

## N&MA Classification Committee: Proposals 2013-C

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**Return Hawaii Creeper *Oreomystis mana* to the genus *Loxops*****Description of the problem:**

We currently place two species in the genus *Oreomystis*, the type species the Akikiki *O. bairdi* and the Hawaii Creeper *O. mana*. Despite similarities in ecology, behavior, and tongue morphology, the osteology of *O. mana* has indicated a close relationship with the akepas *Loxops* spp. and amakihis *Hemignathus* spp. (in part) (James 2004), and it has often been included with them in an expanded version of *Loxops* (e.g., James and Olson 1991, James 2004; cf. Amadon 1950, Bock 1970). Studies of mtDNA (Fleischer et al. 1998, 2001) also supported a close relationship between *O. mana* and the akepas, and a study focused on *Oreomystis* using nuclear DNA (four introns and one exon) indicated that *O. mana* is closely related to the akepas and amakihis (these groups formed a polytomy with *O. mana*) and only distantly related to *O. bairdi* (Reding et al. 2009). Reding et al. concluded that the similarities of the two *Oreomystis* species were the result of convergent evolution. They further stated: “Based on our and previous results, we recommend the removal of the Hawaii creeper from the genus *Oreomystis*. The statistical polytomy among the Hawaii creeper, amakihis and akepas (figure 2), however, makes the relationships among those three groups unclear. Further research will be needed before we can say whether the Hawaii creeper deserves a monotypic genus (which would require a new name) or can be classified within an existing one.”

**New information:**

Shortly after the publication of Reding et al., Pratt (2009) described the new genus *Manucerthia* for the species formerly known as *Oreomystis mana*, based on its distant relationship with *O. bairdi*, the ambiguity of its relationship with the akepas and amakihis, and the need for a working taxonomy of the Hawaiian honeycreepers. Subsequently, Lerner et al. (2011), using whole mitochondrial genomes and 13 nuclear loci, confirmed that the two species of *Oreomystis* are distantly related and determined that the Hawaii Creeper is sister to the akepas (*Loxops*) and that the clade *O. mana* + *Loxops* is sister to the amakihis. Bayesian support for the clade consisting of *O. mana* and the two species of *Loxops* was 1.00 (whereas that for the monophyly of *Loxops* exclusive of *O. mana* was 0.81).

**Recommendation:**

We have three possible courses of action. The first is to leave *O. mana* in the genus *Oreomystis*; given its distant relationship with true *Oreomystis* (*O. bairdi*) this is a poor option. The other two options are to place *O. mana* in the new monotypic genus *Manucerthia* or to return *O. mana* to *Loxops*. At this point I recommend adopting a conservative approach and returning *O. mana* to *Loxops* rather than placing it in *Manucerthia*. This species has often been placed in *Loxops* in the past, on morphological grounds, and the results of Lerner et al. indicate that a *Loxops* consisting

of *L. caeruleirostris*, *L. coccineus*, and *L. mana* is a well-supported and cohesive genetic unit. I recommend that recognition of the genus *Manuceria* be reconsidered as part of a complete revision of the honeycreepers, following publication of genetic data for key rare and extinct species (e.g., the type species of *Hemignathus* and *Drepanis*), studies of which are ongoing.

**Literature cited:**

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**Submitted by:** Terry Chesser

**Date of proposal:** 28 Apr 2013

**Split White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis* into 2, 3, or 4 species****Description of the Problem:**

*Sitta carolinensis* is a polytypic species that occurs as a common resident in woodlands of North America. The number of recognized subspecies varies from 7 (Grubb and Pravosudov 2008) to 11 (Phillips 1986). Subspecies fall into three distinct “call groups”:

- (1) Eastern *carolinensis* group – *S. c. carolinensis* plus 3 additional subspecies (*S. c. atkinsi*, *S. c. litorea*, *S. c. cookie*) not recognized by Grubb and Pravosudov (2008);
- (2) Interior Montane (incl. Baja California) *nelsoni* group – *S. c. tenuissima*, *S. c. nelsoni* (including *S. c. uintaensis* and *S. c. oberholseri*), *S. c. mexicana* (including *S. c. umbrosa* and *S. c. kinneari*), and *S. c. lagunae*;
- (3) Pacific *aculeata* group – *S. c. aculeata* and *S. c. alexandrae*.

In addition to vocalizations, subspecies vary in bill size and shape as well as plumage coloration (Phillips 1986, Harrap and Quinn 1996, Grubb and Pravosudov 2008).

**New information:**

The first phylogeographic study of this species (Spellman and Klicka 2007) used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) to investigate its evolutionary history. This study sampled 216 individuals and found four geographically structured, reciprocally monophyletic clades that coincide with the distribution of regional pine and oak woodlands: (1) Eastern (*carolinensis* group), (2) Pacific (*aculeata* group), (3) Eastern Sierra Nevada plus northern Rocky Mountains (*nelsoni* group, in part), and (4) Rocky Mountains, Great Basin, and Mexico (*nelsoni* group, in part). The Eastern and Pacific clades are sisters that were estimated to split from the other two clades ~ 1.4-3.4 million years ago. The split between Eastern and Pacific clades was estimated at 630,000 to 1.6 million years ago, with the final split (Eastern Sierra Nevada/Northern Rockies vs. Rockies/Great Basin/Mexico) estimated at 250,000-640,000 years ago. Spellman and Klicka (2007) proposed that populations of *S. carolinensis* evolved *in situ* in regional pine-oak communities as a result of habitat fragmentation and isolation in refugia. Recent secondary contact between populations from the Central two clades (Eastern Sierra Nevada/Northern Rockies and Rockies/Great Basin/Mexico) was evident in three populations (Black Hills, SD; Mono Craters, CA; Spring Mountains, NV).

More recently, Walstrom et al. (2012) followed up on this previous study with a multi-locus analysis of *S. carolinensis*. This study analyzed 56 individuals from 7 localities spread throughout the range of the species, for 19 nuclear loci. These data recovered the same four clades, but with Eastern as basal to (Pacific (E Sierras/N Rockies, S Rockies/Great Basin/Mexico)). Although contemporary ecological niche models showed

overlap for western populations, and expansion with secondary contact appears to have happened since the Last Glacial Maximum, the authors argued that mixing of mtDNA haplotypes most likely reflects ancestral polymorphism and not recent migration. Specifically, they state: "...reproductive isolation is strong among the groups and supports the biological species status of these evolutionary significant units. However, to determine whether the structuring between groups is not an artifact of sampling, a rigorous study of the zones of contact between groups is warranted to determine if selection against hybridization is occurring."

### **Recommendation:**

There are four nested options:

- 1) recognize four species that correspond to the clades identified by molecular data: Eastern (*carolinensis*), Pacific (*aculeata*), Eastern Sierra Nevada/Northern Rockies (*nelsoni*), and Southern Rockies/Great Basin/Mexico (*lagunae*)
- 2) recognize three species that correspond to the vocal groups and three of the molecular clades: Eastern (*carolinensis*), Pacific (*aculeata*), Eastern Sierra Nevada/Northern Rockies plus Southern Rockies/Great Basin/Mexico (*lagunae*, which has priority over *nelsoni*)
- 3) recognize two species that correspond to two of the molecular clades, recognizing that there are secondary contact zones between the western populations that deserve further study: Eastern (*carolinensis*), Western (*aculeata*; includes Pacific, Eastern Sierra Nevada/Northern Rockies, Southern Rockies/Great Basin/Pacific)
- 4) maintain the status quo and continue to treat all populations as a single species

My recommendation is to recognize two species - Eastern and Western. I think that there is sufficient evidence to support this is split based on differences in mtDNA, nuclear genes, and voice. However, the committee should vote on options 1 through 4.

