

Taxonomic Round-up

Taxonomic revision of the Greater Antillean Pewee

A study of taped vocalisations, mensural data, and close up photographs has shown that the Jamaican, Hispaniolan and Cuba-Bahaman populations of Greater Antillean Pewee *Contopus caribaeus* should be treated as separate species. The Jamaican species has been named *C. pallidus* whilst those on Hispaniola are now *C. hispaniolensis*.

Source: *Wilson Bull.* [1993] 105: 217-227.

A new subspecies of Steller's Jay from Mexico.

Populations of Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri* are divided into two forms: the black-crested morph from Alaska to northern Mexico as far south as Jalisco, with one population (*azteca*) in central Mexico; and the blue-crested populations (surrounding *C. s. azteca*) from the mountains of southern San Luis Potosí, Guanajuato and Michoacán, south to Honduras and Nicaragua. A taxonomic revision of the blue-crested group has led to the description of a new subspecies *phillipsi* from San Luis Potosí, Guanajuato and Hidalgo, thus bringing the total to eight for the blue-crested group.

Source: *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* [1993] 113: 34-41.

The Green-throated Hummingbird complex of southern Mexico

A reassessment of the Green-throated Hummingbird *Amazilia viridifrons* complex has shown that there are three distinct subspecies. An analysis by Steve Howell, describes a new subspecies *A. v. rowleyi* from the interior of Oaxaca in the upper reaches of the Río Grande drainage. The other subspecies involved are: *A. v. viridifrons* with two disjunct populations in Guerrero and western Oaxaca, and eastern Oaxaca and western Chiapas; and *Amazilia (viridifrons) wagneri*, the "Cinnamon-sided" Hummingbird from southern Oaxaca and which may be specifically distinct.

Source: *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* [1993] 113: 179-187.

New *Cypseloides* found in Mexico

A new species of swift, the White-fronted Swift *Cypseloides storeri* has been described from four specimens obtained in Michoacán (Tacámbaro) and Guerrero (Sierra de Atoyac) in south-west Mexico at elevations of 1,500-2,500 m. Three of the specimens were found in an existing collection and had been identified as Black Swift *C. niger*. *Cypseloides storeri* is distinguished from the latter and Sooty Swift *C. fumigatus* by the combination of relatively short wings and long tarsi and from Chestnut-collared

Swift *C. rutilus* by absence of rusty-brown colouration in the male and overall larger size. In morphology, it is similar to White-chinned Swift *C. cryptus* though the head shape differs, and its plumage has a broad white frosting on the forehead, lores and chin, and whitish postorbital feathers.

Source: *Wilson Bull.* [1992] 104: 55-62. [EDS.] There is a suggestion that this form may be but a race of *C. cryptus* (Sibley and Monroe [1993] *A supplement to distribution and taxonomy of birds of the world*. New Haven: Yale University Press)

Taxonomic status of *Chlorostilbon* hummingbirds in Mexico

After examination of study skins of hundreds of *Chlorostilbon* hummingbirds, Steve Howell has recommended that the Golden-crowned Emerald *C. auriceps* of western Mexico and the Cozumel Emerald *C. forticatus*, endemic to Isla Cozumel should be reinstated as a full species. Both taxa had been treated as subspecies of the Fork-tailed Emerald *C. canivetti* in recent literature. Further work may also show that *C. c. osberti* (Guatemala to Honduras) is also distinct.

Source: *Euphonia* [1993] 2: 25-37.

[EDS.] Gary Stiles (pers. comm.) is revising the taxonomic status of the *Chlorostilbon* complex, and in a paper soon to be submitted for publication, is proposing two new species in north-western South America.

Species status of the Mexican Purplish-backed Quail-dove

The Purplish-backed Quail-dove *Geotrygon lawrencii* is known from disjunct populations in southern Veracruz, Mexico, and Costa Rica and eastern Panama. Having compared specimens from the two populations, A. Townsend Peterson has proposed that the subspecies *carrikeri* from Los Tuxtlas in southern Veracruz be considered a full species *G. carrikeri*. No vernacular name is suggested for the "Veracruz" Quail-dove, and no analysis of vocalizations is presented, although a number of differentiating characters are described.

Source: *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* [1993] 113: 166-168.

New subspecies and range extension of the Slender-billed Miner

Niels Krabbe reports finding Slender-billed Miner *Geositta tenuirostris* on the slopes of Volcán Iliniza in the northern half of Ecuador, almost 1,000 km north of the previously known range of the species (and genus). Birds were observed and two specimens collected from the western side of Planadas de Guintza in August 1990 at elevations ranging from 3,350-3,500 m. The new subspecies has been named *G. t. kalimayae*.

Source: *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* [1992] 112: 166-169.

The Argus Bare-eye: a hybrid antbird

Questions over the species status of the Argus Bare-eye "*Phlegopsis barringeri*" have finally been resolved. Gary Graves, in a recent analysis of the unique specimen collected in Nariño, Colombia, has formally suggested that this bird is in fact a hybrid between the Black-spotted Bare-eye *P. nigromaculata* and Red-winged Bare-eye *P. erythroptera*, which overlap broadly in western Amazonia. This represents the first case of hybridity in the New World suboscines.

Source: *Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash.* [1992] 105: 834-840.

A new sunangel described from 1909 trade skin

The Bogotá Sunangel *Heliangelus zusii* has been described by Gary Graves from a unique specimen purchased in Bogotá in 1909. This species, which could be extinct, is intermediate in plumage between ungorgeted *H. regalis* and typical gorgeted members of the genus. Whilst originally believed to be a hybrid, Alexander Wetmore recognised that it was probably a good species in 1947, though as recently as 1991 it was judged (see Hinkelmann *et al.* in *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 111: 190-199) to be a hybrid between the Long-tailed Sylph *Agelaiocercus kingi* and the Fork-tailed Woodnymph *Thalurania furcata*. Graves speculates that *H. zusii* was or is an inhabitant of cloud-forest in the East Andes of Colombia.

Source: *Auk* [1993] 110: 1-8.

Cundinamarca Antpitta, a new species from Colombia

In 1989 Peter Kaestner heard and observed an unknown species of antpitta along a newly opened road from Monterredondo to El Calvario in the valley of the Río Guaitiqui in the Department of Meta. The bird was subsequently collected by Kaestner and Gary Stiles in May 1990 and found to be a new species that is most closely related to the Santa Marta Antpitta *Grallaria bangsi*. Stiles has named the new bird the Cundinamarca Antpitta *Grallaria kaestneri*. It is an inhabitant of primary and secondary cloud-forest at c.1,800-2,300 m in the upper subtropical zone of the eastern slope of the East Andes.

Source: *Wilson Bull.* [1992] 104: 389-399.

Taxonomic status of *Nyctiphrynus ocellatus* in the Chocó

Recent studies of vocalisations of Ocellated Poorwills *Nyctiphrynus ocellatus* have shown that the calls of the nominate form are so different to those of the Chocó subspecies that the latter should be considered as a separate species, Chocó Poorwill *N. rosenbergi*. Plumage differences between the two taxa are also pronounced. *N. rosenbergi* and *N. ocellatus* are allopatric, with the former restricted to the Chocó faunal region from Alto del Buey, Baudó Mountains, Colombia, south to Esmeraldas in extreme north-west Ecuador, where it is known from forests from sea level to c.900 m.

Source: *Condor* [1992] 94: 984-987.

Restinga Tyrannulet, a new flycatcher from south-eastern Brazil

Edwin O. Willis and Yoshika Oniki have described a new species of small flycatcher *Phylloscartes kronei* that they discovered in coastal sand-ridge woodlands (*restinga*) and nearby riverine zones in 1983. The species is known along the coast from the Ribeira Valley, south-eastern São Paulo State south to at least Joinville, Santa Catarina State.

Source: *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* [1992] 112: 158-165.

Three *Chamaeza* antthrushes in eastern Brazil: a complex complex

Studies of the vocalisations, morphology and plumage of *Chamaeza* antthrushes in eastern Brazil by Edwin Willis have shown that there are three, not two, sibling species. The previously unrecognised taxon, *C. meruloides*, occurs in the eastern Brazilian midmontane zone between lower montane *C. campanisona* and upper montane *C. ruficauda*. Willis also tentatively recognises the isolated forms of *C. ruficauda* of Venezuela and Colombia as a separate species, *C. turdina*.

Source: *Condor* [1992] 94: 110-116.

A new subspecies of Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher from Amazonia, Brazil

The Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher *Myiobius (Terenotriccus) erythrurus* is a polytypic species with a wide range in the Neotropics from southern Mexico to Peru and Brazil. Recent studies have shown that the population from the middle Rio Purús, Amazonas, Brazil, represents a new subspecies *purusianus* which is encircled by two other subspecies *M. e. brunneifrons* and *M. e. amazonas*, although it is by no means intermediate between the two.

Source: *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* [1993] 113: 21-23.

Neotropical News and Taxonomic Round-up were compiled by Frank Lambert and David C. Wege.

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A newly recognised species of *Catharus* thrush

Studies by H. Ouellet of Bicknell's Thrush *Catharus (minimus) bicknelli*, previously treated as a subspecies of Grey-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus*, have revealed that it should be treated as a good species. These taxa show well-marked morphological differences, have different breeding and wintering ranges, and habitat preferences, and are not known to interbreed. Furthermore, vocalisations are so different that the two forms do not recognise each other, whilst DNA studies confirm that they are different species. Bicknell's Thrush, which breeds in north-eastern North America is known to winter in the Caribbean, with records from Hispaniola, Cuba, Puerto Rico and St. Croix.

Source: *Wilson Bull.* 105: 545-572, 1993.

A new name for *Myrmeciza immaculata berlepschi*

The transfer of *Pyrrhuloxia* (later *Sipia*) *berlepschi* to the genus *Myrmeciza* has made it necessary to re-name *Myrmeciza immaculata berlepschi* (originally described as a full species, *M. berlepschi*) as *Myrmeciza immaculata macrorhyncha*.

Source: *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 113: 190, 1993.

The Greater Antillean Nightjar: is it one species?

Recent work by O. Garrido and G. Reynard on the Greater Antillean Nightjar *Caprimulgus cubanensis* suggests that the plumage and vocalization differences between birds on Cuba and Hispaniola are sufficient to return the taxon to two species: *C. eckmani*, the Hispaniolan Nightjar and *C. cubanensis*, the Cuban Nightjar.

Source: *El Pitirre* 7(1): 5, 1994. Abstracts from the Caribbean Society of Ornithology meeting, 1993.

Geographic variation in the Scaly-breasted Thrasher

The Scaly-breasted Thrasher *Margarops fuscus* is endemic to the Lesser Antilles from St. Martin south to Grenada, occurring in forests, semi-arid woodlands and in settled areas. A recent study of the species by D. Buden has shown the presence of four separate subspecies, three of which are newly described: *M. fuscus atlanticus* is endemic to Barbados; *M. f. hypenemus* is found on the northern Lesser Antilles; *M. f. schwartzi* is endemic to St. Lucia; and the nominate *M. f. fuscus* from Dominica southward to Grenada, excluding St. Lucia and Barbados.

Source: *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 113: 75-84, 1993.

Systematics and nomenclature of the Andean Swallow "*Petrochelidon*" *andecola*

In this review of the complex history of the systematics and nomenclature of Andean Swallow "*Petrochelidon*" *andecola*, K. Parkes suggests that the evidence afforded by nesting habits and morphological characters is sufficient to regard the Andean Swallow as a member of a group that includes the Tawny-headed and rough-winged swallows, and proposes to include all these in an expanded genus *Stelgidopteryx* consisting of three subgenera, namely *Stelgidopteryx*, *Alopocheilon*, and *Halpocheilon*.

Source: *Auk* 110: 947-950, 1993.

New Species of *Herpsilochmus* antwren from Bolivia

In June 1990, L. Emmons and E. Wolf made tape recordings of a species that was subsequently identified from voice as a new species of *Herpsilochmus* antwren by the late T. A. Parker. The recordings were made in the Machariapo valley in La Paz, Bolivia. In March 1993, M. Pearman visited this valley and found that this was a common bird in the dry forests at the head of the valley. Morphological, biometric and vocalization data indicate that this antwren is indeed a new form, most closely related to the *Herpsilochmus pileatus* complex.

Source: *Bird Conserv. Internatn.* 3: 105-117, 1993.

Spot-breasted Antwren: an on-going problem

A new investigation by D. Teixeira and co-workers on the biology of Black-throated Antwren *Myrmeciza atrothorax* has again highlighted the on-going problem of the taxonomic status of the closely related Spot-breasted Antwren *M. stictothorax*. This latter taxon is known only from a single pair collected on the lower Tapajos in Amazonian Brazil, and a male from the Rio Branco in Acre. The distinguishing features are the more extensive white underparts of the female, and a white-spotted breast on the male *M. stictothorax*. However, males of *M. atrothorax* from the northern bank of the Amazon may also have some white marks on the breast, and two female specimens have been found with extensive white on the abdomen (in the pattern attributed to *stictothorax*). This all seems to suggest that *stictothorax* may be but

a synonym of *atrothorax*: however, the specimens of *stictothorax* were collected within the range of the subspecies *M. a. melanura* which is paler than *stictothorax*, and has a chestnut caste on the upperparts. This whole taxonomic issue remains unresolved, as little is known about the biology of the taxa involved.

Source: *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 114: 20-24, 1994.

Taxonomic and conservation status of Cobb's Wren

Cobb's Wren, originally described as a species endemic to the Falkland islands, is usually treated as a subspecies of the House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon cobbi*. However, in a recent paper, R. Woods provides compelling evidence that this taxa should probably be treated as a species. It is larger, longer-billed and longer-winged than House Wren, and differs considerably in its ecology. Unlike the latter, which utilises a variety of habitats, Cobb's Wren is very specialised, living entirely in tussac grass. This habitat specialisation, coupled with the introduction of feral cats, rats and other mammals throughout much of the Falklands has evidently led to a decline in the range of Cobb's Wren to the extent that it is now confined to a number of small islands. During 1983-1993, Cobb's Wren was found on only 17 such islands, and its conservation status must be considered as Vulnerable. Conservation measures with careful monitoring may be necessary if it is to survive.

Source: *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 113: 195-207, 1993.

The all-black Mourning Sierra-finch: a reinstated taxon

Recent work by J. Fjeldså has shown that an almost all-black subspecies of Mourning Sierra-finch *Phrygilus fruticeti* exists in western Oruro and Potosí, Bolivia (and possibly into the very nearest alpine zone of northern Chile). Originally described as *P. coracinus* in 1891, this taxon was subsequently synonymized, although this most recent work suggests that this was mistaken, and reinstates the taxon as a well-marked subspecies *P. fruticeti coracinus* which most probably occupies the pumice slopes and lava formations with scattered *Polylepis* shrubbery.

Source: *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 113: 121-126, 1993.

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A new species of *Doliornis cotinga* from Ecuador

A new species of *Doliornis* has recently been described from the Andes of Ecuador⁴ (see photo, p40). Previously this genus was known from one species, Bay-vented Cotinga *D. sclateri*, confined to central Peru, from the Eastern Andes in San Martín department to Junín. Birds recorded (for the first time in 1989¹) along the eastern cordillera of the Andes from north-eastern Ecuador to extreme northern Peru refer to a new species, Chestnut-bellied Cotinga *D. remseni*⁴, thus confirming the conclusion of Fjeldsá & Krabbe². *D. remseni* occurs near the tree-line between 3,100 and 3,650 m and has been recorded with certainty from just three localities: on the west slope of Cerro Mongus, Carchi prov.; Podocarpus National Park, Loja/ Zamora-Chinchipe border; and on the Zamora-Chinchipe (Ecuador)/ Cajamarca (Peru) border⁴. However, birds recorded at the Cañon del Quindío natural reserve in the Colombian Central Andes³ almost certainly also refer to this new species⁴.

References

1. Bloch, H., Poulsen, M. K., Rahbek, C. & Rasmussen, J. F. (1991) *A survey of the montane forest avifauna of the Loja province, southern Ecuador*. Cambridge, U.K.: International Council for Bird Preservation (Study Report 49).
2. Fjeldsá, J. & Krabbe, N. (1990) *Birds of the high Andes*. [Copenhagen:] Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen and Svendborg: Apollo Books.
3. Renjifo, L. M. (1994) First records of the Bay-vented Cotinga *Doliornis sclateri* in Colombia. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 114: 101-103.
4. Robbins, M. B., Rosenberg, G. H. & Sornoza M., F. (1994) A new species of cotinga (Cotingidae: *Doliornis*) from the Ecuadorian Andes, with comments on plumage sequences in *Doliornis* and *Ampelion*. *Auk* 111: 1-7.

