one of those cases of a subspecies which is in about the last stages of complete specific segregation, and which in the course of time will be entirely distinct. At present, however, our Marsh Hawk should probably stand as *Circus cyaneus hudsonius* (Linnaeus).”

Nevertheless, the AOU continued to treat *hudsonius* as a separate species in the 4th edition (1931), but that same year it was lumped into *cyaneus* by Peters (1931), without elaboration, and this change was then accepted in the AOU's 19th supplement (according to Avibase).

Since then, the subspecific status of *hudsonius* has been universally accepted, at least until recently. However, the facts that immatures of both sexes and adult male *hudsonius* are (typically) diagnosably distinct from *cyaneus* in plumage, and that *hudsonius* appears in Britain and Ireland as a rare vagrant (BBRC 2015), have led to considerable discussion of the plumage differences and taxonomy of these taxa (e.g., Grant 1983, Thorpe 1988, Dobson and Clarke 2011). The taxonomic treatment of the Cinereous Harrier *Circus cinereus* as a full species has, by contrast, remained relatively stable and uncontroversial, although, along with *hudsonius*, it was treated as a variety of *cyaneus* (Coues 1877).

New information:

Wink et al. (1998) considered that their molecular results indicated that *C. cyaneus* and *hudsonius* (written as *hudsoni* [sic] in the Abstract and text, and *hydsoni* [sic] in Fig. 5b) have reached species level (according to the Abstract), while the text states that *hudsonius* “is already well separated” from *cyaneus* and “might represent a distinct species”. In a follow-up paper, Wink and Sauer-Gürth (2004) found 1.7% sequence divergence between *cyaneus* and *hudsonius*, which were sister species in their phylogeny, whereas *C. cinereus* was distantly related to this pair, but closely related to *C. maurus* of South Africa.

A new paper by Oatley et al. (2015) used sequences of one mitochondrial and three nuclear loci of all species and subspecies of the genus *Circus* (the first such comprehensive molecular phylogeny for the group). They found slightly lower (1.1%) sequence divergence between *cyaneus* and *hudsonius*, but *contra* the Wink and Sauer-Gürth (2004) study, they recovered a sister relationship between *hudsonius* and *cinereus*, with *cyaneus* being sister to this clade. This result, which is better supported than that in the Wink papers, implies that *hudsonius* and *cyaneus* should not be considered conspecific unless *cinereus* is included as well. The specific distinctness of *cinereus* has not been controversial, and it is well-differentiated in plumage (primarily in the heavily dark-barred underparts of both sexes as opposed to lightly chestnut-spotted underparts in male *hudsonius* and unspotted white underparts in male *cyaneus*; females of neither *hudsonius* nor *cyaneus* are barred below). Vocally all three taxa appear to be very similar, based on limited study (Rasmussen and Anderton 2005 compared *hudsonius* and *cyaneus*; xeno-canto was consulted for recordings of *cinereus*).

All three taxa are strictly allopatric in the breeding season, although the breeding ranges of *cyaneus* (east to eastern Siberia) and *hudsonius* (west to western Alaska) do approach each other. They are also allopatric in the non-breeding season, and vagrants tend to be first-winter birds.

Subsequent treatments:

Several recent authors (Simmons 2000; Ferguson-Lees and Christie 2001; Rasmussen and Anderton 2005; Brazil 2009; del Hoyo and Collar 2014; Gill and Donsker 2015) have split or followed others in splitting *hudsonius*. Dickinson and Remsen (2013) maintained *hudsonius* as a subspecies of *C. cyaneus*, stating that *hudsonius* may merit treatment as a separate species.

Effect on AOU-CLC area:

Acceptance of the proposed split would result in a different specific name being used for one species (*hudsonius*), along with a more limited range statement. It may also result

in the necessity of a new species account for *C. cyaneus sensu stricto*. A partial salvaged specimen (distal right wing only; UAM 9062) from Attu, June 1999, was identified on wing chord length as a juvenile male *C. c. cyaneus* (Gibson et al. 2013). If the split of *hudsonius* is accepted, then this is the first (only?) specimen evidence for the species *C. cyaneus sensu stricto* from North America. Given the importance of this record, its identity should be verified.

Circus [cyaneus] hudsonius has been recorded extraliminally in Britain and Ireland, where all the older records have been considered doubtful but a few new ones accepted (BBRC 2015); it has also been recorded in Japan (mainly Hokkaido; Brazil 2009).

The English name need not be affected, as Northern Harrier has never been widely accepted for the Hen Harrier (but some confusion would certainly ensue anyway if it continues to be used only for *hudsonius* in the event of a split). There is no good, obvious, well-established alternative name—Marsh Hawk doesn't indicate generic relationships, and it courts confusion with the marsh harriers, which are not closely related.

Recommendations:

- (1) I recommend splitting *Circus hudsonius* from *C. cyaneus*, although the evidence is not unequivocal.
- (2) If split, I recommend continuing to use the name Northern Harrier for *C. hudsonius*.