I am hesitant to support a further split of western populations until the contact zones are studied. Grinnell and Miller (1944) noted intergradation of *S. c. aculeata* (Pacific clade) and *S. c. tenuissima* (Eastern Sierra Nevada clade). They also show contact between *S. c. aculeata* and *S. c. nelsoni* in northeastern California. There are morphological and vocal differences between "Pacific" and "Central" groups, but further study is needed in the contact zones to assess reproductive isolation.

If any of the proposals to split *Sitta carolinensis* pass, I welcome suggestions on English names for discussion by the committee.

### **Literature Cited:**

Grinnell, J. and A. H. Miller. 1944. The Distribution of the Birds of California. Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 27. Cooper Ornithological Club, Berkeley, California.

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**Submitted by:** Carla Cicero

**Date of proposal:** 30 Apr 2013

**Adopt new English names for *Artemisospiza belli* and *A. nevadensis***

Now that we have voted to split Sage Sparrow into two species, we need to consider English names for the daughter species. The usual rule for such splits is to coin new names for all daughters to prevent confusion between one of the daughters and the parental species, reserving the original name for reference to the combined daughters. But this isn't the usual split but rather a return to a 2-species treatment used by AOU (1931), which Dick and I both remember as if it were only yesterday.

A brief history of the English names:

Ridgway (1901) – 1 species:

- A. belli* (no overall English name)
  - A. b. belli* = Bell's Sparrow
  - A. b. cinerea* = Gray Sage Sparrow
  - A. b. nevadensis* = Sage Sparrow

AOU (1931) – 2 species:

- A. belli* (no overall English name)
  - A. b. belli* = Bell's Sparrow
  - A. b. cinerea* = Gray Sage Sparrow
- A. nevadensis* (no overall English name)
  - A. n. nevadensis* = Northern Sage Sparrow
  - A. n. canescens* = California Sage Sparrow

AOU (1957) and subsequent AOUCLs – 1 species:

- A. belli* = Sage Sparrow (no English names for subspecies)
  - A. b. nevadensis*
  - A. b. canescens*
  - A. b. belli*
  - A. b. clementae*
  - A. b. cinerea*

Rather than create a couple of novel, compound names, I think this is a case in which we could consider breaking the usual rule and retaining two, simpler, traditional names, Sage Sparrow and Bell's Sparrow, as in much of the earlier literature. No, it's not a clean lump/split/re-lump/re-split because we now place *canescens* in *A. belli* rather than with *nevadensis* as in AOU (1931), but nonetheless, Bell's Sparrow has quite a long history in the literature as being associated with the westernmost species or subspecies. Besides, longer compound names are not popular in most circles.

This would also have the advantage of retaining “Sage” for the species whose habitat is predominately “the” sage for most of us, i.e. *Artemisia tridentata*, Big Sagebrush, and would also emphasize the importance of conservation of Big Sagebrush. (I recognize that there are other sages in the habitat of Bell’s, of course, but most of us think first of *Artemisia tridentata* whenever we hear “sage.”)

A YES vote would be for use Bell’s Sparrow and Sage Sparrow as the English names. A NO would be for something else, including possibly the California Sage-Sparrow and Great Basin Sage-Sparrow (not that hyphens would be required) of the original proposal.

**Submitted by:** Van Remsen

**Date of proposal:** 1 May 2013

**SUBSEQUENT MODIFICATION (14 May 2013):** Joe Morlan proposed that we use Sagebrush Sparrow instead of Sage Sparrow. I think this is a terrific idea, and initial feedback is highly positive. This addresses the problem of one of the daughter species retaining the parental name (although as noted above, this is not as much of a problem as it usually is). Also, it is more accurate botanically in that it unambiguously refers to the main plant in its habitat, *Artemisia tridentata*, rather than the more general “Sage”, which to many people could just as easily refer to *Salvia*.

## Change the linear sequence of families in the Charadriiformes

### Description of the problem:

Our current sequence of families in the Charadriiformes is: Burhinidae, Charadriidae, Haematopodidae, Recurvirostridae, Jacanidae, Scolopacidae, Glareolidae, Laridae, Stercorariidae, Alcidae.

### New Information:

Over the past decade, considerable strides have been made in resolving family-level relationships in the Charadriiformes (e.g., Ericson et al. 2003, Paton et al. 2003, Fain and Houde 2007, Paton and Baker 2006, Baker et al. 2007). With the publication of Baker et al. (2012), which resolved some remaining uncertainties, we now have a robust, multilocus phylogeny of the Charadriiformes and can undertake what will likely be a very stable rearrangement of the Charadriiformes families, as follows:

#### [Charadrii]

- Burhinidae
- Recurvirostridae
- Haematopodidae
- Charadriidae

#### [Scolopaci]

- Jacanidae
- Scolopacidae

#### [Lari]

- Glareolidae
- Stercorariidae
- Alcidae
- Laridae

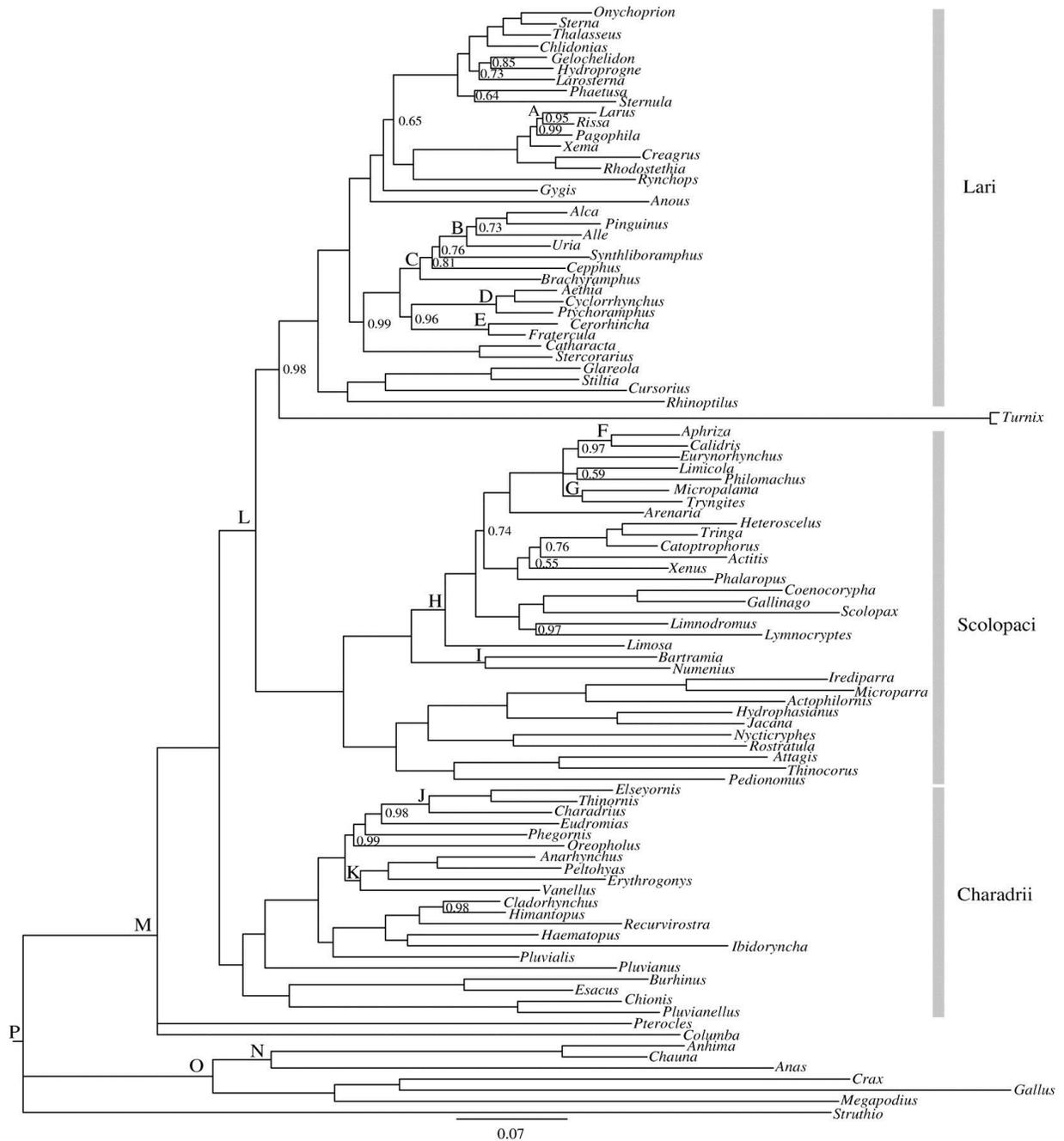
This sequence follows from Baker et al. (2007) and Baker et al. (2012), and is also supported in key parts by earlier molecular work (Ericson et al. 2003, Paton et al. 2003, Fain and Houde 2007, Paton and Baker 2006). This sequence was mostly adopted by the BOU (Sangster et al. 2012). Where we differ is in lumping Sternidae and Rynchopidae within Laridae, which we had already done and which seems the only acceptable course given the data of Baker et al. (2007).