Diademed Tapaculo: a new species from Bolivia

Dense, humid, temperate cloud-forest just 1.5 hours drive from the Bolivian capital La Paz has yielded a new species of tapaculo in the notoriously confounding genus *Scytalopus*. Bret Whitney discovered the distinctive new bird during an avifaunal survey in February 1992, when he heard an unknown tapaculo song at 3,200 m along the main thoroughfare that descends the east slope of the Andes.

Working with Omar Rocha O. of the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural in La Paz, Whitney returned to the site in March 1993 and captured the individual shown in the photo. Subsequent field work and museum research revealed that the tapaculo is a common bird in the narrow elevational band between about 3,100 and 3,300 m from central Cochabamba, Bolivia to southern Puno, Peru. Although much of the habitat for the new species is remote and appears little-disturbed in recent satellite photos, the type-locality is easily accessible by road and has been heavily damaged by the activities of a gold-mining cooperative over just the past five years. Whitney's formal description of the new bird, which he has named *Scytalopus schulenbergi*, Diademed Tapaculo (see photo, p40), appeared in the December 1994 *Wilson Bulletin*.

Bret M. Whitney

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Tepui Manakin, a species split from White-fronted Manakin

A recent reanalysis of plumage variation, syringeal morphology and vocalizations in the White-fronted Manakin *Lepidothrix serena* has shown that the subspecies *suavissima* warrants full species status. The new species, Tepui Manakin *L. suavissima* is found in southern and eastern Venezuela and Guyana and differs from the (now) monotypic *L. serena* (of Suriname and French Guiana, south to near Manaus, Brazil and southern Amapá near the mouth of the Amazon) in voice and plumage features such as a small orange-yellow patch on the upper breast of the male which is entirely black in male *L. serena*. [See Ridgely & Tudor, 1994 *Birds of South America*, 2., for a commentary on the appropriate English name].

Source: Prum, R. O. (1994) *Condor* 96: 692-702.

Northern *Pheucticus* grosbeaks redefined

A study of the "Rose-breasted Grosbeak" *Pheucticus ludovicianus* and "Black-headed Grosbeak" *P. melanocephalus* has suggested that there is no valid evidence (e.g. voice and biology) to suggest they should remain valid biological species. For the new polytypic species, *P. ludovicianus*, the name Black-hooded Grosbeak is proposed, comprising *P. l.*

ludovicianus which breeds in the temperate forests of eastern U.S.A. (wintering in Mexico), *P. l. melanocephalus* breeding in forests of western U.S.A., and *P. l. rostratus* subsp. nov. (closest to *melanocephalus*) which breeds (and is possibly resident in) the pine-oak mountains of north-eastern Mexico.

Source: Phillips, A. R. (1994) *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 114: 162-170.

On the subspecies of Firewood-gatherer

A detailed examination of skins of the Firewood-gatherer has shown that the subspecies *Anumbius annumbi machrisi* Stager, 1959 is a synonym of the monotypic species *Anumbius annumbi* (Vieillot, 1817).

Source: Straube, F. C. (1994) *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 114: 46-48.

Geographic variation in the Andean Siskin

Recent observations of Andean Siskin *Carduelis spinescens* in Carchi province, Ecuador, have led to a reassessment of the various known races. Examination of over 100 specimens suggests that *C. s. capitaneus* of the Colombian Santa Marta mountains should be synonymized with the nominate *spinescens* which is distributed throughout the coastal mountains of northern Venezuela, the western Venezuelan Andes, the Sierra de Perijá and the Colombian East Andes. The nominate form (including birds from Santa Marta) is strongly sexually dimorphic in plumage whilst the subspecies *nigricaudata* of the Colombian West and Central Andes shows only minor plumage differences between the sexes. The subspecific identity of the birds from northern Ecuador (Carchi and Sucumbios) remains unresolved.

Source: Robbins, M. B. *et al.* (1994) *Orn. Neotropical* 5: 61-63.



Tepui Manakin *Lepidothrix suavissima* (Charles Gambill)



Black-chested Fruiteater *Pipreola lubomirskii* (Roger Barnes) (see p6)



Scaled Fruiteater *Ampelioides tschudii* (Roger Barnes) (see p6)



A new species of *Scytalopus* tapaculo from Bolivia
Diademed Tapaculo *Scytalopus schulenbergi* (Omar Rocha O.) (see p10)



A new species of *Doliornis* cotinga from Ecuador
Chestnut-bellied Cotinga *Doliornis remseni* (M.B.Robbins - VIREO) (see p10)



Royal Sunangel *Hellangelus regalis* female (Stuart Butchart) (see p6)

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A new species of pygmy-owl from the Eastern Andes

A new species of pygmy-owl has recently been described from the Eastern Andes of Ecuador and Peru¹. Subtropical Pygmy-owl *Glaucidium parkeri* sp. nov. is a bird of the subtropical forest subcanopy on outlying ridges from the main Andean chain. The species is found between 1,450 and 1,975 m and is considered uncommon; vocalisations and plumage indicate its' nearest relative to be the Least Pygmy-owl *G. minutissimum* complex. The ornithologists reporting the discovery, Steve Howell and Mark Robbins, also analyse the species limits within the Least Pygmy-owl complex². They report that consistent song differences among the 10 described taxa in the species complex, along with other relevant data, support the recognition of four additional species in addition to the recently described *G. hardyi* and *G. parkeri*. The four species are: Colima Pygmy-owl *G. palmarum* of western Mexico (including the subspecies *palmarum*, *oberholseri*, and *griscomi*); Tamaulipas Pygmy-owl *G. sanchezi* of south-eastern Mexico, Central America and the Pacific coast of northern South America (including the subspecies *griseiceps*, *rarum*, and *occultum*); and Brazilian Pygmy-owl *G. minutissimum* of south-eastern Brazil and adjacent Paraguay.

References

1. Robbins, M. B. & Howell, S. N. G. (1995) A new species of pygmy-owl (Strigidae: *Glaucidium*) from the eastern Andes. *Wilson Bull.* 107: 1-6.
2. Howell, S. N. G. & Robbins, M. B. (1995) Species limits of the Least Pygmy-owl (*Glaucidium minutissimum*) complex. *Wilson Bull.* 107: 7-25.

A new species of nighthawk from Bahia, Brazil

Chordeiles vieillardi sp. nov. is a small nighthawk from the xerophytic caatinga of Bahia, Brazil¹. The type-specimen was col-

lected from the Rio São Francisco area, and differs from other described nighthawks in lacking white on the wings, tail and throat. The two specimens collected were males: the female and indeed the voice of the species are as yet undescribed. The nearest relative is considered to be Least Nighthawk *Chordeiles pusillus*. No common name has yet been given to the species.

Reference

1. Lencioni-Neto, F. (1994) Une nouvelle espece de *Chordeiles* (Aves, Caprimulgidae) de Bahia (Bresil). *Alauda* 62: 241-245.

New subspecies described from Venezuela

The Fundación W. H. Phelps in Caracas has published a paper describing several new subspecies from Venezuela¹, namely: Little Cuckoo *Piaya minuta barinensis*; Speckled Hummingbird *Adelomyia melanogenys debellardiana*; Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana bottomeana*; Long-tailed Antbird *Drymophila caudata aristeguietana*; Olivaceous Flatbill *Rhynchocyclus olivaceus jelambianus*; Coraya Wren *Thryothorus coraya barrowcloughiana*; Grey-throated Warbler *Basileuterus cinereicollis zuliensis*; Beryl-spangled Tanager *Tangara nigroviridis lozanoana* and Orange-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia xanthogaster lecrojana*. Additionally, the taxonomic status of Black-headed Parrot *Pionites melanocephala melanocephala* and two subspecies of Black-crested Antshrike *Sakesphoris canadensis* (*trinitatis* and *intermedius*) is discussed.

Reference

1. Hostos, R. A. & Chincilla, L. A. (1994) Descripción de nueve subespecies nuevas y comentarios sobre dos especies de aves Venezuela. *Bol. Soc. Venez. Cienc. Nat.* 148: 229-257.

The centenary volume of the British Ornithologists' Club, 1992 –**Avian systematics and taxonomy**

The above mentioned special edition of *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* (112A) has much to interest *Cotinga* readers. Of particular relevance are papers by H. Oullet on "Speciation, zoogeography and taxonomic problems in the Neotropical genus *Sporophila* (Aves: Emberizinae)", and by F. Vuilleumier, M. LeCroy and E. Mayr presenting a thorough review of new species of bird described between 1981 and 1990. This latter analysis includes over 30 Neotropical species, with the authors sometimes arriving at different conclusions as to the status of various taxa than the workers originally describing them.

Correction

In *Taxonomic Round-up, Cotinga 3*, the newly described Tepui Manakin *Lepidothrix suavisissima* was mentioned as possessing a small orange-yellow patch on the breast of the male, a feature described as lacking in its congener White-fronted Manakin *L. serena*. This description is erroneous, and in fact the opposite is true, with the Tepui Manakin (also called Orange-bellied Manakin: see illustration in *Birds of Venezuela*) in fact lacks the orange-yellow chest-spot completely. The editors wish to apologise for any confusion this may have caused.

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A new species of *Phylloscartes* (Tyrannidae) from the mountains of southern Bahia, Brazil

A new species of flycatcher, *Phylloscartes beckeri*, has been described by Gonzaga & Pacheco from the Serra da Ouricana, an area of foothill forest located to the south-east of Boa Nova, Bahia, Brazil. The vernacular name Bahia Tyrannulet has been proposed for the species, which belongs to a group including Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet *P. ventralis* from the south-east and Long-tailed Tyrannulet *P. ceciliae* from the north-east. The new species can be found in the remnant areas of forest, all of which are under threat from clearance for

agriculture and accidental damage from fire. The avifauna of the area includes a number of threatened species, including an as-yet undescribed species of *Synallaxis*.

- Gonzaga, L. P. & Pacheco, J. F. (1995) A new species of *Phylloscartes* (Tyrannidae) from the mountains of southern Bahia, Brazil. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 115: 88-97.

Taxonomy of the northern races of the Scarlet-headed or Streak-backed Oriole *Icterus pustulatus*

A. R. Phillips has examined material from Mexico, and based on these findings has assigned different populations of the *Icterus*

pustulatus group to various subspecies. It was discovered that variation in Mexico within the species is largely clinal, with the north-western birds having the heaviest streaking. The material examined permitted the formal recognition of the following six races of *pustulatus* in the country: *I. p. microstictus* from north-central Sonora south; *I. p. graysonii* from the Tres Marias Islands; *I. p. yaegeri* (subsp. nov.) from the coastal lowlands of southernmost Sinaloa south to southern Nayarit; *I. p. dickermani* (subsp. nov.) in the Pacific lowlands from south-westernmost Jalisco and coastal Colima east to at least southern Guerrero, then

north to the Tierra Colorado area; and *I. p. interior* (subsp. nov.) from southern and central Mexico away from the coast, from central Colima, and from southern Michoacán east probably to western Oaxaca and north at least to Morelos.

- Phillips A. R. (1995) The northern races of *Icterus pustulatus* (Icteridae), Scarlet-headed or Streak-backed Oriole? *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 115: 98-105.

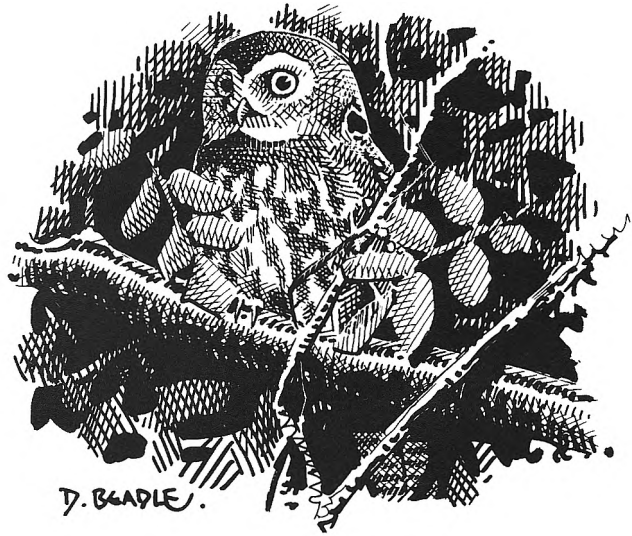
Chestnut-throated and Black-throated Huet-huets: two good species

Howell & Webb have analysed vocal and ecological differences between Black-throated Huet-huet *Pterotochus tarnii* and Chestnut-throated Huet-huet *P. castaneus*. Previously, the taxonomic status of the two allopatric taxa has varied from their being races of *P. tarnii* to forming two allospecies. Field studies in Chile have demonstrated that the two taxa are good species; in particular the vocalisations, previously considered similar, are in fact readily distinguishable in the field. The authors also contend that the plumage of the two taxa is "strikingly different", and that there are no signs of plumage intergradation between them.

- Howell, S. N. G. & Webb, S. (1995) Species status of the Chestnut-throated Huet-huet *Pterotochus castaneus*. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 115: 171-177.

The Cuban Macaw: the latest chapter in its taxonomic history

M. Walters has re-examined the status of *Ara tricolor*, and has surmised that the arguments of



Ferruginous Pygmy-owl *Glaucidium brasilianum* (D. Beadle)

Wetherbee, who transferred the name *A. tricolor* from the extinct Cuban Macaw to an also extinct form on Hispaniola (re-naming Cuban Macaw, *A. cubensis*), are no longer valid, and that *Ara tricolor* deserves to be enshrined in the scientific literature as Cuban Macaw.

- Walters, M. (1995) On the status of *A. tricolor* Bechstein. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 115: 168-170.

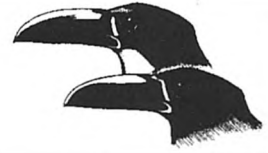
A new subspecies of Ferruginous Pygmy-owl

König & Wink describe a new subspecies of Ferruginous Pygmy-owl *Glaucidium brasilianum* from central Argentina. *G. b. stranecki* is found in rather open country with small groves of trees and bushes, often used for cattle rearing. It differs from other populations of *G. brasilianum*

mainly in its larger body size: individual birds occur in brown, red and grey morphs, with most belonging to a brown morph with the tail barred rust and brown. Interestingly, however, vocalisations are rather similar to other *G. brasilianum* from South America.

- König, C. & Wink, M. (1995) Eine neue Unterart des Brasil-Sperlingskauzes aus Zentralargentinien: *Glaucidium brasilianum stranecki* n. spp. *J. Orn.* 136: 461-465.

Taxonomic Round-up



A new species of *Neopelma* Tyrant-manakin from south-eastern Brazil

Bret Whitney and his Brazilian colleagues are undertaking much research in Brazil at present, and a number of interesting conclusions have already been drawn from this work. Based on clear differences in external morphology, vocalisations, and habitat, the authors have split Wied's Tyrant-manakin *Neopelma aurifrons* into the lowland *N. aurifrons* (which retains the common name) in the north of the former species's range, and the montane Serra do Mar Tyrant-manakin *N. crysolophum* in the south. The paper outlines data which suggest that the two taxa may not even be their closest relatives, and also discusses diversification within the *Neopelma/Tyrannetes* complex. Using this taxonomic decision as an example, the authors also make a plea for recognising the need to conserve "representative populations of isolated forms, regardless of their level of formal classification".

- Whitney, B. M., Pacheco, J. F. & Parrini R. (1995) Two species of *Neopelma* in southeastern Brazil and diversification within the *Neopelma/Tyrannetes* complex: implications of the subspecies concept for conservation (Passeriformes: Tyrannidae). *Ararajuba* 3: 43-53.

A new species of *Synallaxis* spinetail from eastern Brazil

Fernando Pacecho and Luiz Gonzaga have described Bahia Spinetail *Synallaxis whitneyi* from the montane Atlantic Forest of the Boa Nova area in southern Bahia. The new species is closely related to Rufous-capped *S. ruficapilla* (to

the south-east) and Plain *S. infuscata* (to the north-east) Spinetails of the Atlantic Forest. Bahia Spinetail differs morphologically from Plain Spinetail by virtue of the former's obvious yellow post-ocular streak, and from Rufous-capped Spinetail (considered its sister species) by its dark grey, not whitish-brown underpart coloration. Bahia Spinetail was located between 900 and 1,000 m in the tangled undergrowth of montane forest, a habitat critically endangered in this part of Bahia.