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Submitted by: Pam Rasmussen, Michigan State University

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Revise generic boundaries in the *Buteo* group

This would revise generic boundaries extensively in *Buteo* and *Leucopternis*. It is a recycled version of SACC proposal [460](#), which I recommend looking at if only to see the comments from Fabio Raposo, David Mindell, Bill Clark, Bret Whitney, and SACC members.

Background & New Information:

For several years, we've had plenty of indication that the current boundaries of the genera *Buteo*, *Leucopternis*, and relatives in our current classification are a mess. Raposo do Amaral et al. (2009) produced a comprehensive phylogeny of buteonine hawks, and their data will form the primary basis for this proposal. Findings from earlier papers (see Notes below) are largely consistent with Raposo do Amaral et al. (2009) and will not be discussed further. Two of the relevant Notes from the SACC classification are now as follows:

12a. Genetic data (Raposo et al. 2006, Lerner et al. 2008, Raposo do Amaral et al. 2009) indicate that the genus *Leucopternis*, as traditionally defined, was polyphyletic; "*Leucopternis*" included at least three distinct groups that are not each others' closest relatives: (1) *L. melanops*, *L. kuhli*, and *L. semiplumbeus*; (2) *L. albicollis*, *L. occidentalis*, and *L. polionotus*; (3) *L. plumbeus*, *L. schistaceus*, *L. lacernulatus*, which are intermingled within a group with *Buteogallus* and *Harpyhaliaetus*; and (4) *L. princeps*, whose placement is uncertain. Raposo do Amaral et al. (2009) recommended placing *princeps* in a monotypic genus *Morphnarchus*, *plumbeus* in a new monotypic genus *Cryptoleucopteryx*, *schistaceus* in *Buteogallus*, and *lacernulatus* in a new monotypic genus *Amadonastur*. [SACC proposal](#) passed to restrict *Leucopternis* to group 1 above, and to resurrect *Pseudastur* for group 2. [SACC proposal](#) passed to recognize a new genus, *Cryptoleucopteryx* Raposo do Amaral et al., for "*L.*" *plumbeus* and to transfer *schistaceus* and *lacernulatus* to *Buteogallus*.

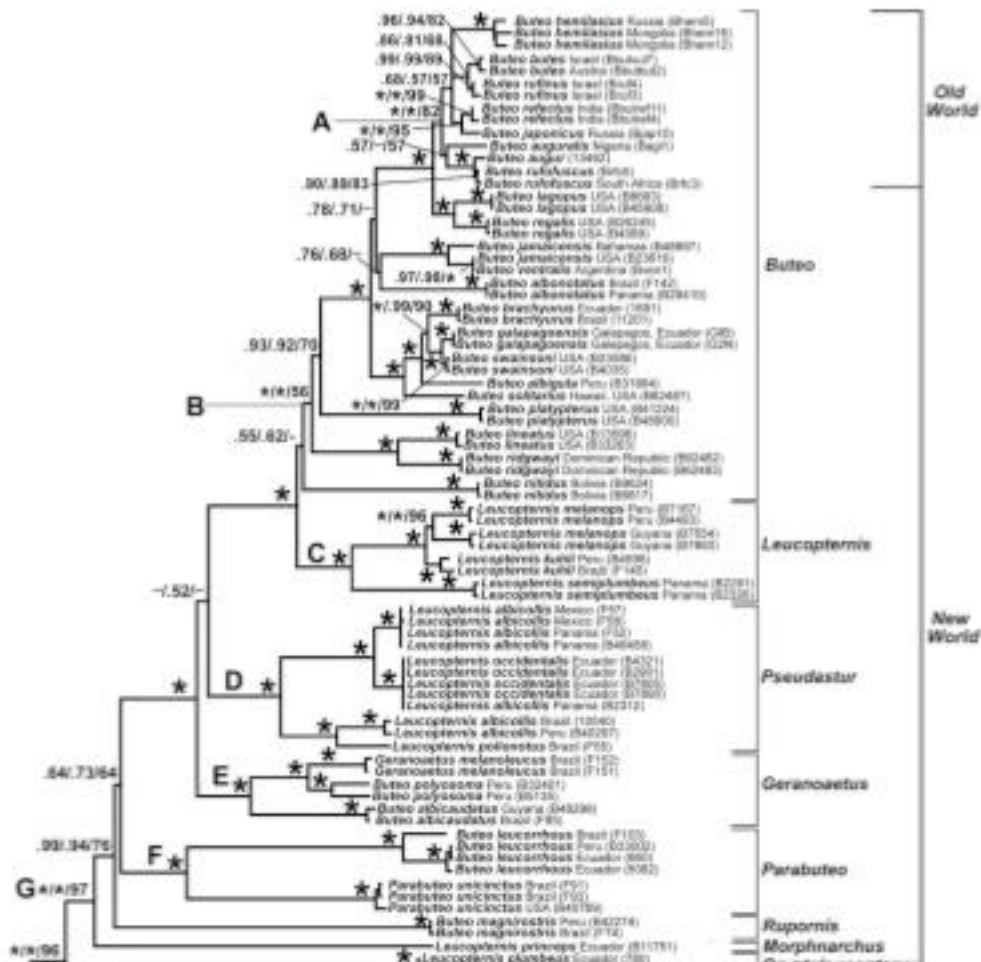
We already addressed this in 2011-B-5, and implemented changes in the 53rd Supplement (Auk 2012), specifically recognizing *Cryptoleucopteryx* for "*Leucopternis*" *plumbeus*, *Morphnarchus princeps* for "*Leucopternis*" *princeps*, and *Pseudastur albicollis* for "*Buteo*" *albicollis*." Thus, *Leucopternis* was restricted (in NACC area anyway) to *L. semiplumbeus*. We did not, however, deal with additional problems in our current *Buteo*, as noted in part in the other SACC footnote:

18. Genetic data (Riesing et al. 2003) indicate that *Geranoaetus* is the sister taxon to *Buteo polyosoma*/*B. poecilochrous* and that maintenance of a monotypic genus is not warranted; it had been placed in *Buteo* formerly (e.g., Wetmore 1933, Hellmayr & Conover 1949, Friedmann 1950), but recent authors have generally followed Amadon (1963), who suggested that it might be closer to *Buteogallus* or

Leucopternis than to *Buteo*. Clark (2006) disputed Amadon's rationale for maintaining it as a genus separate from *Buteo*. [SACC proposal to merge *Geranoaetus* into *Buteo* did not pass](#). New genetic data (Lerner et al. 2008) provide even stronger evidence for merger of *Geranoaetus*, at least as currently defined, because it is the sister species to *B. polyosoma*. [SACC proposal to merge *Geranoaetus* into *Buteo* did not pass](#). Raposo do Amaral et al. (2009) further confirmed that *Geranoaetus* is the sister to *Buteo polyosoma* sensu lato. [SACC proposal passed to expand *Geranoaetus* to include *polyosoma* and *B. albicaudatus*](#).

Raposo do Amaral et al.'s (2009) taxon sampling (105 specimens, 54 species) and gene sampling (6000 bp of 9 genes, mitochondrial and nuclear) is exemplary. I doubt that anyone will produce a better data set anytime soon. This proposal deals only with their Group G, whose monophyly has excellent support; the relevant portion of their tree (from their Fig. 3) is pasted in here (sorry for the poor resolution of the screen grab; I strongly recommend the original pdf, which I can send to anyone who wants it):

Amaral, F.A. et al. / Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution 53 (2009) 703–715



The *Buteo* group itself (Group G) is strongly supported as a monophyletic group as is sister relationship to the *Buteogallus* group (Group H). It includes everything in our current classification in *Buteo* plus *Parabuteo*, *Geranoaetus*, and most *Leucopternis* (minus the 4 species that are part of Group H; see Proposal [459](#)).

Analysis and Recommendation:

Virtually every critical node in Group G's tree has strong support. Our current *Buteo* and *Leucopternis* are both polyphyletic, and so changes must be made, and we have already dismembered *Leucopternis* by restricting it to *semiplumbeus*. That leaves our current broadly defined *Buteo* a non-monophyletic group, so action is required, specifically, as recommended by Raposo do Amaral et al. (2009), and followed by SACC and Dickinson & Remsen (2013):

1. Resurrect *Rupornis* for *magnirostris* (Roadside Hawk). *Rupornis* was merged into *Buteo* by Peters (1931).

[2. Does not directly affect NACC - Include extralimital "*Buteo*" *leucorrhous* in *Parabuteo*. Although this relationship has not been noted previously as far as I know, the two are fairly similar in plumage: overall very dark, with white rump and undertail coverts and brown thighs.]

3. Transfer *albicaudatus* (White-tailed Hawk) to *Geranoaetus*.

Thus, *Buteo* would become restricted to *B. nitidus*, *B. lineatus*, *B. ridgwayi*, *B. platypterus*, *B. solitarius*, *B. brachyurus*, *B. swainsoni*, *B. albonotatus*, *B. jamaicensis*, *B. lagopus*, and *B. regalis*

Thus, the sequence of species and genera in this section of the Accipitridae would be as follows:

Morphnarchus princeps Barred Hawk (already implemented in 53rd Suppl)

Rupornis magnirostris Roadside Hawk

Parabuteo unicinctus Harris's Hawk (no change)

Geranoaetus albicaudatus White-tailed Hawk

Pseudastur albicollis White Hawk (already implemented in 53rd Suppl)

Leucopternis semiplumbeus Semiplumbeous Hawk (no change)

Buteo (with indentations used to reflect branching pattern in tree)

Buteo nitidus Gray Hawk

Buteo lineatus Red-shouldered Hawk
Buteo ridgwayi Ridgway's Hawk
Buteo platypterus Broad-winged Hawk

Buteo solitarius Hawaiian Hawk
Buteo brachyurus Short-tailed Hawk
Buteo swainsoni Swainson's Hawk

Buteo albonotatus Zone-tailed Hawk
Buteo jamaicensis Red-tailed Hawk

Buteo lagopus Rough-legged Hawk
Buteo regalis Ferruginous Hawk

Literature Cited:

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

Submitted by: Van Remsen

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