### Recommendation:

Support this rearranged linear sequence to follow the now robust evidence of family relationships in the Charadriiformes.

### Appendix: Phylogeny from Baker et al 2007, as modified in Correction published 2008

Figure 1. Bayesian tree for Charadriiformes genera. Letters A to P indicate nodes for which fossil or molecular time constraints were used to estimate divergence times (see table 2 in electronic supplementary material). Numbers at nodes are posterior probabilities (PP), which are not indicated if PP = 1.0. Nodes with PP < 0.5 are collapsed.



**Literature cited:**

- Baker, A. J., S. L. Pereira, and T. A. Paton. 2007. Phylogenetic relationships and divergence times of Charadriiformes genera: multigene evidence for the Cretaceous origin of at least 14 clades of shorebirds. *Biology Letters* 3: 205-209. (correction in *Biology Letters* 4: 762-763).
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- Paton, T. A., and A. J. Baker. 2006. Sequences from 14 mitochondrial genes provide a well-supported phylogeny of the Charadriiform birds congruent with the nuclear RAG-1 tree. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 39:657-667.
- Sangster, G., M. Collinson, P.-A. Crochet, A. G. Knox, D. T. Parkin, and S. C. Votier. 2012. Taxonomic recommendations for British birds: eighth Report. *Ibis* 154:874-883.

**Submitted by:** Kevin Winker, University of Alaska Museum

**Date of proposal:** 5 May 2013

**Transfer Providence Petrel *Pterodroma solandri*  
from the Appendix to the main list**

**Description of the problem:**

This species was added to the Appendix based on reports from Hawaii, and off California and Washington. None of these are perhaps acceptable (but see below for the fall Washington record) and most (or nearly all) pertain to Murphy's Petrel (*Pterodroma ultima*).

**New information:**

On 6 October 2009 a bird well-photographed 28 nautical miles off Tofino (from Clayoquot Canyon), Vancouver Island, British Columbia, and thought initially to have been a Murphy's Petrel, was re-identified as a Providence Petrel. This report was submitted to the ABA Checklist Committee (there is currently no British Columbia records committee), but after two circulations (six accepts, one reject and one non-vote) it did not quite receive the necessary votes for acceptance. While the Committee was considering what to do with the British Columbia report, another report was submitted of 10+ birds about 55 mi (86 km) north-northwest of Attu Island, Aleutian Islands. Several birds were photographed. These sightings were published by Cooper and Mackiernan (2012). The record was accepted unanimously by the Alaska Checklist Committee in November 2011, and it was subsequently accepted by the ABA Checklist Committee (acceptance published in their 2012 report, *Birding* 44:28-33). The ABA CLC did not revisit the British Columbia report.

The record off Attu Island was not surprising, as earlier reports from this region were detailed by Cooper and Mackiernan (2012). These include at least nine, possibly as many as 18, Providence Petrels identified on 23 September 2006 by M. J. Iliff in Russian waters about a half-day's sail from the U.S. maritime border. This area was close to where Cooper and Mackiernan saw an estimated 50 on 16 September 2011. They also noted two in this general area in May of 2007. Although movements of this species are poorly known, these birds have long been conjectured to be trans-Equatorial migrants, and it appears that many reach the northwestern Pacific. Cooper and Mackiernan (2012) speculated that these birds are regular visitors off Kamchatka south of the Commander Islands and that they range into U.S. waters at least on occasion. We note that the species has also been recorded from the waters off Honshu (*Orn. Soc. Japan* 2012:54). Given that this is one of the more remote pelagic regions off North America, it could well be that they are of annual occurrence in the waters well off the western Aleutians.

As for the Washington record, a bird seen and photographed 11 September 1983 by T. R. Wahl, Cooper and Mackiernan (2012) stated that the Washington Bird Records Committee has now accepted it. The ABA Checklist Committee did not independently

review it (nor have we), but we note in passing that is at least from the fall period, at which season Murphy's Petrel seems to be nearly absent from waters off North America. The birds photographed off Attu show all features consistent with Providence Petrel, most especially the prominent dark tips to the greater primary coverts that contrast sharply with the white-based primaries. The British Columbia bird shows this feature too, and most of the ABA Checklist Committee accepted that report as a Providence Petrel primarily for that reason. Others worried that structurally the bird did not look convincing, notably because the bill was a bit small.

### **Recommendation:**

We recommend that this species be transferred from the Appendix to the main list. Based on the September 2011 photos from U.S. waters off Attu Island, the evidence is conclusive that these birds are Providence Petrels.

Following Dickinson (2003), we recommend inserting the species immediately following Great-winged Petrel (*Pterodroma macroptera*).

***Pterodroma solandri*** (Gould). Providence Petrel.

*Procellaria Solandri* Gould, 1844, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, p. 57 (Australia = Bass Strait.)

**Habitat.**—Pelagic waters; nests in burrows and rock crevices, mostly on forested slopes and mountain summits on islands.

**Distribution.**—Breeds primarily on Lord Howe Island, off Australia. Small numbers also breed on Philip Island off Norfolk Island; formerly bred on Norfolk Island.

*Ranges* at sea in the Tasman Sea (some year-round) south to Tasmania; a few reach New Zealand waters. At least some of the population are trans-equatorial migrants and appear to be regular in the northwest Pacific from off Japan to southern Kamchatka.

Recorded (status uncertain, but possibly regular, especially in fall) on 15 September 2011, about 86 km north-northwest of Attu Island, Aleutian Islands – 10+ individuals (many photographed) were noted (Cooper and Mackiernan 2012). Photos from off Westport, Washington, on 11 September 1983, and off Tofino, British Columbia, on 23 September 2006, might also pertain to this species.

**Notes.**—Also known as Solander's Petrel.

### **Literature cited:**

Cooper, B.E., and G. B. Mackiernan. 2012. First record of Solander's Petrel (*Pterodroma solandri*) for Alaska. *North American Birds* 65:704-708.

Ornithological Society of Japan. 2012. Check-list of Japanese Birds. Seventh revised ed. OSJ.