- Pacecho, J. F. & Gonzaga, L. P. (1995) A new species of *Synallaxis* of the *ruficapilla/infuscata* complex from eastern Brazil (Passeriformes: Furnariidae). *Ararajuba* 3: 3-11.

Hylopezus nattereri reinstated as a valid species

Bret Whitney and colleagues have drawn attention to the taxonomic status of Speckle-breasted Antpitta *Hylopezus nattereri* which was described as a new species in 1937, but subsumed in White-browed Antpitta *H. ochroleucus* two years later. There are clear differences between the two taxa in voice, habitat, distribution and morphology (see Ridgely and Tudor 1994. *The birds of South America*, 2).

- Whitney, B. M., Pacecho, J. F., Isler, P. R. & Isler, M. L. (1995) *Hylopezus nattereri* is a valid species (Passeriformes: Formicariidae). *Ararajuba* 3: 37-42.

A new species of emerald hummingbird from Colombia

Gary Stiles has recently described a new species of *Chlorostilbon* hummingbird from the Sierra de Chiribiquete, south-eastern Colombia, where Chiribiquete

Emerald *Chlorostilbon olivaresi* is found in the edaphic scrub and adjacent forests of the middle and upper levels of the Sierra. The author explores the origin of the new species and also analyses the relationships within the *C. mellisugus* complex, and concludes that the various forms are best treated as comprising a single superspecies. The form *melanorhynchus* (including *pumilus*) of western Colombia and western Ecuador is sufficiently distinct to deserve (allo)species rank, and the author has proposed the English name West Andean Emerald.

- Stiles, F. G. (1996) A new species of emerald hummingbird (Trochilidae, *Chlorostilbon*) from the Sierra de Chiribiquete, southeastern Colombia, with a review of the *C. mellisugus* complex. *Wilson Bull.* 108 (1): 1-27.

A new genus of antbird (Formicariidae) from southern Brazil

M. Bornschein *et al.* have recently discovered a new genus of antbird in Paraná state, southern Brazil, in taboa *Typha domingensis* swamps adjacent to the main road connecting two of the region's busiest summer resorts. The generic name is *Stymphalornis* and the specific name is *S. acutirostris*. As yet there is no common name for the species, which is perhaps most closely related to *Formicivora* antbirds. The new genus has been differentiated from related genera using syringeal structure. Unfortunately, the new species may already be endangered due to the loss of its habitat to drainage and development.



Stymphalornis acutirostris sp. nov. female (Bianca Reinert)

- Bornschein, M. R., Reinert, B. L. & Teixeira, D. M. (1995) Um novo Formicariidae do sul do Brasil (Aves, Passeriformes). *Publicação Técnico-Científica do Instituto Iguazu de Pesquisa e Preservação Ambiental*, No. 1, Rio de Janeiro.

A reappraisal of the taxonomic status of Andean *Cinnycerthia* wrens

R.T. Brumfield and J. Van Remsen have examined geographic variation of morphometric and plumage characters of several populations previously included in Sepia-

brown Wren *C. peruana*. They have concluded that this taxon is better treated as three species based on discrete morphometric and marked plumage differences. These are: Sharpe's Wren *C. olivascens* (including *C.o. bogotensis* and *C.o. olivascens*) from Colombia south to the extreme northern part of Depto. Amazonas, Peru; Peruvian Wren *C. peruana* from Depto. Amazonas south to Depto. Ayacucho, Peru; and Superciliated Wren *C. fulva* (including the undescribed subspecies; *C.f. fulva*; and another undescribed subspecies) ranging from Cordillera Vilcabamba, Depto. Cuzco, Peru, south to Cochabamba in Bolivia.

- Brumfield, R. T. & Van Remsen, J. (1996) Geographic variation and species limits in *Cinnycerthia* wrens of the Andes. *Wilson Bull.* 108 (2): 205-227.

Taxonomic Round-up



A new woodcreeper from eastern Amazonia

Three Brazilian ornithologists have recently described a new *Hylexetastes* woodcreeper from northern Mato Grosso, between the Araguaia and Xingu rivers. *Hylexetastes brigidai* (for which the authors have not proposed a vernacular name) is closely allied to Red-billed Woodcreeper *H. perrotii*, and Uniform Woodcreeper *H. uniformis*, also of eastern Amazonia. The specimens have all been collected in *terra firme* and second-growth forest and some individuals have been observed following army ant swarms. The authors explore the possible mechanisms of speciation in the genus, relating their ideas to those of other ornithologists such as Jürgen Haffer.

- Cardoso da Silva, J. M. *et al.* (1995) A new species of the genus *Hylexetastes* (Dendrocolaptidae) from eastern Amazonia. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 115: 200–206

A new vireo from Colombia

The formal description of the new vireo, found independently by Paul Salaman and F. Gary Stiles, awaited substantial sponsorship from an individual or organisation willing to pay for the privilege of this new species being named after them. This goal was finally achieved, and the Chocó Vireo *Vireo masteri* has now been described by the two finders in *Ibis*. The species is confined to the very humid and increasingly threatened forests of the Chocó region of Colombia, where it seems to be restricted to a narrow altitudinal range between 1,200 and 1,600 m. The

paper outlines aspects of the behaviour, ecology and conservation of the species.

- Salaman, P. G. & Stiles, F. G. (1996) A distinctive new species of vireo (Passeriformes: Vireonidae) from the western Andes of Colombia. *Ibis* 138: 610–619.



Chocó Vireo *Vireo masteri* (David Quinn/BirdLife)

A new furnariid from south-east Bahia, Brazil

Fernando Pacheco, Bret Whitney and others have discovered a new furnariid in Bahia, which has required the erection of a new genus, *Acrobatornis*, to accommodate it. Pink-legged Gravateiro *Acrobatornis fonsecai* is a small arboreal furnariid entirely dependent on the tall shade trees found in cocoa plantations in the Atlantic Forest area of south-east Bahia. Unfortunately, a disease-induced catastrophe has resulted in the move to convert these plantations, and cut and sell the tall shade trees within them. Therefore, this seemingly unique furnariid may already be critically endangered, and it

appears that only the purchase of some of the plantations can safeguard its future.

- Pachecho, J. F. *et al.* (1996) A new genus and species of furnariid (Aves: Furnariidae) from the cocoa-growing region of southeastern Bahia, Brazil. *Wilson Bull.* 108: 397–433.

The taxonomic status of *Strix chacoensis*

Roberto Straneck and Felix Vidoz have analysed the morphology and vocalisations of *Strix (rufipes) chacoensis*, the Chaco form of Rufous-legged Owl *Strix rufipes*, and concluded that it is specifically distinct from the nominate form. They do not propose a vernacular name for *Strix chacoensis*. Their paper includes spectrograms of the two species, as well as morphometric details of all the taxa.

- Straneck, R. J. & Vidoz, F. (1995) Sobre el estado taxonomico de *Strix rufipes* (King) y de *Strix chacoensis* (Cherrie y Reichenberger) (Aves: Strigidae). *Notulas Faunisticas* 74: 1–5.

For details of this journal (and any other difficult-to-trace article or paper), please contact Graeme Green at the Club's address.

The taxonomic status of Reiser's Tyrannulet *Phyllomias reiseri*

J. M. Cardoso da Silva has analysed the status of this central Brazilian endemic, which has been considered a subspecies of Greenish Tyrannulet *P. virescens* by some taxonomists. The author has re-evaluated all of the specimens used by previous workers, examined recently collected material and new

ecological information pertaining to this taxon, concluding that it is indeed worthy of specific status.

- Cardoso da Silva, J. M. (1996) New data support the specific status of Reiser's Tyrannulet, a central Brazilian endemic. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 116: 109–113.

The Cuban form of the Red-winged Blackbird

Orlando Garrido and Arturo Kirkconnell have recently analysed the taxonomy of the various taxa of Red-winged Blackbird and concluded that there is strong evidence for elevating the Cuban form to full species status, as *Agelaius assimilis*. This taxon was described as a new species by Gundlach in 1850, but eventually became regarded as a subspecies of the Red-winged Blackbird, following the publication of Hellmayr (Catalogue of birds of the Americas and adjacent islands. *Field Mus. Nat. Hist. Zool. Series* Vol. XIII, Chicago, Illinois: 1937).

- Garrido, O. & Kirkconnell, A. (1996) Taxonomic status of the Cuban form of Red-winged Blackbird. *Wilson Bull.* 108: 372–374.

A new subspecies of Pearly-eyed Thrasher from St. Lucia, Lesser Antilles

Orlando Garrido and Van Remsen have described *Margarops fuscatus klinikowskii* from the island of St Lucia. The Pearly-eyed Thrasher *M. fuscatus* is endemic to the West Indies, and formerly comprised three subspecies: nominate *fuscatus* from the Bahamas, Beata Island, Puerto Rico (and satellites), and Virgin Islands and northern Lesser Antilles to Antigua and Barbuda (also La Desirade); *densirostris*, from Guadeloupe to St Lucia; and *bonairensis* on Bonaire and Horquilla in the Los Hermanos archipelago off the

coast of Venezuela. The St Lucian birds are deemed sufficiently distinct to allocate them subspecific status.

- Garrido, O. H. & Remsen, J. V. (1996) A new subspecies of the Pearly-eyed Thrasher *Margarops fuscatus* (Mimidae) from the island of St. Lucia, Lesser Antilles. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 116: 75–80.

A new subspecies of Scaly-breasted Thrasher from St. Vincent, Lesser Antilles

Andrew Kratter and Orlando Garrido have recently described *Margarops fuscus vincenti*, a new subspecies of Scaly-breasted Thrasher which joins three other subspecies in comprising the full species *M. fuscus*: *hypenemus* from Saba and Barbuda south to Guadeloupe and MariaGalante, *schwartzi* from St. Lucia and *atlanticus* from Barbados.

- Kratter, A. & Garrido, O. (1996) A new subspecies of *Margarops fuscus* (Scaly-breasted Thrasher) from St. Vincent, Lesser Antilles. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 116: 189–193.

Yungas Tody-tyrant *Hemitriccus spodiops* is a member of the subgenus *Sneathlaga*

Mario Cohn-Haft has recently presented arguments for placing the Bolivian endemic *Hemitriccus spodiops* into *Sneathlaga*. The importance of the analysis goes beyond mere semantics, however, as the reappraisal of this taxon and its relationship with various other taxa has important implications for the biogeography of the region, suggesting a link between the Andes and south-east Brazil.

- Cohn-Haft, M. (1996) Why the Yungas Tody-tyrant (*Hemitriccus spodiops*) is a *Sneathlaga*, and Why it Matters. *Auk* 113: 709–714.

Xiphorhynchus striatigularis reassigned

Richmond's Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus striatigularis*, known only from the type-specimen collected near Altamira, Tamaulipas, Mexico on 18 November 1894, and variously considered a valid but presumably very rare taxon, or ignored, is considered an aberrant Ivory-billed Woodcreeper *X. flavigaster* by Kevin Winker in a recent study of plumage and morphometrics. Winker concludes that although hybrid origin cannot be excluded for *striatigularis*, it is best regarded as highly improbable, and this taxon is currently best considered a synonym of *X. flavigaster saltarius*, the type of which was collected in the same area the following day.

- Winker, K. (1995) *Xiphorhynchus striatigularis* (Dendrocolaptidae): *Nomen monstrositatum*. *Auk* 112: 1066–1070.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PARROT TAXONOMY

- Compiled by Nigel J. Collar

Amazona kawalli is a valid species

It appears that *Amazona kawalli*, described by Grantsau and Camargo¹ in 1989 from a few old museum skins from Amazonas, Brazil, and some live captive birds in São Paulo said to come from the Tocantins River in Pará, is a valid species. Doubts had been raised that it might be an aberrant Mealy Amazon *A. farinosa*, which it closely resembles. Three further skins have been located in museums (Belem, Tring and Berlin, the one in the latter already with an infraspecific name by Stresemann in 1924), and comparison of the original description with this material shows that *kawalli* is consistently distinct in several subtle characters from the sympatric

*farinosa*². Most notable are the bare eye-ring colour, broad creamy white in *farinosa* but dull grey in *kawalli*, the shorter tail of *kawalli*, which means that the terminal yellow band is much narrower than in *farinosa*, and the presence of red at the base of the outer tail feathers in *kawalli*, absent in *farinosa*. Most unusual is the presence of a thin crescent of bare white skin bordering the base of the bill in *kawalli*. It may well be that it will take its name from this feature, e.g. as "White-faced Amazon", but field observations may result in better suggestions.

1. Grantsau, R. & Camargo, H.F.A. (1989). Nova espécie de *Amazona* (Aves, Psittacidae). *Revta. Bras. Biol.* 49: 1017–1020.
2. Collar, N. J. & Pittman, A. J. (1996) *Amazona kawalli* is a valid name for a valid species. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 116: 256–265.

New subspecies of *Aratinga acuticaudata* described from Venezuela

The long puzzle over the status of Sharp-tailed Parakeets *Aratinga acuticaudata* in northern Venezuela and adjacent Colombia has been resolved. For years the curious situation had existed in which the names of the nearest races, either *neoxena* from Isla Margarita off the Venezuelan coast or *haemorrhous* in north-east Brazil, had been used to cover this mainland population, despite the fact that the differences between *neoxena* and *haemorrhous* are clear enough that it ought to have been possible to say definitively which name applied. Thomas Arndt has compared large series of all these populations and shown that the Venezuelan mainland birds, although very similar in plumage to *haemorrhous* except in having less brownish-red to the inner webs of the undersides of the tail,

are much smaller (34 cm as against 38 cm), while *neoxena* is the same size (34 cm) but has breast and abdomen distinctly bluish green. He thus gives the name *A. a. koenigi* to the mainland birds.

- Arndt, T. (1995) *Lexicon of parrots*, part 7. Bretten, Germany: Arndt Verlag.

Reidentification of *Forpus* and *Pyrrhura* type-specimens

Two long overdue adoptions of correct parrot names emerge in Stotz *et al.* *Neotropical birds: ecology and conservation* (1996). Both concern reidentification of type-specimens collected by Spix and named as new by him in 1824.

The first is *Forpus xanthopterygius*, the name commonly given to Blue-winged Parrotlet. As long ago as 1905, Hellmayr published his discovery that Spix's type was in fact a Yellow-chevroned Parakeet *Brotoyeris chiriri*, so Taczanowski's name *crassirostris* came into use for the *Forpus* everyone thought Spix had been writing about. In Peters' checklist *crassirostris* was treated as a race of *passerinus*, but in 1945 Gyldenstolpe, in splitting these two entities, mistakenly reintroduced the name *xanthopterygius*, by which, in ignorance of Hellmayr's paper (Peters not having even referred to it), most of the ornithological world has known it ever since. It took Olivério Pinto in his *Novo catálogo das aves do Brasil* (1978) to point this error out, but as his book is virtually unobtainable nobody (not even Helmut Sick) noticed, until now, that the proper name for the Blue-winged Parrotlet must remain *Forpus crassirostris*.

The second case is more complicated. This concerns the two *Pyrrhura* parrots commonly known as Crimson-bellied Parakeet *P. rhodogaster* and

Pearly Parakeet *P. perlata*. In 1983 Thomas Arndt suggested, and in 1986 he and Paul Roth confirmed, that Spix's type material of *perlata* was in fact juvenile *rhodogaster*; in other words Spix's name *perlata* is only valid for those populations subsequently referred to as *rhodogaster*. However, if one accepts that the differences between traditional *rhodogaster* and *perlata* are sufficiently great to treat them as two species (and in many recent treatments they have not been listed immediately next to each other), the name *rhodogaster* must become a junior synonym of *perlata*, and *perlata* can only apply to birds formerly called *rhodogaster*; the new name for birds formerly called *perlata* must be the first subspecies described after *perlata* came into use. The English names of the "lost" taxa (*P. rhodogaster* and *P. perlata perlata*) do not, however, shift their allegiances, so the arrangement becomes:

- P. perlata* Crimson-bellied Parakeet
- P. lepida* Pearly Parakeet
- P. l. lepida*
- P. l. coerulescens*
- P. l. anerythra*

Stotz *et al.* grasp this particular nettle. Forshaw's response in the third edition of *Parrots of the world* was simply to merge the two species as one, dropping *rhodogaster* altogether and thereby keeping the Pearly Parakeet as *P. perlata*. This in itself is certainly a viable response, but any taxonomy which continues to give specific status to such weakly differentiated forms as Blaze-winged Parakeet *Pyrrhura devillei* (as Forshaw does) cannot ignore the claims of a form as distinctive as the Crimson-bellied Parakeet to full species status as well.