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

**Date of proposal:** 6 May 2013

**Transfer Fea's Petrel *Pterodroma feae* from the Appendix to the main list****Description of the problem:**

This species has had a rather long, some would say sordid, history from the North American side. It currently resides in the Appendix and until recently no records were accepted as anything other than Fea's (*P. feae*)/Zino's (*P. madeira*) Petrel. The two were thought to be inseparable with certainty in the field. Whichever species the North American occurrences pertain to (principally off North Carolina in spring), they are now recorded annually, and reports must number near 100.

**New information:**

Recently, and after publication of very detailed at-sea field identification by Shirihai et al. (2010), the ABA CLC revisited the issue, reviewing a G. L. Armistead photo of a very-large-billed bird off Hatteras, North Carolina, on 20 May 2007. Fea's Petrel was accepted on the North American list by the ABA CLC and the Armistead photo was published in their 2012 report (Birding 44:28-33). Briefly, in terms of field identification, Zino's differs from Fea's by being slightly smaller and having a finer bill; some Zino's have a whitish band on the median underwing coverts, unlike any Fea's. The Armistead photo is not the only individual photographed off North America with a large bill, but this one formed the trigger for acceptance by the ABA CLC. Given the much larger population of Fea's than of Zino's, it is likely that most North American records pertain to Fea's, but Howell (2012) accepted a Zino's Petrel off Hatteras, North Carolina, on 16 September 1995. That individual does indeed have a distinct white bar on the underwing and does appear finer-billed than Fea's. To our knowledge the North Carolina Bird Records Committee has not yet reviewed this report, nor has it been reviewed by the ABA CLC.

While the ABA CLC has now accepted Fea's Petrel on the North American list, there is an additional looming issue. Fea's breeds in two locations quite removed from each other. The more northerly one is Bugio Island in the Desertas chain off Madeira, while the other is the Cape Verde Islands. (Zino's breeds in the highlands of Madeira Island and is critically endangered.) The two Fea's populations differ in nesting phenology. The Bugio birds lay eggs in July-August, while the Cape Verde Islands population lays eggs in December-January. Additionally, Robb and Mullarney (2008) employed spectrogram analyses to identify significant differences in vocalizations. Based on those results, Robb and Mullarney (2008) recognized those two populations as separate species – Fea's Petrel (*P. feae*) and Desertas Petrel (*P. deserta*) [Matthews, 1934. Bull. Brit. Orn. Club 54:179—Desertas Islands]. There are no known field characters to separate them (Cape Verde Island birds average smaller in several measurements and have a narrower bill). Geolocator data from birds of Bugio Island, Desertas, show that a number of individuals reach North American waters, as well as waters off northeast South

America (Ramírez et al. 2013). This involves only birds from Bugio Island, for now, but perhaps they haven't yet put geolocators on Cape Verde Island birds.

### **Recommendation:**

We recommend that Fea's Petrel (*sensu lato*) be accepted on the main list of North American birds. Authorities are in agreement that these very-large-billed birds, such as the one photographed by Armistead off North Carolina, are not Zino's. Shirihihi et al. (2010) did caution though that there are many intermediate birds that should not be identified. As to whether or not to recognize the two populations of Fea's Petrels as separate species, that issue does not need to be decided now, thankfully, but one wonders how different the issues are with this pair of possible cryptic species as opposed to, say, the former Dark-rumped Petrel (*Pterodroma phaeopygia*) with well separated populations from the Hawaiian Islands (*sandwichensis*) and the Galapagos Islands (nominated *phaeopygia*) and now treated as separate species.

We are not sure if it is worth noting that this species is sometimes called by the English name Cape Verde Petrel (e.g. Dickinson 2003), a misleading name because part of the population is on the Cape Verde Islands – not at Cape Verde, mainland west Africa.

In the 7<sup>th</sup> edition Appendix, the species is inserted preceding Defillippe's Petrel (*Pterodroma defilippiana*) in the Cook's Petrel group, so it would seem appropriate to insert it preceding Cook's Petrel (*Pterodroma cookii*).

***Pterodroma feae*** (Salvadori). Fea's Petrel.

*Oestralata feae* Salvadori, 1899, Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova 40: 305. (San Nicolas Island, Cape Verde Islands.)

**Habitat.**—Pelagic waters; nests in burrows or crevices on islands.

**Distribution.**—Breeds on the Cape Verde Islands and on Bugio Island in the Desertas Islands; possibly also on the Azores. Ranges at sea in the eastern North Atlantic, at least casually north to the United Kingdom.

Rare (but annual) in western Atlantic waters off North America; most records are in late spring and are from off North Carolina, but documented north to Nova Scotia and reported south to Georgia. Accidental inland in Virginia following Hurricane Fran (1996).

**Notes.**—This North Atlantic species and *Pterodroma madeira* Mathews [Zino's Petrel] were separated from *P. mollis* by Bourne (1983). The two geographically well separated populations of *P. feae*, from Cape Verde Island and the Desertas Islands, have been treated as separate species – *P. feae* [Fea's Petrel] and *P. deserta* Mathews [Desertas Petrel], respectively – on the basis of differences in nesting phenology and vocalizations (Robb and Mullarney 2008). Fea's Petrel (*sensu lato*) is also known as Cape Verde Petrel.

### **Literature cited:**

Dickinson, E. C. (ed.). 2003. The Howard and Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World. Third ed. Princeton Univ. Press, Princeton, New Jersey.

- Howell, S.N.G. 2012. Petrels, Albatrosses & Storm-Petrels of North America. Princeton University Press.
- Ramírez, I., Paiva, V. H., Menezes, D., Silva, I., Phillips, R. A., Ramos, J. A. and Garthe, S. 2013. Year-round distribution and habitat preferences of the Bugio petrel. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 476: 269–284.
- Robb, M, and K. Mullarney. 2008. Petrels night and day: A Sound Approach Guide. The Sound Approach.
- Shirihai, H. V. Bretagnolle, and F. Zino. 2010. Identification of Fea's, Desertas, and Zino's Petrels at sea. *Birding World* 23:239-275

**Literature added to 7<sup>th</sup> Check-list:**

- Bourne, W. R. P. 1983. The Soft-plumaged Petrel, the Gon-gon and the Freira, *Pterodroma mollis*, *P. feae* and *P. madeira*. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 103:52-58.
- Robb, M, and K. Mullarney. 2008. Petrels night and day: A Sound Approach Guide. The Sound Approach.

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

**Date of proposal:** 6 May 2013

**Add Double-toothed Kite *Harpagus bidentatus* to the U.S. List**

A second-year bird was photographed at High Island, Texas, on 4 May 2011 by D. Hanson. At the time Hanson thought he was photographing a Cooper's Hawk, but others viewed the full-frame photos and identified the bird as a Double-toothed Kite, an opinion that has been widely collaborated by a number of raptor experts. The record was accepted in April 2012 by the Texas Bird Records Committee (TBRC) – the identification was accepted unanimously; one member dissented on the issue of origin. We should add that there is no question about the provenance of the photos. Martin Reid accompanied Hanson to Boy Scout Woods at High Island, where he pointed out the branch the bird had been perched on, the same branch visible in the photos. The details of the sighting, along with a photo were published in the 23<sup>rd</sup> report of the ABA Checklist Committee (Dunn et al. 2012). The same photo was published in NAB 65:564. The record was accepted unanimously the ABA CLC.

**Recommendation:**

We recommend that this species be added to the U.S. list. There is no question of the identification, only of origin. Since the species is not used for falconry and is essentially unknown in captivity, the TBRC and the ABA CLC overwhelmingly judged this bird to be a genuine vagrant rather than an escape from captivity. As to how it got to High Island, it might have come up the Texas coast or it might have crossed some portion of the Gulf of Mexico. In regards to the latter possibility, there is an intriguing comment by ffrench (1991) that most records from Trinidad are January to June, "so possibly it migrates to the mainland." There has been recent commentary in the pages of North American Birds about sightings from migrant hawk watch spots in Central America, but at the moment we cannot locate a precise reference.