Taxonomic Round-up



A new *Cranioleuca* spinetail from Bolivia

Sjoerd Maijer and Jon Fjeldså have described the Bolivian Spinetail *Cranioleuca henricae* from the dry Andean valleys of La Paz, Bolivia. The new species is very similar to the Line-cheeked Spinetail *Cranioleuca antisienensis*

of south-west Ecuador and northern Peru, and the Pallid Spinetail *Cranioleuca pallida* of eastern Brazil. The authors suggest that these taxa exhibit a 'leapfrog' pattern of geographical distribution, with intervening related species differing markedly. They conclude that

because of this the three taxa are not particularly closely related.

- Maijer, S. & Fjeldså, J. (1997) Description of a new *Cranioleuca* spinetail from Bolivia and a "leapfrog" pattern of geographical variation within the genus. *Ibis* 139: 606–616.

A new emberizid from Brazil

Marcos Raposo has described San Francisco Sparrow *Arremon fasciscanus* from the dry caatinga zone of Bahia and Minas Gerais. The species is perhaps the sister taxon of *Arremon semitorquatus* of the Atlantic Forest zone of Brazil, itself soon to be elevated to full species status (Raposo & Parrini in press). The author describes the morphological differences between the new species and related taxa, and also highlights the plight of the caatinga and dry deciduous woodland of the valley of the Rio São Francisco.

- Raposo, M. A. (1997) A new species of *Arremon* (Passeriformes: Emberizidae) from Brazil. *Ararajuba* 5: 3–9.

A new manakin from Brazil

The discovery of a new *Antilophia* manakin from Ceará, north-east Brazil has come to light, although the formal species description has yet to be published in a recognised journal. *Antilophia bokermanni* is a sister taxon of *Antilophia galeata*, the Helmeted Manakin which inhabits gallery forests in interior Brazil and Paraguay. However, the new species differs markedly from Helmeted Manakin by virtue of the adult male's almost wholly white body plumage. Hybrid origin has been ruled out by the presence of several males and females at the type-locality, which is the humid forest of the Chapada do Araripe in the south of Ceará state ('Chapada' signifies a plateau). The humid forest of the type-locality is under threat but efforts are being made at a local level to conserve the area.

- Artur Coelho in litt. 1997.

A new species of thrasher from Mexico

Robert Zink and Rachelle Blackwell have analysed the mitochondrial DNA (mt DNA)

and colourimetric variation in Le Conte's Thrasher *Toxostoma lecontei*, to clarify subspecific and species limits. They conclude that the taxon found on the Pacific coast of Baja California, *Toxostoma l. arenicola* warrants specific status.

- Zink, R. M. & Blackwell, R. C. (1997) Species limits in the Le Conte's Thrasher. *Condor* 99: 132–138.

A reappraisal of species limits within the Variable Seedeater complex

F. Gary Stiles has looked closely at the degree of relationship between the Variable *Sporophila aurita* and Wing-barred Seedeater *S. americana*. The discovery of a hybridisation zone between the former and Grey Seedeater *S. intermedia* meant the closeness of the relationship needed reappraising. The analysis led the author to conclude that the following allopecies should be proposed: *S. corvina* (= 'aurita'), Variable Seedeater; *S. intermedia*, Grey Seedeater; *S. murullae*, Caquetá Seedeater; and *S. americana*, Wing-barred Seedeater. He also concludes that the subspecies *S. i. augustini* is not recognisable, and that *S. a. chocoana* is a synonym.

- Stiles F. G. (1996) When black plus white equals gray: the nature of variation in the Variable Seedeater complex (Emberizinae: *Sporophila*). *Ornitologia Neotropical* 7: 75–107.

Stripe-headed Tanager – how many species?

Recent research on Stripe-headed Tanager *Spindalis zena*, by Nedra Klein of the American Museum of Natural History was presented to the 1996 meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology. The analysis of the seven distinct forms of the species suggests that there are really four different species, with the populations of

Cuba, Cozumel and Grand Cayman being closely related, but divergent from those found on Jamaica, Hispaniola, and Puerto Rico, which are themselves quite distinct from each other.

Special publication: Dickerman, R. W. (compiler) (1997) The era of Allan R. Phillips: a festschrift. Dickerman: Albuquerque, New Mexico

This special publication, available from the compiler (address below), suggests a number of taxonomic revisions.

Lawrence's Flycatcher of Grenada, Trinidad and northern South America (Richard C. Banks).

If this taxon is placed in the genus *Lathrotriccus* with the species *euleri*, it should be *L. flaviventris*, or *L. euleri flaviventris*, depending on rank. If retained in the genus *Empidonax*, the specific name should be *bolivianus* Allen.

Spotted Owl of southern Rocky Mountains to central Mexico (Robert W. Dickerman).

Populations of Spotted Owl from this region have normally been assigned to *Strix occidentalis lucida*. However, specimen analysis suggests they should be assigned to three subspecies, including a new subspecies, *S. o. juanaphillipsae* (Volcano Spotted Owl), for birds collected in Mexico to the west of the Puebla state boundary.

Northern Cardinals of the Caribbean Slope of Mexico (Kenneth C. Parkes).

There are currently six recognised subspecies of Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis* inhabiting the Caribbean slope of Mexico from Texas south to Isla Cozumel. These are joined by *C. c. phillipsi* which is confined to the coastal scrub of Yucatan.

A new form of Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaner *Anabacerthia*

variegaticeps (Furnariidae) from western Mexico (Kevin Winker).

A new subspecies *A. v. schaldachi* is described from Guerrero, western Mexico.

A new parrot from the Pleistocene era (Amadeo M. Rea).

A new *Rhyncopsitta* parrot has been identified from the late Pleistocene deposits of the San Josecito Cave, Nuevo León, north-east Mexico. The Large-billed Parrot *R. phillipsi* was

contemporaneous with *R. terrisi*, the Maroon-faced Parrot, but the conversion of pinyon-juniper woodland to desert scrub at the end of the Pleistocene probably hastened the species' extinction.

Skeletal characteristics and the genera of warblers (J. Dan Webster).

The author studied 98 species of 24 genera of Parulinae. Twenty-four skeletal characters proved useful for genetic distinctions, leading to the following suggested taxonomic revisions:

moving *Parula superciliosa* and *P. gutturalis* to *Vermivora*; merging *Parula* with *Dendroica*; moving *Microligea*, *Xenoligea* and *Granatellus* from Parulinae to Thraupinae; moving *Rhodinocichla* from Thraupinae to Parulinae.

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Taxonomic Round-up



A relatively short period separated the publication of *Cotinga* 7 and 8, and this issue again comes hot-on-the-heels of the last. Accordingly, there has been comparatively little new taxonomic data published recently. All items of interest are being held over for *Cotinga* 10. This Taxonomic Roundup concentrates on a landmark publication, which contains much of relevance to avian taxonomy in the Neotropical region.

Ornithological Monographs No. 48 'Studies in Neotropical Ornithology Honoring Ted Parker' was recently (1997) published by the American Ornithologists' Union. Edited by Van Remsen, this volume contains several papers which describe new taxa, re-define species limits or analyse systematics within a group of bird taxa. As such, it is of immense interest to all Neotropical ornithologists. Full ordering details are appended below and papers of major relevance are listed below with a short précis of their abstracts.

- Graves, G. R. Colorimetric and morphometric gradients in Colombian populations of Dusky Antbirds (*Cercomacra tyrannina*), with a description of a new species *Cercomacra parkeri*.

Graves describes Parker's Antbird *Cercomacra parkeri* from the western slope of the Cordillera Occidental and northern and eastern slopes of the Cordillera Central of the Colombian Andes (females), with males provisionally assigned to this taxon also occurring on the western slope of the Cordillera Oriental.

- Fitzpatrick, J. W. & Stotz, D. F. A new species of tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes*) from the Andean foothills of Peru and Bolivia.

The authors describe Cinnamon-faced Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes parkeri* from the Andean foothills of south-east Peru and one specimen from adjacent Bolivia. The new form is most closely related to Rufous-lored Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes flaviventris*.

- Krabbe, N. & Schulenberg, T. S. Species limits and natural history of *Scytalopus tapaculos* (Rhinocryptidae), with descriptions of the Ecuadorian taxa, including three new species.

The taxonomy of this genus is critically analysed. Full descriptions are given for the Ecuadorian taxa, along with details of their biology, plus notes on all extralimital forms. The new taxonomy proposed by the authors increases the number of species in the genus from 11 to 37 (2–3 unnamed). New species described are: Chocó Tapaculo *Scytalopus chocoensis* (from the Chocó of north-west Ecuador); Ecuadorian Tapaculo *S. robbinsi* (from the humid foothills of Azuay and El Oro, south-west Ecuador) and Chusquea Tapaculo *S. parkeri* (from the temperate zone of southern Ecuador).

- Remsen, Jr., J. V. A new genus for Yellow-shouldered Grosbeak.

A new genus *Parkerthraustes* is created for this species which is enigmatic in its relationships.

- Bierregaard, Jr., R. O., Cohn-Haft, M. & Stotz, D. F. Cryptic biodiversity: an overlooked

species and new subspecies of antbird (Aves: Formicariidae) with a revision of *Cercomacra tyrannina* in northeastern South America.

An hitherto undescribed population of antbirds in the *Cercomacra tyrannina* / *nigrescens* complex sympatric with *C. tyrannina* has been discovered north of Manaus, Brazil. This population is considered to be conspecific with *Cercomacra tyrannina laeta*, but should be elevated to species level due to its sympatry with *C. tyrannina*. The 'new' species contains three subspecies: *Cercomacra laeta laeta* in extreme south-east Amazonia; *C. laeta sabinoi* in north-east Brazil and (described in this paper) *C. laeta waimiri* from eastern Roraima and the Manaus area.

- Capparella, A. P., Rosenberg, G. H. & Cardiff, S. W.

A new subspecies of *Percnostola rufifrons* (Formicariidae) from northeastern Amazonian Peru, with a revision of the *rufifrons* complex.

Percnostola rufifrons jensoni, a new subspecies of Black-headed Antbird, is described from north-east Peru on the north bank of the Amazon river, east of its confluence with the Napo. It is suggested that the complex contains two pairs of subspecies which should be ranked as species: *P. rufifrons rufifrons* and *P. rufifrons subcristata* (= *P. rufifrons*, the Black-headed Antbird with two subspecies *rufifrons* and *subcristata*) and *P. rufifrons minor* and *P. rufifrons jensoni* (= *P. minor*, the Amazonas Antbird, with two subspecies *minor* and *jensoni*).

• Isler, M. L., Isler, P. R. & Whitney, B. M. Biogeography and systematics of the *Thamnophilus punctatus* (Thamnophilidae) complex.

The authors contend that the Slaty Antshrike *Thamnophilus punctatus* complex is best treated by recognising at least six, and possibly eight species: Western Slaty-antshrike *T. atrinucha* (including *T. a. atrinucha* and *T. a. gorgonae*); Guianan Slaty-antshrike *T. punctatus* (including *T. p. interpositus* and *T. p. punctatus*); (Marañón Slaty-antshrike) *T. (p.)? leucogaster*; (Huallaga Slaty-antshrike) *T. (p.)? huallagae*; Natterer's Slaty-antshrike *T. stictocephalus* (including *T. s. stictocephalus* and *T. s. parkeri* [described in the appendix]); Bolivian Slaty-antshrike *T. sticturus*; Planalto Slaty-antshrike *T. pelzelni* and Sooretama Slaty-antshrike *T. ambiguus*.

• Marantz, C. A. Geographic variation of plumage patterns in the woodcreeper genus *Dendrocolaptes* (Dendrocolaptidae).

The author suggests that approximately 1/5 of the subspecies of the five members of the genus are invalid, following cladistic and phenetic sampling of a suite of 21 plumage characteristics.

• Marín, M. Species limits and distribution of some New World spinetailed swifts (*Chaetura* spp.).

The author considers *Chaetura andrei* an invalid taxon; he recommends the taxa *C. andrei meridionalis* and *C. chapmani viridipennis* be elevated to species rank (they are more closely related to *C. pelagica* than to the species in which they are currently placed).

• O'Neill, J. P. & Parker, T. A. New subspecies of *Myrmoborus leucophrys* (Formicariidae) and

Phrygilus alaudinus (Emberizidae) from the upper Huallaga Valley, Peru.

The paper describes new subspecies for White-browed Antbird *Myrmoborus leucophrys koenigorum* and Band-tailed Sierra-finch *Phrygilus alaudinus bracki* from this ecologically isolated area of Peru.

• Robbins, M. B. & Parker, T. A. Voice and taxonomy of *Caprimulgus (rufus) otiosus* (Caprimulgidae), with a re-evaluation of *Caprimulgus* subspecies.

The authors consider the St. Lucian Nightjar *C. otiosus* to be conspecific with Rufous Nightjar *C. rufus* with the following subspecies arrangement for *C. rufus*: *otiosus* (St. Lucia); *rufus* (north-west Brazil, southern Venezuela, east through the Guianas, and south to south of the Rio Amazonas) and *rutilus* (south Brazil, north Argentina, east Bolivia).

• Robbins, M. B., Rosenberg, G. H., Molina, F. S. & Jacome, M. A. Taxonomy and nest description of the Tumbes Swallow (*Tachycineta [albilinea] stolzmanni*).

Newly acquired data on the biology of this taxon show *Tachycineta stolzmanni* to be a valid species.

• Schulenberg, T. S. & Parker, T. A. A new species of tyrant-flycatcher (Tyrannidae: *Tolmomyias*) from the western Amazon Basin.

The authors describe Orange-eyed Flycatcher *Tolmomyias traylori* from the western Amazon basin. The species occurs in the subcanopy of river-edge and *várzea*, and is syntopic with three other members of its genus, *T. assimilis*, *T. poliocephalus* and *T. flaviventris*. Also, the new species appears to be parapatric with *T. sulphurescens insignis*.

• Vuilleumier, F. Status and distribution of *Asthenes anthoides* (Furnariidae), a species endemic to Fuego-Patagonia, with notes on its systematic relationships and conservation.

The author concludes that this taxon (considered a subspecies by some authorities) is a valid species.

• Whitney, B. M. & Pacheco, J. F. Behaviour, vocalisations, and relationships of some *Myrmotherula* antwrens (Thamnophilidae) in eastern Brazil, with comments on the 'Plain-winged' group.

Salvadori's *M. minor*, Unicolored *M. unicolor*, Alagoas *M. snowi* and Band-tailed *M. urosticta* Antwrens are analysed in detail, with the authors elevating *M. snowi* to specific rank. They also analyse intrageneric relationships within *Myrmotherula*.

• Zimmer, K. J. Species limits in *Cranioleuca vulpina*.

The author concludes that Rusty-backed Spinetail *C. vulpina* actually comprises two species-level taxa: a wide-ranging polytypic species (*C. vulpina*) of *várzea* and riverine forests of the Amazon basin, and a more specialised form (*C. vulpecula*) of successional habitats on islands of the Amazon and its major white-water tributaries.

Copies of *Ornithological Monograph* No. 48 can be obtained from Max C. Thompson, Assistant to the Treasurer, Department of Biology, Southwestern College, 100 College St., Winfield, Kansas 67156, USA. Price of the monograph is \$49.95 prepaid. Add \$4.00 for handling and shipping within the USA, and \$7.00 for all other countries. Cheques payable to the American Ornithologists' Union: major credit cards are accepted.

Taxonomic Round-up



A new *Herpsilochmus antwren* from north-east Peru and south-east Ecuador

Bret Whitney and Jose Alvarez Alonso have described a new canopy-dwelling *Herpsilochmus* from the nutrient-poor, sandy soil forests of Amazonian Peru (many

localities) and Kapawi Ecological Reserve, Loreto, Ecuador.

Herpsilochmus gentryi, the Ancient Antwren, is closely related to *H. stictocephalus*, Todd's Antwren of the Guianan shield. It is, however, sympatric with *H. sticturus dugandi*,

although the limited overlap with this taxon is a function of high habitat mosaicism in the general area. This may have implications for the species' conservation, because, although common within its specialised habitat, the heterogeneity of the *terra firme*

landscape is such that the species' chosen habitat is nevertheless quite rare.