After the short paragraph on the resident distribution, add a new paragraph as follows:

Accidental on the upper Texas Coast, one second-year bird was photographed on 4 May 2011 at High Island, Texas (Dunn et al. 2012).

**Literature cited:**

Dunn, J. L., D. D. Gibson, K. L. Garrett, M. J. Iloff, M. Lockwood, R. Pittaway, D. Sibley, and K. J. Zimmer. 2012. 23<sup>rd</sup> report of the ABA Checklist Committee. *Birding* 44:28-33.

ffrench, R. 1991. *A guide to the birds of Trinidad & Tobago*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Comstock Publishing Associates, a division of Cornell University Press.

**Literature added to 7<sup>th</sup> Check-list:**

Dunn, J.L., D.D. Gibson, K. L. Garrett, M. J. Iliff, M. Lockwood, R. Pittaway, D. Sibley, and K. J. Zimmer. 2012. 23<sup>rd</sup> report of the ABA Checklist Committee. *Birding* 44:28-33.

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

**Date of proposal:** 6 May 2013

**Add Rosy-faced Lovebird *Agapornis roseicollis* to the main list  
as an established exotic species**

Native to southwestern Africa, this species is now established in the greater Phoenix region (mostly on the east side) of southern Arizona. It was first noted at Mesa in 1987 and by the mid-1990s local flocks and colonies had spread throughout the eastern half of the greater Phoenix metropolitan area. Now the birds are widely established (about a 625 square mile area) and most of the population is centered in the greater Phoenix area. A few have also been seen near Punkin Center, along Tonto Creek in Gila County, as well as in the Tucson area. Details of this species' introduction, its spread, and its current status can be found in Corman and Wise-Gervais (2005), and see especially in Rademaker (2011). The species was added by unanimous vote in December 2011 by the Arizona Bird Committee and was accepted by seven members (the eighth non-voting) of the ABA Checklist Committee (Dunn et al. 2012)

**Recommendation:**

We recommend that the species be added to the main list of the Check-list. It clearly is established in the greater Phoenix area. The species is pretty well tied to exotic plantings and especially to water, so a spread into the adjacent Sonoran desert seems unlikely.

There is the issue of the English name, but Rosy-faced Lovebird seems to be the most widely used name these days. An alternative English name is Peach-faced Lovebird. Frankly the color of the face and throat looks more peach than rosy to our eyes, but that's just an observation. We favor Rosy-faced Lovebird to conform to more popular and contemporary usage, but we admit to not having exhausted recent references to confirm this. A quick check finds that Rosy-faced Lovebird is used by Newman (1983), Fry et al. (1988), and Dickinson (2003). On the other hand Juniper and Parr (1998) did call it Peach-faced Lovebird. For alternative English names they mentioned Rosy-faced Lovebird, Rosy-headed Lovebird, and Rose-ringed Lovebird.

Following Dickinson (2003) in placing *Agapornis* with other Old World psittacine genera, the ABA CLC placed the Rosy-faced Lovebird after *Melopsittacus* (Budgerigar). The NACC also lists Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) in the main list, a species not yet accepted by the ABA CLC. Dickinson (2003) and Juniper and Parr (1998) inserted *Agapornis* after *Melopsittacus*, but they differed on where to place *Agapornis* in relation to *Psittacula*. Juniper and Parr (1998) placed *Agapornis* preceding *Psittacula*, while Dickinson (2003) placed it immediately following. Tentatively we have followed Dickinson (2003).

After the account for Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) on page 232-233, insert:

Genus **AGAPORNIS** Selby

*Agapornis* Selby, 1836, Nat. Libr., Parrots, p. 117. Type, by subsequent designation (G. R. Gray, List Gen. Bds., 1840, p. 53), *Psittacus swinderianus* Kuhl.

***Agapornis roseicollis*** (Vieillot). Rosy-faced Lovebird.

*Psittacus roseicollis* Vieillot, 1817 (1818), Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat. 25: 377. (Interior of the Cape of Good Hope.)

**Habitat.**—Non-native plantings in deserts and residential neighborhoods; appears restricted to areas near water; in southwest Africa a variety of habitats including dry wooded country, sub-desert steppe, savanna woodland, woodlands along rivers and cultivated lands.

**Distribution.**—Southwest Africa from Angola and Namibia to northwest South Africa.

Introduced and established in the greater metropolitan Phoenix area, Arizona. Released individuals first noted in 1987; local flocks and colonies established by the mid-1990s. Now widely present in the Phoenix region, a few individuals having been additionally noted near Punkin Center, along Tonto Creek in Gila County, and in the Tucson area (Corman and Wise-Gervais 2005, and Radamaker and Corman 2011).

**Literature cited:**

- Corman, T.E. and C. Wise-Gervais, eds. 2005. Arizona Breeding Bird Atlas. University of New Mexico Press.
- Dickinson, E.C. 2003. Ed. The Howard and Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Princeton University Press.
- Dunn, J. L., D.D. Gibson, K. L. Garrett, M. J. Iliff, M. Lockwood, R. Pittaway, D. Sibley, and K. J. Zimmer. 2012. 23<sup>rd</sup> report of the ABA Checklist Committee. *Birding* 44:28-33.
- Fry, C.H., S. Keith, and E. K. Urban (eds.). 1988. The Birds of Africa, vol. III. Academic Press Limited.
- Juniper, T., and M. Parr. 1998. Parrots. Yale University Press.
- Newman, K. 1983. Newman's Birds of Southern Africa. MacMillan South Africa.
- Radamaker, K. A., and T. E. Corman. 2011. Status of the Rosy-faced Lovebird in Phoenix, Arizona. Arizona Birds Online 2011:1-7 ([tinyurl.com/PhoenixLovebird](http://tinyurl.com/PhoenixLovebird)).

**Literature to be added to the 7<sup>th</sup> edition:**

- Corman, T.E., and C. Wise-Gervais, Eds. 2005. Arizona Breeding Bird Atlas. University of New Mexico Press.
- Radamaker, K.A., and T.E. Corman. 2011. Status of the Rosy-faced Lovebird in Phoenix, Arizona. Arizona Birds Online 2011:1-7 ([tinyurl.com/PhoenixLovebird](http://tinyurl.com/PhoenixLovebird)).

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

**Date of proposal:** 6 May 2013

**Transfer *Nandayus nenday* from the Appendix to the main list  
and change English name to Nanday Parakeet**

**Description of the problem:**

This species is currently listed in the Appendix under the English name Black-hooded Parakeet. The account detailed introductions in peninsular Florida and in southern California. A population on Coney Island, Brooklyn, New York, has since disappeared.

**New information:**

Research by Pranty and Lovell (2004) indicated that a large and thriving population of this species was found in the peninsula of Florida (primarily central Gulf coast) and indicated that it should be added to both the Florida and North American lists. The Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee added the species to their main list in 2004 (Bowman and Greenlaw 2006), but the species was narrowly rejected by the ABA CLC in 2006 when two committee members were concerned that the established range (then estimated at 150 mi<sup>2</sup>) was not yet sufficient to recognize the species as an established exotic (Pranty et al. 2006). Pranty and Lovell (2011) provided additional information on the species' population size and range in Florida, both figures having increased since the first ABA CLC vote. Numbers during the Christmas Counts of December 2011-2012 totaled 1002 individuals, and the range along the central peninsular Gulf Coast was mapped at 750 mi<sup>2</sup>. In addition, a separate population of perhaps 350-400 birds now occupies an estimated 490 mi<sup>2</sup> along the state's southern Atlantic Coast. It is most numerous on the Gulf Coast in southern Pinellas County.