- Whitney, B. M. & Alonso, J. A. (1998) A new *Herpsilochmus* antwren (Aves: Thamnophilidae) from northern Amazonian Peru and adjacent Ecuador: the role of edaphic heterogeneity of terra firme forest. *Auk* 115: 559–576.

Arremon semitorquatus is a valid species

Marcos Raposo and Ricardo Parrini have expanded on previous work on the Pectoral Sparrow *Arremon taciturnus* complex taxonomy (see *Cotinga* 8: 14), and concluded that *A. l. semitorquatus*, the Half-collared Sparrow, found in Brazil from Rio de Janeiro south to Rio Grande do Sul, is a valid species. Not only are there significant morphological differences between *A. semitorquatus* and *A. taciturnus*, but the hitherto perceived area of intergradation between the two taxa does not exist.

- Raposo, M. A. & Parrini, R. (1997) On the validity of the Half-collared Sparrow



Half-collared Sparrow *Arremon semitorquatus*, Fazenda Serra do Mar, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, March 1997 (Rob Williams)

Arremon semitorquatus
Swainson, 1837. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 117: 294–298.

A new subspecies of Yellow-headed Parrot from northern Honduras

Sebastian Lousada and Steve Howell have described *Amazona oratrix hondurensis* from the Sula Valley of Honduras. The AOU (1983) *Check-list of North American birds* considered the Sula Valley birds to be Yellow-crowned Parrots *A. ochrocephala*, but the authors contend that it is probably more appropriate to assign them to *A. oratrix*, although other taxonomic arrangements for this complex should be considered.

- Lousada, S. A. & Howell, S. N. G. (1997) *Amazona oratrix hondurensis*: a new subspecies of parrot from the Sula Valley of northern Honduras. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 117: 205–209.

A new subspecies of leaftosser from north-east Bolivia

Andrew Kratter has described a new subspecies of Grey-throated Leaftosser. *Sclerurus albigularis kempffi* is known from the Serrania Huanchaca, which straddles the border between north-east Santa Cruz, Bolivia and west Mato Grosso, Brazil. The newly described subspecies is distinctly paler and occurs at lower elevations than other subspecies of *S. albigularis*.

- Kratter, A. (1997) A new subspecies of *Sclerurus albigularis* (Gray-throated Leaftosser) from northeastern Bolivia, with notes on geographical variation. *Orn. Neotropical* 8: 23–30.

A new hummingbird subspecies from the Peruvian Andes

Karl Schuchmann and Thomas Züchner have described a new subspecies of Violet-throated Starfrontlet *Coeligena violifer. C. v. albicaudata* is restricted to the

mountains on both sides of the Apurímac river in the departments of Cuzco, Apurímac and Ayacucho. The new subspecies is principally distinguished by its whitish rectrices.

- Schuchmann, K.-L. & Züchner, T. (1997) *Coeligena violifer albicaudata* (Aves, Trochilidae): a new hummingbird subspecies from the southern Peruvian Andes. *Orn. Neotropical* 8: 247–253.

Reappraisal of the taxonomy of Brazilian populations of *Pyrrhura leucotis*

As an adjunct to an ecological study of Pfrimer's Conure *Pyrrhura (leucotis) pfrimeri*, Olmos *et al.* consider the taxonomic status of the Brazilian populations of White-eared Conure *P. leucotis*. All three allopatric taxa—*P. leucotis* from southern Bahia to Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais, *P. griseipectus* from three montane isolates in Ceará south to Pernambuco, and *P. pfrimeri* from the Serra Geral, Goiás—are considered by the authors to be worthy of specific status based on the differing morphological characters and habitat requirements of the three taxa.

- Olmos, F., Martuscelli, P. & Silva e Silva, R. (1997) Distribution and dry-season ecology of Pfrimer's Conure *Pyrrhura pfrimeri*, with a reappraisal of Brazilian *Pyrrhura "leucotis"*. *Orn. Neotropical* 8: 121–132.

More studies on Stripe-headed Tanager taxonomy

Complementing the study by Nedra Klein cited in *Cotinga* 8: 14, O. Garrido *et al.* have reappraised the taxonomy of *Spindalis zena*. They conclude that the complex comprises a superspecies with four allospecies: *S. nigricephala* of Jamaica; *S. portoricensis* of Puerto Rico; *S. dominicensis* of

Hispaniola and Gonâve Island; and a polytypic *S. zena* represented by five subspecies: *S. z. zena* in some islands of the northern and central Bahamas, *S. z. townsendi* confined to Grand Bahama, the Abacos, and Green Turtle Cay, *S. z. pretrei* in Cuban territory, *S. z. salvini* confined to the island of Grand Cayman, and *S. z. benedicti* confined to Cozumel island, east of the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico.

- Garrido, O. H., Parkes, K. C., Reynard, G. B. & Sutton, R. (1997) Taxonomy of the Stripe-headed Tanager, genus *Spindalis* (Aves: Thraupidae) of the West Indies. *Wilson Bull.* 109: 561–594.

Revised taxonomic treatment for the Palm Crow

Orlando Garrido *et al.* have reappraised the relationships between the various taxa comprising the Palm Crow *Corvus palmarum* and conclude that it should again be considered as two species: *Corvus palmarum*, the Hispaniolan Palm Crow and *C. minutus*, the Cuban Palm Crow.

- Garrido, O. H., Reynard, G. B. & Kirkconnell, A. (1997) Is the Palm Crow, *Corvus palmarum* (Aves: Corvidae), a monotypic species? *Orn. Neotropical* 8: 15–21.

New taxonomic treatment for Masked Booby populations in the eastern Pacific Ocean

Robert Pitman and Joseph Jehl have examined the various forms of *Sula dactylatra* which occur in the eastern Pacific, and consider that the the orange-billed form *S. (d). granti* which nests almost

exclusively on the islands of the Galápagos and on Malpelo island, Colombia should be recognised as a separate species, the Nazca Booby.

- Pitman, R. L. & Jehl, J. R. (1998) Geographic variation and reassessment of species limits in the “Masked Boobies” of the eastern Pacific Ocean. *Wilson Bull.* 110: 155–170.

Lophornis melaniae is not a valid taxon

Michael Walters has discovered that *Lophornis melaniae* probably represents aberrant or faded specimens of Rufous-crested Coquette *L. delattrei*.

- Walters, M. (1997) On the identity of *Lophornis melaniae* Floericke (Trochilidae). *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 117: 235–236.

Is Tachira Emerald a species?

André Weller and Karl Schuchmann have critically examined the holotype of *Amazilia distans*, the Tachira Emerald, and hypothesise that it is a hybrid between White-chinned Sapphire *Hylocharis cyanus* and Glittering-throated Emerald *Amazilia fimbriata*.

- Weller, A. & Schuchmann, K.-L. (1997) The hybrid origin of a Venezuelan trochilid, *Amazilia distans* Wetmore & Phelps 1956. *Orn. Neotropical* 8: 107–112.

Several hybrid hummingbirds unmasked

Gary Graves has undertaken analyses of various hummingbird taxa and recently published some of his findings as below.

- Graves, G. R. & Newfield, N. L. (1996) Diagnoses of hybrid

hummingbirds (Aves: Trochilidae). 1. Characterisation of *Calypte anna* × *Stellula calliope* and the possible effects of egg volume on hybridisation potential. *Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington* 109: 755–763. [Plumage pattern and colour and external morphology of two specimens of this hybrid are discussed. The parental species are Anna’s Hummingbird *Calypte anna* and Calliope Hummingbird *Stellula calliope*.]

Graves, G. R. (1996) Diagnoses of hybrid hummingbirds (Aves: Trochilidae). 2. Hybrid origin of *Eriocnemis soderstromi* Butler. *Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington* 109: 764–769. [*E. soderstromi* represents an intrageneric hybrid between Black-breasted Puffleg *E. nigriventris* and Sapphire-vented Puffleg *E. luciani*.]

Graves, G. R. (1997) Diagnoses of hybrid hummingbirds (Aves: Trochilidae). 3. Parentage of *Lesbia ortoni* Lawrence. *Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington* 110: 314–319. [*Lesbia ortoni* represents a hybrid between Black-tailed Trainbearer *L. victoriae* and Purple-backed Thornbill *Ramphomicron microrhynchum*.]

Graves, G. R. (1997) Diagnoses of hybrid hummingbirds (Aves: Trochilidae). 4. Hybrid origin of *Calothorax decoratus* Gould. *Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington* 110: 320–325. [*C. decoratus* is confirmed as a hybrid between Gorgeted Woodstar *Acestrura heliodor* and White-bellied Woodstar *A. mulsant*.]

Taxonomic Round-up



A new rhinocryptid from southern Brazil

Marcos Bornschein *et al.* have described a new *Scytalopus* tapaculo from the metropolitan district of Curitiba, Paraná, southern Brazil. *Scytalopus iraiensis*, the Tall-grass Wetland Tapaculo inhabits wetlands where the vegetation is high and forms dense thickets of shading grass leaves and sedges. The new species is similar to males of Mouse-coloured Tapaculo *S. speluncae* in coloration, but differs from that species in possessing a blackish back and grey belly, rather than being a uniform grey. Vocalisations are also significantly different. Unfortunately, the new species is already gravely endangered as all three areas in which it has been located are threatened by wholesale habitat modification.

- Bornschein, R. M., Reinert, B. L. & Pichorim, P. (1998) Descrição, ecologia e conservação de um novo *Scytalopus* (Rhinocryptidae) do sul do Brasil, com comentários sobre a morfologia da família. *Ararajuba* 6: 3–36.

Two new subspecies of *Cinnycerthia fulva*

Cotinga 6 reported on a taxonomic reappraisal of Andean *Cinnycerthia* wrens, undertaken by R. T. Brumfield and Van

Remsen. The two undescribed subspecies referred to in the previous paper have now been described as *C. f. fitzpatricki* from the isolated Cordillera Vilcabamba, dpto. Cuzco, Peru and *C. f. gravesi* from dpto. Puno, Peru south to dpto. Cochabamba, Bolivia.

- Remsen, J. V. & Brumfield, R. T. (1998) Two new subspecies of *Cinnycerthia fulva* (Aves: Troglodytidae) from the southern Andes. *Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash.* 111: 1008–1015.

Spotted Antpitta: species status for one of its (recently rediscovered) subspecies?

Sjoerd Maijer has rediscovered *Hyllopezus (macularius) auricularis* c.10 km from the type-locality in northern Bolivia. He recommends species rank for *auricularis* on the basis of its distinctive plumage (including a black mask) and unique song, as well as differences in habitat. He has proposed the vernacular name Masked Antpitta.

- Maijer, S. (1998) Rediscovery of *Hyllopezus (macularius) auricularis*: distinctive song and habitat indicate species rank. *Auk* 115: 1072–1073.

Correction of the specific name of Long-trained Nightjar
Fernando Pacecho and Bret Whitney have demonstrated that

the correct name for this spectacular bird under the articles of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature is *Macropsalis forcipata* (Nitsch 1840).

- Pacecho, J. F. & Whitney, B. M. (1998) Correction of the specific name of Long-trained Nightjar. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 118: 259–260.

A new subspecies of Berylline Hummingbird

André Weller has analysed morphological variation within the Berylline Hummingbird *Amazilia beryllina* and has ascribed *A. sumichastri* (Salvin 1891) as a subspecies of *A. beryllina*. This taxon, found in the mountains of extreme south-east Oaxaca and southern and north-central Chiapas, has had a capricious taxonomic history, but the author's analysis places it within *A. beryllina*.

- Weller, A.-A. (1998) On types of trochilids in the Natural History Museum, Tring. 1. *Amazilia sumichastri* Salvin, in relation to morphology and biogeography within the *A. beryllina* complex. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 118: 249–256.

Taxonomic Round-up



A new species of antwren from the western Amazonian lowlands of Ecuador and Peru

Niels Krabbe *et al.* have described Brown-backed Antwren *Myrmotherula fjeldsaai*, a close relative of Stipple-throated Antwren *M. haematonota*. The new species differs in both sexes from *M. h. haematonota* in that it has a brown instead of red back. New distributional data have demonstrated that the two populations formerly included in *M. haematonota* (nominate *M. h. haematonota* and *M. fjeldsaai*) meet north of the río Marañón, between the ríos Napo and Pastaza, with no apparent physical barrier between them.

- Krabbe, N, Isler, M. L., Isler, P. R., Whitney, B. M., Alvarez, J. A. & Greenfield, P. J. (1999) A new species in the *Myrmotherula haematonota* superspecies (Aves: Thamnophilidae) from the western Amazonian lowlands of Ecuador and Peru. *Wilson Bull.* 111: 157–165.

A new species of pygmy-owl from the Pacific slope of the northern Andes

Cloud-forest Pygmy-owl *Glaucidium nubicola* has recently been described by Mark Robbins

and Gary Stiles. The new taxon is restricted to very wet cloud forest at 1,400–2,000 m on the Pacific slope of the western Andes of central Colombia south to north-west Ecuador. The new species is vocally distinct and a number of consistent morphological differences have also been noted. It appears to be vocally most similar to nominate Northern Pygmy-owl *Glaucidium g. gnoma* and the form *costaricanum*, which has been variously treated as a subspecies of *gnoma* or, more usually, Andean Pygmy-owl *G. jardinii*. The authors further consider that *costaricanum*, as a sister taxon of *gnoma*, deserves specific recognition (under the English name Costa Rican Pygmy-owl) based on dramatic ecological differences as well as morphological and vocalisation differences.

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

A new species of Atlapetes brush-finch from Peru

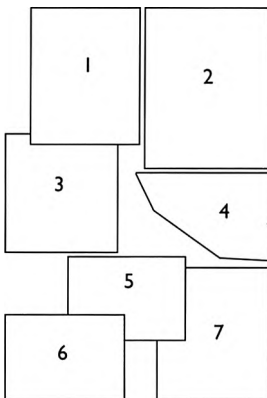
Thomas Valqui and Jon Fjeldsá have described Black-spectacled Brush-finch *Atlapetes melanops* from central Peru, where the new

species inhabits humid scrub on both sides of the steep canyon formed where the río Montero intersects the eastern Andean ridge. The Andean brush-finches consist of two main groups comprising grey-breasted and yellow-breasted birds (although these colours may not reflect evolutionary trajectories), and Black-spectacled Brush-finch is intermediate in some respects between these two groups. The new species' principal distinguishing morphological feature is the entirely black orbital area.

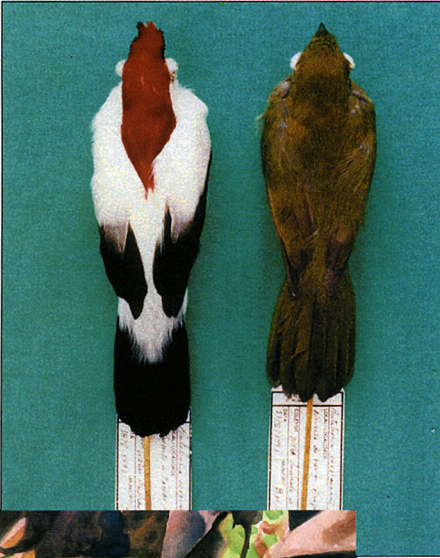
- Valqui, T. & Fjeldsá, J. (1999) New brush-finch *Atlapetes* from Peru. *Ibis* 141: 194–198.

Species limits in the genus Atlapetes

Jaime García-Moreno and Jon Fjeldsá have reappraised the status of many of the taxa within *Atlapetes*, using mitochondrial DNA techniques. The data collected suggest three principal branches, comprising the southern (Bolivian and north-west Argentina), central (south and central Peruvian) and northern/western species. The data also demonstrate that many subspecies are genetically more divergent than sympatric species.