Elsewhere, about 300 individuals are now found in coastal southern California (Pranty and Garrett 2011), most appearing to be in southern Ventura and in Los Angeles Counties. The California Bird Records Committee has not yet added this species to the California list as an established exotic.

The species was accepted by the ABA CLC in 2012 (Dunn et al. 2012).

**Recommendation:**

We recommend that this species be transferred from the Appendix (p. 693) to the main list. It continues to spread in Florida, and for that matter in California too, and it would seem at this stage that it is only a matter of time before it is added to the California list, as it has been added to the Florida list. Pranty (above) has done a great deal of research on this and other exotic species that thrive in that fair weather state called Florida. He is conservative in his approach and suggests additions only when the evidence is compelling (guidelines for adding a new exotic species are listed in the more recent editions of the ABA Checklist).

There is also the matter of the English name. Most (SACC, and Dickinson 2003) now call this species Nanday Parakeet. But the NACC used Black-hooded Parakeet in the 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. We suggest an English name change to conform to more widespread recent usage, including the SACC. Juniper and Parr (1998) called this species Black-hooded Conure and included Nanday Conure, Black-masked Conure, and Black-hooded Parakeet as alternative English names.

The SACC, Dickinson (2003), and Juniper and Parr (1998) agree in inserting *Nandayus* following *Aratinga*. We recommend inserting the new account after *Aratinga pertinax* (Brown-throated Parakeet) the following wording:

Genus **NANDAYUS** Bonaparte

*Nandayus* Bonaparte, 1854, Rev. et Mag. Zool. (2), 6: 150. Type, by monotypy, *Psittacus melanocephalus* Vieillot (not of Linné) = *Psittacus nenday* Vieillot.

***Nandayus nenday*** (Vieillot). Nanday Parakeet.

*Psittacus nenday* Vieillot, 1823, in Bonnaterre and Vieillot, Tabl. Encycl. Méth. (Ornithol.) 3 (93): 1400. (Paraguay.)

**Habitat.** – Various non-native plantings in Florida and in southern California, where it is also partial to native sycamore trees; in South America partial to palm groves and rather open forests.

**Distribution.** – Central-southern South America from southwestern Brazil and southeastern Bolivia to central Paraguay and northern Argentina.

Introduced and established in peninsular Florida primarily from the central Gulf Coast region (largest populations in Pinellas County) with fewer on the southern Atlantic Coast. First releases detected in 1969 and considered established by 2004 (Pranty and Lovell 2004), with additional spreading by 2011 (Pranty and Lovell 2011). A small population has recently been detected (Pranty and Garrett 2011) in coastal southern California (primarily southern Ventura and Los Angeles counties), but those birds are not yet considered established. The species is rare and local in Puerto Rico (introduced probably in the early 1970s), where found primarily along the northeast coast. A stray from that population, or a local escape, was noted on St. Croix, Virgin Islands.

A small population that existed at Coney Island, Brooklyn, New York, has now disappeared. Escaped birds have been widely reported elsewhere in the United States.

**Literature cited:**

- Bowman, R., and J.S. Greenlaw. 2006. Fifteenth report of the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee: 2003-2005. Florida Field Naturalist 34:69-102.
- Dickinson, E. C. (ed.). 2003. The Howard & Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Princeton University Press.

Dunn, J. L., D. D. Gibson, K. L. Garrett, M. J. Iloff, M. Lockwood, R. Pittaway, D. Sibley, and K. J. Zimmer. 2012. 23<sup>rd</sup> Report of the ABA Checklist Committee. *Birding* 44:28-33.

Juniper, T., and M. Parr. 1998. *Parrots*. Yale University Press.

Pranty, B. and H.W. Lovell. 2004. Population increase and range expansion of Black-hooded Parakeets in Florida. *Florida Field Naturalist* 3:129-137.

Pranty, B., and H.W. Lovell. 2011. Presumed or confirmed nesting attempts by Black-hooded Parakeets (*Nandayus nenday*) in Florida. *Florida Field Naturalist* 39:75-85.

Pranty, B., J.L. Dunn, S.C. Heinl, A.W. Kratter, P. Lehman, M.W. Lockwood, B. Mactavish, and K.J. Zimmer. 2006. Annual report of the ABA Checklist Committee: 2006. *Birding* 38(6):20-24.

Pranty, B., and K.L. Garrett. 2011. Under the radar: Non-countable exotic birds in the ABA Area. *Birding* 43(5):46-59.

South American Check-list Committee on-line 2013.

**Literature additions to 7th Check-list:**

Pranty, B. and H. W. Lovell. 2004. Population increase and range expansion of Black-hooded Parakeets in Florida. *Florida Field Naturalist* 32:129-137.

Pranty, B., and H. W. Lovell. 2011. Presumed or confirmed nesting attempts by Black-hooded Parakeets (*Nandayus nenday*) in Florida. *Florida Field Naturalist* 39:75-85.

Pranty, B., and K. L. Garrett. 2011. Under the radar: Non-countable exotic birds in the ABA Area. *Birding* 43(5):46-59.

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

**Date of proposal:** 6 May 2013

**Add Asian Rosy-Finch *Leucosticte arctoa* to the main list**

On 30 December 2011 one individual of this species was observed and photographed with four Snow Buntings (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) at Adak Island, Aleutian Islands, Alaska, by I. J. Helmericks, who identified the bird. The five photos and written details were considered sufficient for unanimous acceptance by the Alaska Checklist Committee in 2012; later, seven of eight (one non-voting) members of the ABA CLC voted for acceptance (Dunn et al. 2012, includes published color photo). Further details point to subspecies *brunneonucha*, the widespread proximal race.

**Recommendation:**

We recommend that this species be added to the North American main list. Further, we think that subspecies-group should be referred to, as we have indicated. In view of treatments by the NACC of *Leucosticte*, at the moment rather parsimonious towards separate species recognition of multiple closely related taxa, we think it is important to identify the subspecies-group (see 7<sup>th</sup> Check-list treatment of, e.g., *Turdus naumanni*), and we think the photos show sufficient detail to make that determination with a high degree of confidence.

As an addendum we note that the rosy-finches resident on the Commander Islands, Russian Far East, are Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches *Leucosticte tephrocotis*, not Asian Rosy-Finches (cf. Clement et al. 1993). They are *L. t. griseonucha*, the subspecies found throughout the Aleutians, the western Alaska Peninsula, and the Shumagin and the Semidi islands. The form winters to Kodiak Island (Gibson and Kessel 1997). The taxon *maxima*, described from the Commander Islands (Copper Island) by Brooks (1915), was synonymized by Hellmayr (1938).

The ABA CLC followed Dickinson (2003) in inserting this species first in the genus *Leucosticte*; thus, Asian Rosy-Finch precedes Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch.

***Leucosticte arctoa*** (Pallas). Asian Rosy-Finch.

*Passer arctous* Pallas, 1811, Zoogr. Rosso-Asiat. 2: 21. (ad Jeniseam [= Yenisei River] et in orientali Siberia = Russian Altai).

**Habitat.** – Breeds mostly on tundra or on mountains above tree-line on rocky terrain. Winters in barren and rocky fields with scattered vegetation and snow-free beaches and headlands; also open woodland.

**Distribution.** – Breeds in mountainous southern Siberia and adjacent Mongolia in the Altai and Sayans [*arctoa*, *cognata*, and *giglioli* groups] east in the southern Russian Far East to [*brunneonucha* group] Koryakland, Kamchatka, and the northern Kuril Islands; possibly breeds in the mountains of Hokkaido. Most groups largely resident within the

breeding range, with seasonal elevational movements. The eastern birds [*brunneonucha* group] are migratory, however, wintering south to Ussuriland, Manchuria, Sakhalin, and Honshu; irregularly or casually to Kyushu, Tsushima, Izu Islands, and Hachijojima Island.

Accidental at Adak Island, Aleutian Islands, Alaska; one bird [*brunneonucha* group] photographed on 30 December 2011 (photo and account in Dunn et al. 2012).

**Literature cited:**

- Brooks, W.S. 1915. Notes on birds from east Siberia and arctic Alaska. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. 59:361-413.
- Clement, P, A. Harris, and J. Davis. 1993. Finches and Sparrows. Christopher Helm Limited, a subsidiary of A & C Black Limited.
- Dunn, J. L., D. D. Gibson, K. L. Garrett, M. J. Iliff, M. Lockwood, R. Pittaway, D. Sibley, and K.J. Zimmer. 2012. 23<sup>rd</sup> Report of the ABA Checklist Committee. Birding 44:28-33.
- Gibson, D. D., and B. Kessel. 1997. Inventory of the species and subspecies of Alaska Birds. Western Birds 28:45-95.
- Hellmayr, C. E. 1938. Catalogue of birds of the Americas, part XI. Zool. Ser. Field Mus. Nat. Hist. 13 (publ. 430).

**Literature additions to 7<sup>th</sup> Check-list:**

- Dunn, J. L., D. D. Gibson, K. L. Garrett, M. J. Iliff, M. Lockwood, R. Pittaway, D. Sibley, and K. J. Zimmer. 2012. 23<sup>rd</sup> Report of the ABA Checklist Committee. Birding 44:28-33.

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

**Date of proposal:** 6 May 2013

### **Update the classification of siskins & goldfinches**

This would change the classification and nomenclature of most North American siskins and goldfinches. A similar proposal has already been passed by the SACC (see below). The name *Carduelis* would only be retained for the European Goldfinch (*C. carduelis*). *Chloris* would be retained for the greenfinches, and other AOU-area taxa in this group would be renamed *Sporagra*, or – preferably in my opinion – *Astragalinus* or *Sporagra*.

#### **Description of the problem:**

Recently, most lists have lumped members of this group into a large genus *Carduelis*. We (Chesser *et al.* 2009) returned most of the North American siskins and goldfinches to *Spinus*. Subsequently, a paper by Nguembock *et al.* (2009) suggested that the North American goldfinches (excepting the European Goldfinch and the greenfinches) are best placed in a separate genus, and *Sporagra* seems to be the best available name for at least most of the South American taxa.

#### **New Information:**

Influenced especially by Nguembock *et al.* (2009), the SACC have more or less unanimously embraced this change – *psaltria* is a bit of an outlier, and the majority of the SACC suggest that *psaltria*, *tristis*, and *lawrencei* be placed in the genus *Astragalinus*, reflecting the separation of these largely North American taxa as distinct from the South American ones (see Stiles' comments below).

#### **Recommendation:**

I recommend that we go along with their change – in general, conformity between the two groups seems a good thing, and this change seems to be solidly based. I would suggest that we follow Stiles' comment and recognize *Astragalinus* for *psaltria*, *tristis*, and *lawrencei* which are weakly identified as a clade in Arnaiz-Villena *et al.* (2007), anticipating that the integrity of this clade will subsequently be supported by any new data. I follow the general view of the SACC that the English names "Siskin" and "Goldfinch" be retained.

#### **Literature cited:**

- Arnaiz-Villena, A. V. Ruiz del-Valle, J. Moscoso, J. I. Serrano-Vela, and J. Zamora. 2007. MtDNA phylogeny of North American *Carduelis pinus* group. *Ardeola* 54: 1-14.
- Nguembock, B., J. Fjeldså, A. Couloux, and E. Pasquet. 2009. Molecular phylogeny of Carduelinae (Aves, Passeriformes, Fringillidae) proves polyphyletic origin of the genera *Serinus* and *Carduelis* and suggests redefined generic limits. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 51: 169-181.

**Submitted by:** Jim Rising

**Date of proposal:** 8 May 2013

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**Appendix:**

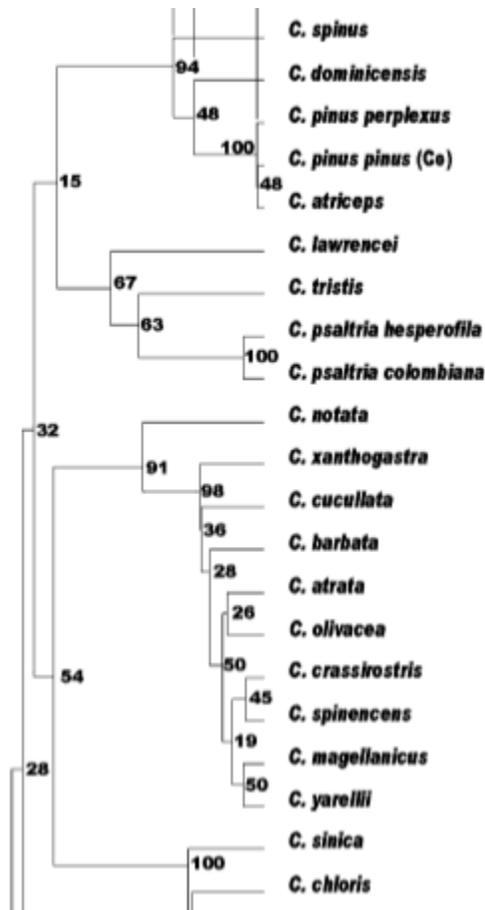
Proposal (488) to [South American Classification Committee](#)

**Resurrect *Sporagra* for South American goldfinches and siskins**

Effect on SACC: This would change the genus name from *Carduelis* to *Spinus* for all South American species in that genus (but would retain *Carduelis* for introduced *C. carduelis* and resurrect *Chloris* for introduced *C. chloris*).

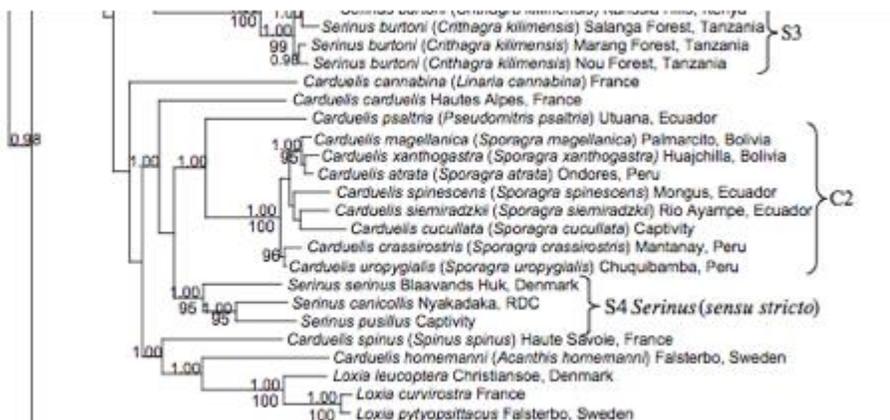
Background: These species were all in the proposed genera until Howell et al. (1968) and Mayr & Short (1970) lumped them all in one massive *Carduelis* with no explicit rationale, much less analysis or data. SACC and everyone else followed that classification.