- 1 Male (left) and female Araripe Manakin *Antilophia bokermanni* (Galileu Coelho)
- 2 Rufous-crowned Greenlet *Hylophilus poicilotis* (top) and *H. amaurocephalus* (painting by Jorge B. Nacinovic. E-mail: nacinovic@pontocom.com.br)
- 3 Brown-backed Antwren *Myrmotherula fjeldsaai* male type (top), female (bottom) (painting by Jon Fjeldsá, reproduced with kind permission of Wilson Ornithological Society)
- 4 Black-spectacled Brush-finch *Atlapetes melanops* (painting by Jon Fjeldsá)
- 5 & 6 Green-cheeked Parakeet *Pyrrhura molinae flavoptera* (Omar Rocha)
- 7 Cloud-forest Pygmy-owl *Glaucidium nubicola* (painting by Tracy Pedersen, reproduced with kind permission of the American Ornithologists' Union and Mark B. Robbins)



They suggest the following classification:

- *Atlapetes rufinucha* (including *rufinucha* and *carrikeri*) as Bolivian Rufescent-naped Brush-finch—southern branch
- *Atlapetes latinuchus* (including *elaeoprorus*, *simplex*, *caucae*, *spodionotus*, *comptus*, *latinuchus*, *chugurensis* and *baroni*) as Northern Rufous-naped Brush-finch—central branch
- *Atlapetes rufigenis* as Rufous-eared Brush-finch—central branch
- *Atlapetes forbesi* as Apurímac Brush-finch—central branch
- *Atlapetes schistaceus* (including *castaneifrons*, *tamae*, *schistaceus* and *taczanowskii*) as Slaty Brush-finch—central branch
- *Atlapetes melanops* as Black-spectacled Brush-finch—northern branch
- *Atlapetes terborghi* as Vilcabamba Brush-finch—northern branch
- *Atlapetes canigenis* as Grey Brush-finch—northern branch
- *Atlapetes melanolaemus* as Black-faced Brush-finch—northern branch

However, the authors add the caveat that they have not studied the grey forms of Ecuador and Peru, nor the richly coloured taxa from the northern Andes, so are not formally proposing a new sequence.

- García-Moreno, J. & Fjeldså, J. Re-evaluation of species limits in the genus *Atlapetes* based on mtDNA sequence data. *Ibis* 141: 199–207.

***Antilophia bokermanni* formally described**

Araripe Manakin *Antilophia bokermanni* has been described formally in the Brazilian journal *Ararajuba*, although the species had already been named (with accompanying photographs) in the *Jornal do Commercio* (published in Recife), a Brazilian newspaper.

- Coelho, G. & Silva, W. (1998) A new species of *Antilophia* (Passeriformes: Pipridae) from Chapada do Araripe, Ceará, Brazil. *Ararajuba* 6: 81–84.

A distinctive new subspecies of Green-cheeked Parakeet from Bolivia

Sjoerd Maijer *et al.* have described *Pyrrhura molinae flavoptera*, which, as the scientific name suggests, has striking yellow marginal coverts along the leading edge of the wing-bend. The new subspecies is located in the arid rain-shadow valleys in southern dpto. La Paz, Bolivia. The authors discuss the importance of this area to the evolution of Andean dry forest birds.

- Maijer, S., Herzog, S. K., Kessler, M., Friggens, M. T. & Fjeldså, J. (1998) A distinctive new subspecies of the Green-cheeked Parakeet (*Pyrrhura molinae*, Psittacidae) from Bolivia. *Orn. Neotrop.* 9: 185–191.

Rufous-crowned Greenlet *Hylophilus poicilotis* is two species

Marcos Raposo *et al.* reconfirm the elevation of *H. p. amaurocephalus* to species status. Their analysis was based on the study of museum specimens and vocalisations in the field. While *amaurocephalus* is found in north-east Brazil south to southern Bahia, *poicilotis* occurs south into east Paraguay and north-east Argentina.

- Raposo, M., Parrini, R. & Napoli, M. (1998) Taxonomia, morfometria e bioacústica do grupo específico *Hylophilus poicilotis* / *H. amaurocephalus* (Aves, Vireonidae). *Ararajuba* 6: 87–109.

Greater Antillean Nightjar is two species

Orlando Garrido and George Reynard have analysed the taxa within this complex, particularly their vocalisations, and concluded that two species are involved: Hispaniolan Nightjar *Caprimulgus eckmani* and Cuban Nightjar *C. cubanensis*, including the recently described race *insulaepinorum* in the Isle of Youth (formerly the Isle of Pines).

- Garrido, O. H. & Reynard, G. B. (1998) Is the Greater Antillean Nightjar, *Caprimulgus cubanensis* (Aves: Caprimulgidae), a composite species? *Orn. Neotrop.* 9: 1–12.

A molecular study of the turcas and huet-huets

Terry Chesser has published a study into the molecular systematics of the rhinocryptid genus *Pteroptochus*. Phylogenetic analysis revealed that *P. castaneus*, *P. tarnii* and *P. megapodius* constitute separate lineages, with *P. castaneus* and *P. tarnii* as sister taxa, and *P. megapodius* sister to these. The first two appear to be separate species under both the biological and phylogenetic species concepts.

• Chesser, R. T. (1999) Molecular systematics of the rhinocryptid genus *Pteroptochus*. *Condor* 101: 439–446.

Montane *Troglodytes* wrens

Nathan Rice *et al.* have studied phylogenetic patterns in montane *Troglodytes* wrens, based on mitochondrial DNA studies, and suggest a new hypothesis of relationships within the group. Winter Wren *T. troglodytes* and Timberline Wren *Thryorchilus browni* are distantly related to the remainder of *Troglodytes*. The latter grouping subdivides into a tropical montane group and a northern/lowland group that includes the northernmost two montane taxa, *T. rufociliatus* and *T. brunneicollis*. The resurrection of the genus *Nannus* for Winter Wren is also proposed.

- Rice, N. H., Peterson, A. T. & Escalona-Segura, G. (1999) Phylogenetic patterns in montane *Troglodytes* wrens. *Condor* 101: 446–451.

Taxonomic Round-up



A new antpitta from the Ecuadorian Andes

Niels Krabbe *et al.* have described Jocotoco Antpitta *Grallaria ridgelyi* from the super-humid upper subtropical forest of Zamora-Chinchi in southern Ecuador. The highest elevation at which the birds were recorded corresponded to the upper limit of *Cecropia* growth, at c.2,680 m. The authors speculate that the species may be present further north, in Podocarpus National Park (its present range lies mainly outside the park boundaries), and also in northern Peru, and perhaps even further north in Ecuador, to Volcán Sumaco, and as far south as the central Andes of Peru. The species is considered part of a clade containing other large antpittas such as *G. nuchalis* (syntopic with the new species), *G. hypoleuca*, *G. watkinsi* and *G. ruficapilla*. The idiosyncratic vernacular name highlights the work of 'Fundación Jocotoco', a non-profit making NGO that has purchased land around the type-locality, and which has also purchased land in other critically important bird sites.

- Krabbe, N., Agro, D. J., Rice, N. H., Jacome, M., Navarette, L. & Sornoza, F.M. (1999) A new species of antpitta (Formicariidae: *Grallaria*) from the southern Ecuadorian Andes. *Auk* 116: 882–890.

Caracara *plancus* is three species

New research on Crested Caracara *Caracara plancus* suggests that three taxa should be recognised at species level. Carla Dove and Richard Banks studied plumage characters and measurements of 392 specimens from across the species' range and found only limited evidence, from localities close to the Amazon, of a contact zone (where birds with



Jocotoco Antpitta *Grallaria ridgelyi* (Doug Weschler/VIREO)

intermediate characters are occasionally found), and no evidence of clinal change from north to south. A number of characters suggest that size is positively correlated with latitude north and south of the equator. The authors conclude that three biological species are involved: *C. lutosus* (Guadalupe Caracara, from Guadalupe, Mexico) and two mainland forms, *C. cheriway* (Northern Caracara, from the USA south to the Amazon and Peru) and *C. plancus* (Southern Caracara, from south-east Brazil and Bolivia south to Tierra del Fuego), which do not appear to overlap in western South America.

- Dove, C. J. & Banks, R. C. (1999) A taxonomic study of Crested Caracaras (Falconidae). *Wilson Bull.* 111: 330–339.

Crax viridirostris Sclater, 1875 and *C. estudilloi* Allen, 1977: the identities of two curassows unravelled by DNA evidence

Leo Joseph *et al.* have analysed the single specimens of these two taxa, which both possess a greenish cere, a unique characteristic within the genus *Crax*. They found that the mtDNA sequences of *estudilloi* resembled those of Blue-billed Curassow *C. alberti* and those of *viridirostris* resembled those of Yellow-knobbed Curassow *C. daubentoni*. The authors speculate on the possible origin of these specimens

and draw the conclusion that hybrid origin is the most likely explanation.

- Joseph, L., Slikas, B., Rankin-Baransky, R., Bazartseren, B., Alpers, D. & Gilbert, A. E. (1999) DNA evidence concerning the identities of *Crax viridirostris* Sclater, 1875, and *C. estudilloi* Allen, 1977. *Orn. Neotrop.* 10: 129–144.

A new subspecies of Rufous-tailed Hummingbird from Colombia

Weller & Schuchmann analysed morphological variation within the species (currently comprising two subspecies *A. t. tzacatl* and *A. t. jucunda*) and concluded that another taxon, *A. t. handleyi* (Wetmore, 1963) is a valid subspecies of *A. t. tzacatl*, the taxon *A. t. fuscicaudata* (Fraser, 1840) is also valid, and they also describe *A. t. brehmi*, a new subspecies from Nariño, Colombia.

- Weller, A.-A. & Schuchmann, K.-L. (1999) Geographical variation in the southern distributional range of the Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, *Amazilia tzacatl* De la Llave, 1832: a new subspecies from Nariño, southwestern Colombia. *J. Orn.* 140: 457–466.

Handbook of Birds of the World Vol. 5

This landmark publication has reached groups such as owls, nightjars, potoos and swifts, and provides the first contemporary portrayal of all the hummingbirds in one easily accessible tome. The taxonomic status of the hummingbird taxa, in particular, means that it should be an important reference for all researchers interested in Neotropical birds.

- del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A. & Sargatal, J. (eds.) (1999) *Handbook of the birds of the world*, 5. Barcelona: Lynx Edicions.

Taxonomic Round-up



A new subspecies of Greenish Puffleg

Researchers had previously noted the relatively distinct population of Greenish Puffleg *Haplophaedia aureliae* in south-east Ecuador, principally in the Cordillera de Cutucú, Morona-Santiago, and Cordillera del Condor, Zamora-Chinchipe. This population hitherto has not been named, a situation now resolved by Karl Schuchmann *et al.* *Haplophaedia aureliae cutucuensis* appears to be restricted to these two areas, and principally differs from related taxa in its very heavy greyish-white underparts scaling. The holotype was collected at 2,100 m in the central Cutucú Mountains. The authors thoroughly analyse the mensural and morphometric characters of various *Haplophaedia* taxa.

- Schuchmann, K.-L., Weller, A.-A. & Heynen, I. (2000) Biogeography and taxonomy of the Andean hummingbird genus *Haplophaedia* Simon (Aves: Trochilidae), with the description of a new subspecies from southern Ecuador. *Orn. Anz.* 39: 17–42.

An evaluation of the genus *Metallura*

Martin Heindl & Karl Schuchmann have studied the biogeography and taxonomy of the high Andean hummingbird genus *Metallura*. Geographical variation, according to morphometric and plumage coloration characters, was analysed, confirming the presence of nine species (consisting of 15 subspecies) within the genus: *M. tyrianthina* (seven subspecies are recognised within this widespread species), *M. iracunda*, *M. phoebe*, *M. aeneocauda* (two subspecies), *M. eupogon*, *M. theresiae* (two subspecies), *M. odomae*, *M. baroni* and *M. williami* (four subspecies). Within this grouping, the six last-

named species are considered to form a superspecies, while *tyrianthina* and *iracunda* represent sister species, which exhibit plesiomorphic characters that link *Metallura* with its sister genus *Chalcostigma*. Furthermore, the disjunct distribution of similar phenotypes and progression of morphological characters suggest that allopatric speciation has occurred relatively recently, presumably due to habitat changes wrought by Late Pliocene and Pleistocene vicissitudes.

- Heindl, M. & Schuchmann, K.-L. (1998) Biogeography, geographical variation and taxonomy of the Andean hummingbird genus *Metallura* GOULD, 1847. *J. Orn.* 139: 425–473.

A new subspecies of Fiery Topaz

Da-Shih Hu *et al.* have analysed hummingbird taxa within the genus *Topaza* and concluded that the largely accepted view that these taxa represent two species, Crimson *T. pella* and Fiery *T. pyra* is correct, *contra* Schuchmann, Ruschi and others. In addition, they describe *Topaza pyra amaruni*, a new subspecies from the rios Napo and Corrientes in Amazonian Ecuador and west Amazonian Peru. This subspecies differs from the nominate in having more black in the tibial feathering. The authors conclude that additional undiscovered populations of these species may exist.

- Hu, Da-Shih, Joseph, L. & Agro, D. (2000) Distribution, variation, and taxonomy of *Topaza* hummingbirds (Aves: Trochilidae). *Orn. Neotrop.* 11: 123–142.

A new taxonomic treatment of Green-bellied Hummingbird, including a new subspecies

André Weller has reviewed distribution and geographical variation within *Saucerottia* (= *Amazilia*) *viridigaster*, hitherto considered to comprise four subspecies, *viridigaster*, *cupreicauda*, *duidae* and *laireti*. Evidence is available for the existence of two subspecifically distinct Andean populations of *S. viridigaster*, which points to the separation of *S. viridigaster* (including *viridigaster* and *iodura*) and *S. cupreicauda* (including all other taxa) as allopecies, and the presence of a new subspecies of the latter, *S. c. pacaraimae*, in the Sierra de Pacaraima, south Bolívar, Venezuela. The author conducts a thorough biogeographical analysis of the genus, in general, and the species group in particular.

- Weller, A.-A. (2000) A new hummingbird subspecies from southern Bolívar, Venezuela, with notes on biogeography and taxonomy of the *Saucerottia viridigaster-cupreicauda* species group. *Orn. Neotrop.* 11: 143–154.

A new subspecies of Black and Yellow Silky Flycatcher

Gilbert Barrantes and Julio Sanchez have described *Phainoptila melanoxantha parkeri*, a new subspecies of Black and Yellow Silky Flycatcher, from the Cordillera de Guanacaste, north-west Costa Rica. Males differ from other populations, in the Cordillera de Talamanca and Volcanica Central, in having a wholly yellow belly (rather than grey), and the female has the breast diagnostically streaked. Geographical variation within the species is also analysed.

- Barrantes, G. & Sanchez, J. E. (2000) A new subspecies of Black and Yellow Silky

Flycatcher, *Phainoptila melanoxantha*, from Costa Rica. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 120: 40–46.

Yellow-throated Oriole does not exist

Josefina Barreiro and Jaime Perez del Val have analysed the type-specimen of Yellow-throated Oriole *Icterus xantholaemus*, a species described in 1918 and known only from this specimen. It clearly shows the distinctive features of Saffron-cowled Blackbird *Xanthospar flavus*, from south-east South America, and therefore *Icterus xantholaemus* should be synonymised with *Xanthospar flavus*.

- Barreiro, J. & Perez del Val, J. (2000) Yellow-throated Oriole, *Icterus xantholaemus* Gil 1918, a non-valid species. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 120: 62–63.

An appraisal of *Chaetura* swifts

Manuel Marín has undertaken an exhaustive study of this genus, which is largely subdivided into grey-rumped and brown-rumped taxa, the former being further divisible into pale-rumped and grey-rumped subgroups. The validity of the following taxa may be doubtful: *Chaetura spinicauda fumosa*, *C. s. aethalea*, *C. s. latirostris*, *C. cinereiventris pachitae* and *C. c. egregia*, while *C. s. fumosa* and *C. c. egregia* should be elevated to species rank. Furthermore, *C. c. pachitae* is a synonym of *C. c. egregia* and *C. s. aethalea* and *C. s. latirostris* should be included within the nominate subspecies. The pale-rumped group comprises four allopatric or parapatric species: *C. martinica*, *C. spinicauda*, *C. fumosa* and *C. egregia*, which are closely interrelated and should be considered a superspecies.

- Marín, M. (2000) Species limits, distribution, and biogeography of some New World grey-rumped spine-tailed swifts (*Chaetura*, Apodidae). *Orn. Neotrop.* 11: 93–107.

The valid name for Blue-winged Parrotlet

Bret Whitney and Fernando Pacheco discuss the background to the primacy of either *xanthopterygius* or *crassirostris* to designate the Blue-winged Parrotlet, and detail why the former should be regarded as correct, according to an International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) ruling concerning nomenclatural stability.

- Whitney, B. M. & Pacheco, J. F. (1999) The valid name for Blue-winged Parrotlet and the designation of the lectotype of *Psittaculus xanthopterygius* Spix, 1824. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 119: 211–213.

Taxonomic Round-up



A new colourful barbet from the eastern Andes of Peru

John O'Neill and others have described a striking new *Capito* barbet from the isolated cloud forest adjacent to the east bank of the río Cushabatay, near Contaman, Loreto Department, Peru. *Capito wallacei*, the Scarlet-banded Barbet was only located on a relatively flat plateau cloaked in cloud forest. The extremely humid conditions produce dense clouds, even in the dry season, and the species' microhabitat is characterised by short trees covered with epiphytes, and a spongy cover of mosses on the forest floor. The barbet has not been found in drier forest below 1,250 m. The authors speculate the presence of Gilded Barbet *Capito auratus*, in this drier forest, may restrict Scarlet-banded Barbet to cloud forest above 1,250 m. The entire speculated range for the new species experiences very little human activity and the biologically little-known headwater regions of the río Cushabatay may

present a reservoir of undiscovered taxa. The region has been proposed as a protected area; whatever develops with regard to formal nature park/reserve status, the cloud forests would receive legal protection as catchment forests.

- O'Neill, J. P., Lane, D. F., Kratter, A. W., Capparella, A. P. & Joo, C. F. (2000) A striking new species of barbet (Capitoninae: *Capito*) from the eastern Andes of Peru. *Auk* 117: 569–577.

The *Herpsilochmus pileatus* complex re-visited

Bret Whitney and colleagues have analysed taxa within this grouping and concluded that the traditional *H. pileatus* complex comprises three species-level taxa. True *H. pileatus* is confined to southern coastal Bahia, Brazil. This taxon's closest relative is *H. atricapillus*, Black-capped Antwren, a much more wide-ranging species, in much of central and eastern Brazil, east Bolivia, north-west Argentina and

east and north-west Paraguay. In addition, the authors describe *Herpsilochmus sellowi*, Caatinga Antwren, which as the vernacular name suggests, reflects the species' habitat within the well-defined caatinga biome of interior Brazil. The authors suggest that the vernacular name for *H. pileatus* be changed to Bahia Antwren, indicative of this taxon's restricted distribution in the humid Atlantic Forest of this part of north-east Brazil, from Salvador south to c.17°S.

- Whitney, B. M., Pacheco, J. F., Buzzetti, D. R. C. & Parrini, R. (2000) Systematic revision and biogeography of the *Herpsilochmus pileatus* complex, with description of a new species from northeastern Brazil. *Auk* 117: 869–891.

A new subspecies of Emerald Toucanet

Kevin Winker has described a new subspecies of the widespread Emerald Toucanet, from Sierra de Los Tuxtlas, in south Veracruz, Mexico. *Aulacorhynchus prasinus*



Scarlet-banded Barbet *Capito wallacei* by Daniel F. Lane, reproduced with kind permission from *The Auk*



Caatinga Antwren *Herpsilochmus sellowi* by Daniel F. Lane, reproduced with kind permission from *The Auk*

warneri is readily distinguished from other subspecies by its yellowish wash to the throat and moderately bright yellowish band at the white-green interface in the auricular area. .

- Winker, K. (2000) A new subspecies of toucanet (*Aulocorhynchus prasinus*) from Veracruz, Mexico. *Orn. Neotrop.* 11: 253–257.

Rufous Cacholote is two species

Kevin Zimmer and Andrew Whittaker have demonstrated that the Rufous Cacholote comprises two distinct species: *Pseudoseisura cristata* from the caatinga biome of north-east Brazil, and *P. unirufa* in the seasonally flooded savannas and deciduous woodlands of north and east Bolivia, north Paraguay and south-west Brazil. The two taxa are morphologically, vocally and ecologically distinct, and neither responds to playback of the others vocalisations.

- Zimmer, K. J. & Whittaker, A. (2000) The Rufous Cachalote (Furnariidae: *Pseudoseisura*) is two species. *Condor* 102: 409–422.

New analysis demonstrates that Pale-tipped Tyrannulet is two species

Elsewhere, Zimmer and Whittaker demonstrate that *Inezia subflava* comprises two species-level groups, based on biometric and plumage characters, as well as vocalisations and behaviour. One group, with a suggested English name of Pale-tipped Inezia *Inezia caudata* (comprising *caudata* and *intermedia*), can be considered northern/Guianan in distribution, while the primarily Amazonian distributed *subflava* and *obscura* represent the other species-level grouping, which is given the suggested English name Amazonian Inezia *Inezia subflava*. The two groupings differ

in several vocal, plumage and biometric characters, while *subflava* and *obscura* are also morphologically distinct, but their voice and behaviour are consistent with one another.

- Zimmer, K. J. & Whittaker, A. (2000) Species limits in Pale-tipped Tyrannulets (*Inezia*: Tyrannidae). *Wilson Bull.* 112: 51–66.

Conservation of *Schistochlamys* and *Neothraupis*

Steven Gregory has recently proposed that the long-standing tanager genera *Schistochlamys* Reichenbach, 1850 and *Neothraupis* Hellmayr, 1936, be preserved, even in the light of new information concerning their type species, in the interests of nomenclatural stability.

- Gregory, S. M. S. (2000) *Schistochlamys* Reichenbach, 1850 and *Neothraupis* Hellmayr, 1936 (Aves: Passeriformes): proposed conservation. *Bull. Zool. Nomenclature* 57: 162–165.

Taxonomic Round-up



A newly described flycatcher from the cerrado of central South America

Kevin Zimmer *et al.* have described a cryptic new species of tyrannid, Chapada Flycatcher *Suiriri islerorum*, hitherto confused with *S. s. affinis*, the yellow-bellied form of the genus *Suiriri*. The new species differs from *S. s. affinis* by virtue of all vocalisations, bill size, colour pattern of the tail and shape of the central rectrices. The species' vernacular name reflects the type-locality, Chapada dos Guimarães National Park, Mato Grosso, Brazil, although it has been located in another cerrado reserve, Noel Kempff Mercado National Park, dpto. Santa Cruz, Bolivia. The authors present information on the natural history of the new species, including a unique wing-lifting display and discuss conservation issues pertaining to the cerrado region. In addition, they demonstrate that the morphologically different sister taxa *S. s. affinis* and *S. s. bahiae* are vocally and behaviourally similar.

- Zimmer, K. J., Whittaker, A. & Oren, D. C. (2001) A cryptic new species of flycatcher (Tyrannidae: *Suiriri*) from the cerrado region of central South America. *Auk* 118: 56–78.

Recent *Pyrrhura* studies

Leo Joseph has presented an analysis of taxa comprising the two Neotropical parakeets *Pyrrhura picta* and *P. leucotis*, and concluded that these refer to more than two species. The 13 taxa are usually aligned thus: *picta* group—*picta*, *amazonum*, *lucianii*, *roseifrons*, *caeruleiceps*, *subandina*, *pantchenkoi* and *eisenmanni*, and the *leucotis* group—*leucotis*, *pfimeri*,

griseipectus, *emma* and *auricularis*. The main findings are as follows. Prevalent taxonomy treating all taxa as subspecies of *picta* or *leucotis* is inappropriate because it concentrates on some morphological features at the expense of others. The taxa *subandina* and *pfimeri* are sufficiently distinct as to stand apart from each other as much as other taxa within the group. In addition, *eisenmanni* and *caeruleiceps* have *leucotis*-type underparts and cheek patterns yet have been traditionally placed within the *picta* group, which has confused understanding of variation, taxonomy and biogeography. The taxa *auricularis* and *pantchenkoi* are not diagnosable and should be considered synonyms of *emma* and *caeruleiceps*. Closer study of the western Amazonian populations referred to *lucianii* and *roseifrons* is needed to determine how many taxa are involved.

- Joseph, L. (2000) Beginning an end to uncertainty: the Neotropical parakeets known as *Pyrrhura picta* and *P. leucotis* comprise more than two species. *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia* 150: 279–292.

Advances in West Indian mimid phylogenies

Hunt *et al.* recently constructed phylogenetic hypotheses for Greater and Lesser Antillean mimidae, including five endemic species of tremblers and thrashers, Brown *Cinlocerthia ruficauda* and Grey Tremblers *C. gutturalis*, Pearly-eyed *Margarops fuscatus* and Scaly-breasted Thrashers *M. fuscus*, and Antillean and continental populations of the Tropical *Mimus gilvus* and Northern Mockingbirds *M. polyglottos*. Phylogeographic

analysis distinguished three strongly differentiated clades among tremblers, as well as distinct southern (St. Lucia and Martinique) and northern (Dominica to Montserrat) lineages within Scaly-breasted Thrasher. Minor geographic subdivision was also observed between continental and Antillean populations of Tropical Mockingbird.

Phylogenetic analyses of species-level Mimidae relationships based on DNA provide strong support for the monophyly and Antillean origin of a clade consisting of tremblers and Pearly-eyed and Scaly-breasted Thrashers, but reject monophyly in the genus *Margarops*. The analysis failed to confirm monophyly of all endemic Antillean mimids because of the apparently contemporaneous diversification of the Antillean White-breasted Thrasher *Ramphocinclus brachyurus* with the continental Grey *Dumetella carolinensis* and Black Catbirds *Melanoptila glabrirostris*. However, the endemic Lesser Antillean mimids do appear to be an indigenous radiation.

- Hunt, J. S., Bermingham, E. & Ricklefs, R. E. (2001) Molecular systematics and biogeography of Antillean thrashers, tremblers and mockingbirds (Aves: Mimidae). *Auk* 118: 35–55.

A new genus for the Andean green pihás

Rick Prum has erected a new genus for Grey-tailed *Lipaugus subalaris* and Olivaceous Pihás *L. cryptolophus*. The genus is named *Snowornis*, in honour of David Snow who first suggested the Andean green pihás were only distantly related to other *Lipaugus* species. The author outlines his reasoning behind the new genus, provides some

information on the biology of the two species, and recommends they be renamed Grey-tailed Cotinga and Olivaceous Cotinga to reflect their distant relationship to other pihas.

- Prum, R. (2001) A new genus for the Andean green pihas (Cotingidae). *Ibis* 143: 307–309.

Primolius has priority over Propyrrhura

John Penhallurick has demonstrated that the placing of Blue-winged *Ara maracana*, Blue-headed *A. couloni* and Golden-collared Macaws *A. auricollis* in the genus

Propyrrhura is erroneous, as the earlier generic name *Primolius* has priority.

- Penhallurick, J. (2001) *Primolius* Bonaparte, 1857 has priority over *Propyrrhura* Ribeiro, 1920. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 121: 38.

Taxonomic Round-up



A new species of piha from the Colombian Andes

Andrés Cuervo and colleagues have discovered a new species of piha in the Cordillera Central of Colombia. *Lipaugus weberi*, the Chestnut-capped Piha, is closely related to Dusky Piha *L. fuscocinereus*, a much more widespread Andean species. It is, however, much smaller with a chestnut-brown crown, yellow orbital ring, two modified primaries in the male, and unique vocalisations. The new species is restricted to a very narrow belt of super-humid premontane forest, a habitat now highly fragmented within its range.

- Cuervo, A. M., Salaman, P. G. W., Donegan, T. M. & Ochoa, J. M. (2001) A new species of piha (Cotingidae: *Lipaugus*) from the Cordillera Central of Colombia. *Ibis* 143: 353–368.

A new *Myiopagis elaeinia* from eastern Peru and eastern Ecuador

Paul Coopmans and Neils Krabbe have described a new elaeinia from eastern slope submontane Andean forests of Ecuador and Peru, in the vicinity of Volcán Sumaco in the north to dpto. Ayacucho in the south, and within the drainage of the río Apurímac. *Myiopagis ollalai*, the Foothill Elaenia, is perhaps most closely related to Grey Elaenia *M. caniceps* of lower elevations, and Forest Elaenia *M. gaimardii*, with which it is syntopic. The new species possesses distinctive vocalisations, as well as some differentiating plumage features, but it has only been located at the edge of very humid primary submontane forest, a habitat that within its range is under severe pressure from colonists.

- Coopmans, P. & Krabbe, N. (2000) A new species of

flycatcher (Tyrannidae: *Myiopagis*) from eastern Ecuador and eastern Peru. *Wilson Bull.* 112: 305–312.

A new tyrannulet from the white-sand forests of Peru

José Alonso and Bret Whitney have described a new *Zimmerius* tyrannulet from poorly drained white-sand forest in the vicinity of Iquitos, dpto. Loreto, Peru. *Zimmerius villarejoi*, the Mishana Tyrannulet, is closely related to the syntopic Slender-footed Tyrannulet *Z. gracilipes*, but differs in its concolorous upperparts, lack of whitish feathering in the superciliary, loreal and frontal regions, and by its distinctly pinkish (rather than blackish) lower mandible. Earliest indications are that the new species may prove to be endemic to this microhabitat in a geographically restricted area, though the authors suggest searching for it in the Tarapoto–Moyobamba region of Peru, and even perhaps in eastern Ecuador and Colombia.

- Alonso, J. A. & Whitney, B. M. (2001) A new tyrannulet (Aves: Tyrannidae) from the white sand forests of northern Amazonian Peru. *Wilson Bull.* 113: 1–9.

A new *Poecilotriccus* from northern Peru

Previously depicted in these pages (see *Cotinga* 12: 25), Ned Johnson and Robert Jones have recently described the *Poecilotriccus* first collected in 1970. The new species, Lulu's Tody-tyrant *Poecilotriccus lulae*, occurs in mid-elevation forests of the Cordillera de Colán and adjacent eastern mountains in the north-east Peruvian Andes. It is separated from the allopatric Rufous-crowned Tody-tyrant *P.*

ruficeps by the río Marañón, and can be distinguished from the latter form by virtue of its different song, facial pattern and belly coloration.

- Johnson, N. K. & Jones, R. E. (2001) A new species of tody-tyrant (Tyrannidae: *Poecilotriccus*) from northern Peru. *Auk* 118: 334–341.

Geographic variation in Suiriri Flycatcher

Floyd Hayes has recently analysed geographic variation within the three distinct taxa described among the Suiriri Flycatcher complex, namely *Suiriri suiriri suiriri* (of the Chaco/Pampas), *S. s. affinis* (in the Cerrado and southern Amazonia) and *S. s. bahiae* (of the Caatinga). A leapfrog pattern is evident, with the nominate *suiriri* and *bahiae* most closely resembling one another, and it appears that ancestral *suiriri* split into three isolated populations of which *affinis* differentiated most rapidly. Following secondary contact, *affinis* freely hybridised with nominate *suiriri*, while the intermediate size and increased plumage variability of *bahiae* resemble those of *suiriri* x *affinis* hybrids. For now, the possibility that *bahiae* is not a hybrid cannot be wholly discredited. Similarly disjunct patterns can be observed among several sister taxa inhabiting the Chaco/Caatinga biomes, without intervening in the Cerrado, implying that a shared historical process of vicariance is involved.

- Hayes, F. E. (2001) Geographic variation, hybridization, and the leapfrog pattern of evolution in the Suiriri Flycatcher (*Suiriri suiriri*) complex. *Auk* 118: 457–471.

Geographic variation in *Boissonneaua*

The German team, headed by Karl Schuchmann, continue their prolific work on hummingbirds with an analysis of the biogeography and geographic variation within the genus *Boissonneaua*, which comprises three species, *B. flavescens*, the Buff-tailed Coronet, *B. matthewsii*, the Chestnut-breasted Coronet and *B. jardini*, the Velvet-purple Coronet. The three are rather poorly differentiated morphologically and are closely related to the *Eriocnemis* and *Haplophaedia* puffleg genera. *B. flavescens* and *B. matthewsii* are clearly very closely related and the authors suppose that the centre of origin for the genus to lie on the eastern Andean slope. Subsequent trans-Andean invasion and isolation events are presumably responsible for the separation of *jardini* and the subspecies *tinochlora* of *flavescens*.

- Schuchmann, K. L., Weller, A.-A. & Heynen, I. (2001) Biogeography and geographic variation of the Andean hummingbird taxon *Boissonneaua* Reichenbach, 1854 (Aves: Trochilidae). *Orn. Neotrop.* 12: 93–108.