New information: Arnaiz-Villena et al. (2007) sequenced 940 bp of cyt-B and found that broad *Carduelis* was polyphyletic. My screen grab of their complete tree is too fuzzy to be readable, so let me know if you need a pdf. Here is part of it (maximum likelihood):



The North American Classification Committee (Chesser et al. 2009) voted to restore the pre-Peters generic classification based on those data; although NACC clearly recognized that such a single-locus study has potential problems, the committee largely agreed that those new data were at least sufficient to return to the previous classification, e.g. *Spinus* for our goldfinches and siskins and *Chloris* for the greenfinches, with *Carduelis* remaining for *C. carduelis*. There's no point in repeating all the details of the NACC proposal – you can access it the [NACC proposal website](#). Note that the Neotropical taxa are in a different group from the primarily North American goldfinches (including *psaltria*).

Then, Nguembock et al. (2009) sampled 5 genes (including one nuclear, two nuclear introns, and two mitochondrial) to examine relationships of carduelines. Although their taxon-sampling was weaker for the New World than that of the previous study, their gene-sampling was much stronger. Broadly, they found similar results (e.g., only *C. carduelis* retained in *Carduelis*, *Chloris* for *chloris*) except that *Spinus* was also paraphyletic with respect to true *Serinus* and *Loxia*. [Arnaiz-Villena et al. (2007) did not sample much beyond the goldfinch-siskin group, and so their analysis would not have been able to reveal this.] Nguembock et al.'s results are below (Bayesian analysis, majority rule consensus tree, concatenated data); their analyses of single genes such as ND2 did not show the paraphyly of *Spinus*.



Here's what our current Note says:

“3. New World members of the genus *Carduelis* were formerly (e.g., Hellmayr 1938, Phelps & Phelps 1950a, Meyer de Schauensee 1966, 1970) placed in the genus *Spinus*, but recent authors (e.g., AOU 1983, 1998, Ridgely & Tudor 1989) have followed Howell et al. (1968) in merging *Spinus* into *Carduelis*. <check Ackermann J. Orn. 108: 430-473, 1967>. Recent genetic data (Arnaiz-Villena et al. 2007, Nguembock et al. 2009) found that *Carduelis* as currently constituted is not monophyletic and that resurrection of *Spinus* is required, and Chesser et al. (2009) followed this by placing all New World goldfinches and siskins in *Carduelis*. Arnaiz-Villena et al. (2007) also showed that the Neotropical species of *Carduelis* likely form a monophyletic group that might not include *C. psaltria*, which forms a strongly supported group with the two North American goldfinches, *C. tristis* and *C. lawrencei*. Nguembock et al. (2009) found that *C. psaltria* was sister to the Neotropical group (but did not sample *C. tristis* or *C. lawrencei*); they also found that *Spinus* was more closely related to *Loxia* than to the New World goldfinch-siskin group, and that the latter was more closely related to true *Serinus* (at least in their concatenated data set). Therefore, they recommended that *Sporagra* Reichenbach, 1850, be resurrected for this group.”

Nguembock et al.'s (2009) recommendation to recognize *Sporagra* was “temporary,” evidently because of missing taxa in the New World.

Recommendation: Although the data from the new analyses are not ideal, they are clearly superior to the data-less classification used previously. Minimally, we should follow NACC by resurrecting *Spinus* for the New World group. However, Nguembock et al. (2009) was not available to Chesser et al. (2009), and I think the data are sufficient for going one step further by resurrecting *Sporagra* for the South American taxa, including *psaltria*. *Sporagra* would presumably also include North American *tristis* and *lawrencei*, which were found to form a group with *psaltria* by Arnaiz-Villena et al. but with no real support, as well as any the South American endemics not sampled by one or both studies. Therefore, I recommend (YES vote) we use *Sporagra* for all species on our list except the two introduced species, *Chloris chloris* and *Carduelis carduelis* (and

*Spinus* would by implication be restricted to *spinus*, *pinus*, *atriceps*, and *dominicensis* on the NACC list). A NO vote would be to retreat to broadly defined *Spinus* (or even *Carduelis*) until more data are available.

Note on English names: If this proposal passes, then the names “goldfinch” and “siskin” not longer have any phylogenetic significance. Rather than tweak the names to reflect generic boundaries (difficult with the only “true” goldfinch being “the” goldfinch *C. carduelis*), I think it’s better for stability to just add goldfinch and siskin to the growing list of names that indicate morphotypes groups rather than phylogenetic groups.

References:

ARNAIZ-VILLENA, A., V. RUIZ-DEL-VALLE, J. MOSCOSO, J. I. SERRANO-VELA, AND J. ZAMORA. 2007. MtDNA phylogeny of North American *Carduelis pinus* group. *Ardeola* 54: 1-14.

HOWELL, T.R., R. A. PAYNTER, JR., AND A. L. RAND. 1968. Subfamily Carduelinae. Pp. 207-306 in "Check-list of birds of the World, Vol. 14" (Paynter, R. A., Jr., ed.). Museum Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass.

MAYR, E., AND L. L. SHORT. 1970. Species taxa of North American birds. Publ. Nuttall Orn. Club 9.

NGUEMBOCK, B. J. FJELDSÅ, A. COULOUX, & E. PASQUET. 2009. Molecular phylogeny of Carduelinae (Aves, Passeriformes, Fringillidae) proves polyphyletic origin of the genera *Serinus* and *Carduelis* and suggests redefined generic limits. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 51: 169–181.

Van Remsen, June 2011

Comments from Nores: “YES. It is evident in the analyses by Arnaiz-Villena et al. (2007) and Nguembock et al. (2009) that the South American species form a well-separated clade.”

Comments from Stiles: “At least a partial YES. I see no problem with *Sporagra* for the bulk of the South American species; the possible exception is *psaltria*. The A&V study places this species with *tristis* and *lawrencei* in a separate group from *Sporagra*; the N et al. study places it near *Sporagra* but the split here looks to be deep: the branch lengths between *psaltria* and the *Sporagra* group are much longer than those between *Spinus*, *Acanthis*, and *Loxia*, maintained as separate genera in this study (justifiably, in my opinion: *Loxia* in particular is highly distinctive). To be consistent with this, and assuming that more genetic data will support the close relationship of *psaltria*, *tristis* and *lawrencei* - as seems likely given the good agreement between the two studies in other aspects - it might be best to separate the latter three species from *Sporagra*, as N et al. do for *psaltria* (they didn’t sample *tristis* and *lawrencei*). They placed *psaltria* in *Pseudomitris* (type species *psaltria*). However, if these three species are indeed congeneric, as the A&V study strongly suggests, *Pseudomitris* Cassin 1865 should be

regarded as a synonym of *Astragalinus* Cabanis 1851 (type species *tristis*). Given the combined results of the two studies, I suggest that the best course would be to use *Sporagra* Reichenbach 1850 for all of the South American (exclusively Neotropical) species and *Astragalinus* for *psaltria*, *tristis* and *lawrencei*, which are North American (only *psaltria* also occurs widely in the Neotropics as well but is probably of northern origin where it is more racially and morphologically diverse; only a single subspecies occurs in South America and southern Middle America).:

Comments from Remsen: “Given Gary’s comments above, let’s change the proposal to exclude *psaltria* – that one is more appropriate for NACC to decide anyway.”

Comments from Pacheco: “YES, com as necessárias alterações sugeridas por Stiles.”

Comments from Zimmer: “YES for resurrecting *Sporagra* for all of the exclusively South American species of siskins & goldfinches. I would agree with not messing with the English names of “siskin” and “goldfinch”, recognizing that those names reflect morphotypes and not phylogenetic groups.”

Comments from Robbins: “YES. I agree with Gary’s comments concerning not including *psaltria* within *Sporagra*. Otherwise, it seems straightforward in placing the remaining Neotropical “siskins” within *Sporagra*, if indeed that is the oldest name available.”