Unicolored Tapaculo revisited

Paul Coopmans, Niels Krabbe and Thomas Schulenberg have analysed the vocalisations of the taxa formerly comprising *Scytalopus unicolor* (Zimmer 1939): *unicolor*, *latrans*, *subcinereus*, *intermedius* and *parvirostris* and have concluded

that *latrans*, *subcinereus* and *intermedius* be collectively ranked as a species *S. latrans* (Blackish Tapaculo), with the caveat that there may be more than one species involved, distinct from *S. unicolor* (Unicolored Tapaculo). *S. parvirostris* had already been diagnosed as a separate species (Krabbe & Schulenberg 1997).

- Coopmans, P., Krabbe, N. & Schulenberg, T. S. (2000) Vocal evidence of species rank for nominate Unicolored Tapaculo *Scytalopus unicolor*. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club.* 121: 208–213.

More on *Thamnophilus punctatus*

Following on from their paper in *Orn. Monogr.* 48 examining species limits within the *Thamnophilus punctatus* complex (see *Cotinga* 9: 14), the Islers and co-workers have returned to the subject with the benefit of new vocalisation data. The latter suggest that the forms *leucogaster* (extreme southern Ecuador and northern Peru) and *huallagae* (north-east Peru) are distinct from most taxa within the complex, but are insufficiently differentiated from each other, or nominate *punctatus*, to warrant more than subspecies status within the latter. Both *leucogaster* and *huallagae* are potentially threatened by increasing agricultural development within their apparently tiny ranges.

- Isler, M. L., Isler, P. R., Whitney, B. M. & Walker, B. (2001) Species limits in antbirds: *Thamnophilus punctatus* complex continued. *Condor* 103: 278–286.

New subspecies of Velvet-browed Brilliant

Velvet-browed Brilliant *Heliodoxa xanthogonys*, which has traditionally been viewed as monotypic, is endemic to the Pantepui of northern South America. In reviewing the biogeography of the species, André Weller and Swen Renner recently discovered biometric and coloration evidence that suggest that those birds on the Serranía de la Neblina and Sierra Imeri, in southern Amazonas, Venezuela and straddling the border with Roraima, Brazil, warrant subspecific recognition. The new taxon is named *H. x. willardi* in honour of the collector of the type-series, David Willard. The authors suggest that *H. xanthogonys* probably originated from descendents in the north-east Andes that subsequently invaded the Pantepui tablelands.

- Weller, A.-A. & Renner, S. C. (2001) A new subspecies of *Heliodoxa xanthogonys* (Aves: Trochilidae) from the southern Pantepui highlands, with biogeographical and taxonomic notes. *Ararajuba* 9: 1–5.

More on Bahia Spinetail

Following an examination of the six syntypes of *Synallaxis cinerea* Wied, 1831, it has been deduced that three of them and Bahia Spinetail *S. whitneyi* represent the same taxon. The latter name is therefore considered a synonym of *S. cinerea*, which is the name applicable to the Bahia Spinetail.

- Whitney, B. M. & Pacheco, J. F. (2001) *Synallaxis whitneyi* Pacheco and Gonzaga, 1995 is a synonym of *Synallaxis cinerea* Wied, 1831. *Nattereria* 2: 34–35.

Taxonomic Round-up



New perspectives concerning the genus *Eriocnemis*

With 11 currently recognised species, the genus *Eriocnemis* is one of the most diversified Andean hummingbird groups, which occupies mainly open montane habitats such as cloud-forest edge or páramo. On the basis of distributional and morphological patterns, a new study highlights the geographical variation and biogeography of the group. Characteristics common to all the species are the greenish dorsal plumage, the conspicuous and mostly whitish tibial tufts, and fairly pronounced tail bifurcation. With the help of plumage synapomorphies for a cladistic analysis, several species groups or superspecies can be distinguished: the *E. vestitus* group (including Glowing *E. vestitus*, Turquoise-throated *E. godini* and Black-breasted Pufflegs *E. nigrivestis*), the *E. luciani* group (including Sapphire-vented *E. luciani*, Coppery-bellied *E. cupreiventris* and Coppery-naped Pufflegs *E. sapphiropygia*), and the *E. alinae* group (including Emerald-bellied *E. alinae* and Colourful Pufflegs *E. mirabilis*). Blue-capped *E. glaucopoides*, Golden-breasted *E. mosquera* and Black-thighed Pufflegs *E. derbyi* differ quite widely in morphology and ecological requirements from the others. Three new subspecies are described within the present review, *E. vestitus arcosi* from south Ecuador and north Peru, and *E. luciani baptistae* from central and south Ecuador. A previously overlooked specimen of *E. luciani* from the Andes of Mérida is the first species record for Venezuela, c. 1,100 km north-east of the main range, and it is recommended that it should be recognised taxonomically as *E. luciani meridae*, on the basis of its unique plumage morphology and geographical separation.

Additionally, the unique type of *E. ventralis* (Salvin 1891) is probably of hybrid origin (*E. vestitus* × *cupreiventris*). The genus may have evolved in the northern Andes, subsequently spreading south and invading the central Andes. Its recent range and phylogenetic patterns indicate vicariance events as the major speciation factor in *Eriocnemis*.

- Schuchmann, K.-L., Weller, A.-A. & Heynen, I. (2001) Systematics and biogeography of the Andean genus *Eriocnemis* (Aves: Trochilidae). *J. Orn.* 142: 433–481.

Was St Kitts Bullfinch a species?

Orlando Garrido and Jim Wiley presented a paper at the 2001 Meeting of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology suggesting that *Loxigilla portoricensis grandis*, which has traditionally been viewed as a form of Puerto Rican Bullfinch, be accorded species status, based on longer tail, wing chord, tarsus and culmen, and differences in the pattern and coloration of the plumage. *Grandis*, which is restricted to St Kitts, has not been certainly recorded since the 1920s but the authors consider that it may persist in the high forest on Mount Misery.

- Garrido, O. H. & Wiley, J. W. (2001) The taxonomic status of the Puerto Rican Bullfinch (*Loxigilla portoricensis*) [Aves: Emberizidae] in Puerto Rico and St. Kitts. *El Pitirre* 14: 76.

A new species of *Percnostola*

We recently reported the discovery of a new *Zimmerius* tyrannulet from the white-sand forests of north-east Peru (*Cotinga* 17: 11). Now Alvarez Alonso, Whitney and their co-workers have described a new antbird, *Percnostola arenarum* (the Allpahuayo Antbird), from the same area. Like

status is already a source for considerable concern. The new form is obviously closely related to Black-headed Antbird *P. rufifrons*, and the authors also studied vocal differences between the four subspecies within the *rufifrons* complex. These proved to be insubstantial, although morphological differences are noticeable and Isler *et al.* recommend that genetic studies are undertaken of the genus and related groups.

- Isler, M. L., Alvarez Alonso, J., Isler, P. R. & Whitney, B. M. (2001) A new species of *Percnostola* antbird (Passeriformes: Thamnophilidae) from Amazonian Peru, and an analysis of species limits with *Percnostola rufifrons*. *Wilson Bull.* 113: 164–176.

Fresh research into the genus *Hemispingus*

The genus *Hemispingus* traditionally comprises 12 species of rather dull-coloured tanagers of Andean forests. Four of these are polytypic, with as many as seven subspecies recognised for *H. superciliaris*. Taxonomic relationships within this group, and with similar-looking *Basileuterus* warblers, are confused and poorly understood. A new study has used partial mtDNA sequences and a set of morphological characters to study their phylogenetic relationships. The molecular dataset strongly supports the monophyly of *Hemispingus* (including the warbler-like species and finch-like *H. rufosuperciliaris*) compared to other nine-primaried oscines (*Ramphocelus*, *Chlorospingus*, *Atlapetes/Buarremon*, *Basileuterus*) and indicates either that *Atlapetes/Buarremon* could be tanagers or that *Chlorospingus* may be finches. The authors of the study propose a phylogeny containing three major clades: mostly greenish eye-browed birds

Taxonomic Round-up



New perspectives concerning the genus *Formicivora*

Doctoral work by Luiz Gonzaga, including a cladistic analysis, indicates that the *Formicivora* genus, as presently constituted, is not monophyletic. *F. iheringi* should be excluded, probably to reside in a monotypic genus *Neorhopias*, and *Stymphalornis acutirostris* should be included in *Formicivora*. Cladistic analysis also confirms the suggestion made by other workers that the genus *Myrmotherula* is not monophyletic.

- Gonzaga, L. P. (2001) Análise filogenética do Gênero *Formicivora* Swainson 1825 (Aves: Passeriformes, Thamnophilidae) baseada em caracteres morfológicos e vocais.

Resumo de tese. *Atualidades Ornitológicas* 102: 2.

Ongoing work suggests Cuban Black-hawk is a species...

The results of ongoing work into the taxonomic status of the Cuban Black-hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus gundlachii* were presented as a paper at the Society of Caribbean Ornithology in Cuba in July 2001, and suggest, on the basis of vocalisations, feeding ecology, habitat preferences and size differences, that *gundlachii* warrants specific recognition.

- Wiley, J. W. & Garrido, O. H. (2001) Status and biology of the Cuban Black-hawk, *Buteogallus anthracinus gundlachii*. *El Pitirre* 14: 143–144.

Aulacorhynchus toucanets in Middle America

Following recent analysis of geographic patterns of variation in morphological differences in Central American *Aulacorhynchus* toucanets, the authors of a recent study recommend that henceforward four species are recognised: *A. wagleri* in west Mexico, *A. prasinus* in east Mexico and north Central America, *A. caeruleogularis* in Costa Rica and west Panama, and *A. cognatus* in eastern Panama, with several additional species-level forms in South America (*A. lautus*, *A. albiivitta* and *A. nigrogularis*). The most recently published review of these toucanets (Short & Horne in *Handbook of the birds of the world*) considers all of these forms

to be subspecies of *A. prasinus*, the Emerald Toucanet.

- Navarro S., A. G., Peterson, A. T., Lopez-Medrano, E. & Benítez-Díaz, H. (2001) Species limits in Mesoamerican *Aulacorhynchus* toucanets. *Wilson Bull.* 113: 363–372.

A long-standing mystery solved

The prodigious Islers and their co-workers have recently resolved the source of the discrepancy between the 1930s findings of John Zimmer and Melvin Carriker concerning the taxonomy of the Chestnut-tailed Antbird *Myrmeciza hemimelaena* in Andean Peru. Zimmer described *M. h. castanea* from the foothills of San Martín, but Carriker was unable to discern any differences between additional specimens, taken at the same elevation in an adjoining valley, from the nominate form. In fact, as the Islers and their co-authors demonstrate, both were correct: two cryptic sister taxa occur syntopically in this region of Peru. Additionally, the authors recommend that *castanea* is meritorious of recognition at species level (under the suggested English name Northern Chestnut-tailed Antbird with *M.*

hemimelaena being named the Southern Chestnut-tailed Antbird) and, in evaluating the range of variation across the entire species, they are also able to recognise a new subspecies, *M. h.*

centuncolorum, from the lowlands north of the río Marañón in Peru.

- Isler, M. L., Alvarez Alonso, J., Isler, P. R., Valqui, T., Begazo, A. & Whitney, B. M. (2002) Rediscovery of a cryptic species and description of a new subspecies in the *Myrmeciza hemimelaena* complex (Thamnophilidae) of the Neotropics. *Auk* 119: 362–378.

Xiphorhynchus necopinus is a junior synonym but Zimmer's Woodcreeper is a species

Alex Aleixo and Bret Whitney have recently shown that Zimmer's type-series of a new species, *Xiphorhynchus necopinus* (the Zimmer's Woodcreeper), are phenotypically extremely similar

to the type of *X. picus kienerii*, a subspecies of the Straight-billed Woodcreeper known from western Amazonian Brazil, around Tefé. Following Zimmer's description of *X. necopinus*, in 1934, the taxon was unknown until its rediscovery in 1993. Based on their research, Aleixo and Whitney affirm that *necopinus* is but a junior synonym of *kienerii*, but intend to demonstrate in a future communication that *necopinus*, a taxon largely restricted to tall, seasonally flooded várzea forest on riverbanks and islands, principally in central and western Amazonia, nonetheless demands specific status and should not be considered conspecific with *X. picus*.

- Aleixo, A. & Whitney, B. M. (2002) *Dendroplex* (= *Xiphorhynchus*) *necopinus* Zimmer 1934 (Dendrocolaptidae) is a junior synonym of *Dendroornis kienerii* (= *Xiphorhynchus picus kienerii*) Des Murs 1855. *Auk* 119: 520–523.

Grey-headed Quail-dove is two species

Grey-headed Quail-dove *Geotrygon caniceps* has traditionally been considered a polytypic species restricted to Cuba and the Dominican Republic, and treated as globally threatened by BirdLife International. Orlando Garrido and co-workers have recently re-evaluated the decision, taken by Bond in 1936 to merge *leucometopius* within *caniceps*, and concluded that consistent differences in coloration, some mensural characteristics, and aspects of their natural history suggest that *caniceps* (from Cuba) and *leucometopius* (in the Dominican Republic) should again be considered species. Further work on their vocalisations and molecular analyses are required to test this hypothesis. Both forms qualify as Vulnerable under current IUCN threat criteria, and *leucometopius* may warrant categorisation as Endangered under the range criterion.

- Garrido, O. H., Kirwan, G. M. & Capper, D. R. (2002) Species

limits within Grey-headed Quail-dove *Geotrygon caniceps* and implications for the conservation of a globally threatened species. *Bird Conserv. Intern.* 12: 169–187.

Two recognisable forms of Olive-capped Warbler

A recent paper recommends, on the basis of the differences in morphology and the longer tail of specimens from Grand Bahama, that Olive-capped Warbler *Dendroica pityophila* be considered to comprise two subspecies: nominate *pityophila* in Cuba and *D. p. bahamensis* on Abaco and Grand Bahama.

- Garrido, O. H. (2000) Es la Bijirita del Pinar (*Dendroica pityophila*) (Aves: Parulidae) especie monotípica? *El Pitirre* 13: 8–11.

Western Tanager photographs

In *Cotinga* 18, the photos on p. 97 of the male Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana* did not reproduce as we had hoped; indeed, many readers may have been hard-pressed to identify the bird as a tanager! As the originals do clearly show a male Western Tanager, we have given interested readers the option of viewing them in colour on the Internet. Visit the NBC home page (www.neotropicalbirdclub.org) and follow the links via *Cotinga* 18 to www.neotropicalbirdclub.org/feature/cotinga18/westernanager.html. It is worth remarking that, due to constraints on the number of pages of colour in *Cotinga*, the editors are occasionally forced to make difficult decisions as to which images to prioritise. Offers of sponsorship for additional colour or just extra pages in *Cotinga* will be most welcome, and should be made via the Club Secretary (secretary@neotropicalbirdclub.org) or the Senior Editor (david.wege@birdlife.org.uk).

(*trifasciatus*, *atropileus*, *auricularis* and *calophrys*), mostly grey warbler-like birds (*superciliaris*, *verticalis* and *xanthophthalmus*), and mostly ochraceous birds (*rufosuperciliaris*, *goeringi*, *piurae*, *frontalis* and *melanotis*). The relationships among these three clades are unresolved. Species status is suggested for *H. auricularis* and *H. piurae*. The molecular data suggest that most diversity in *Hemispingus* tanagers predates the period of marked eco-climatic fluctuations in the upper Pleistocene.

- García-Moreno, J., Ohlson, J. & Fjeldså, J. (2001) MtDNA sequences support monophyly of *Hemispingus* tanagers. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evol.* 21: 424–435.

Name change for Black-spectacled Brush-finch...

The range-restricted and globally threatened *Atlapetes melanops* (Black-spectacled or Black-faced Brush-finch) is a recently described taxon (see *Cotinga* 12: 44). In a corrigendum to their paper describing the species, Thomas Valqui and Jon Fjeldså have suggested that the specific name be revised to *melanopsis*, because *melanops* is a junior homonym of *Buarremon melanops* (the specimen of which most probably represents an example of *Atlapetes [rufinucha] melanolaemus*).

- Valqui, T. & Fjeldså, J. (2002) *Atlapetes melanopsis* nom. nov. for the Black-faced Brush-finch. *Ibis* 144: 347.

...and for Bolivian Blackbird

Based on changing perspectives in icterid systematics, Peter Lowther has suggested that a new name is required for the Bolivian Blackbird *Oreopsar bolivianus*, and recommends *Agelaioides oreopsar* as being appropriate.

- Lowther, P. E. (2001) New name for the Bolivian Blackbird. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 121: 280–281.