

## New species of birds described from 1981 to 1990

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At the VIIIth International Ornithological Congress in Oxford, Meise (1934) presented a detailed review of avian taxa described as new in the 15 year period from 1920 to 1934. No fewer than 600 new *binomina* were described in those 15 years. Meise (1934: 61) thought that "at least 135, at most 170–200 [of these 600 proposed species were] good species". This represents a rate of 40 new species names per year, and from 9–13 'good' new species per year. Four years later, at the IXth International Ornithological Congress in Rouen, Meise (1938) presented "not only the species of birds described since July 1934, but also most of the species described between 1920 and 1934, which had not been presented in London in 1934." He included 59 species names, 36 of which were described between 1920 and 1934. This left 23 new species described from 1935 to 1938, a rate of about 6 new species per year. Much less detailed than the 1934 paper, the 1938 one simply listed the new names for the 1934–1938 period and the supplement for 1920–1934. The 1934 paper included the new species in a systematic order and grouped them by major regions as well: North and South America; Africa, Madagascar and southern Arabia; Palaearctic Region; Indomalayan Region; Indo-australian Mixed Region; and Papuan Region and Polynesia. It gave a critical evaluation of the new names (Meise 1938), and placed them in a number of categories, including: "I. Recognized as a species"; "II. Recognized as subspecies"; "III. Homonym"; "IV. Synonym" (with several subcategories); and "V. Not recognized". By contrast, the 1938 list (Meise 1938) only gave the species names grouped in geographic order. Meise (1938) indicated that the list "did not correspond to all described species" and that "several species must rather be considered as subspecies"; but no specific annotations were made.

From the World War II years onward, the responsibility for periodic reviews of new avian species has been assumed by members of the scientific staff of the Department of Ornithology at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), most notably Ernst Mayr. Thus the 4-year period 1938–1941 (53 putative new species) was covered in the first AMNH review (Zimmer & Mayr 1943). The second (Mayr 1957) covered the 15-year period from 1941 to 1955 (74 putative new species), the third (Mayr 1971) the 10-year period from 1956 to 1965 (51 putative new species). The fourth instalment (Mayr & Vuilleumier 1983) reviewed critically the 48 species described as new in the 10 years between 1966 and 1975, and the fifth instalment (Vuilleumier & Mayr 1987) discussed the 18 species described as new in the 5-year period from 1976 to 1980, plus one species that had been omitted from the fourth report.

The present article is therefore the sixth AMNH instalment. It covers the 43 new species of birds that have been described between 1981 and



1990 (listed alphabetically in Appendix I), thus bringing the analysis up to date. The present report also reviews 3 species that had been overlooked in the compilation of previous reports (Appendix II), discusses 2 taxa that have been described as potential new species in the period 1981–1990 but that were not given *binomina* (Appendix III), and makes comments on 13 species discussed in previous reports, and for which information is very scanty (Appendix IV). As in the last instalment, species are grouped under 2 headings: Old World and New World. Within each region, the systematic order of families and subfamilies follows Morony *et al.* (1975).

This review, as the earlier ones, provides ornithologists with a critical summary of information on bird species described as new in the literature. After a study of the available evidence, each putative new species is ranked in one of several categories. To facilitate comparisons these categories are the same as in previous instalments in this series:

- Aa** New species in new genera
- Ab** New species not clearly members of a superspecies
- Ac** Allospecies (members of a superspecies)
- Ba** *Species inquirendae*
- Bb** Subspecies
- Bc** Synonyms
- Bd** Invalid names

As in our earlier reports superspecies are indicated by brackets according to the procedures suggested by Amadon (1966).

While preparing this review we have noticed that there is an unhealthy disease striking some ornithologists at present, aptly named “new-species fever” by Remsen (*in litt*). They seem impelled to describe as new a bird that seems to differ from a known species without collecting the data and making the careful studies that are necessary for an evaluation of relationships. General ornithological or natural history magazines (e.g. *Ducks Unlimited*, *Animal Kingdom*, *Ornis*, *BBC Wildlife*, *World Birdwatch*, *American Birds*, *Der Falke*, and others) and science journals (e.g. *Nature*) often carry popular articles about putative new species of birds, and recently a book (Stap 1990) recounted the search for novelties in the jungles of Amazonia. In several instances, putative new species have prematurely been incorporated into field guides (e.g. *Diomedea amsterdamensis* in Harrison 1985; *Calidris paramelanotos* in Hayman *et al.* 1986). We have attempted, in this summary, to bring together this scattered literature of varying quality as well as material from the standard ornithological literature and present a coherent evaluation of each new species.

In addition, we have become concerned at the careless way in which the descriptions of new species are sometimes presented. Evaluation is difficult when descriptions are based on fragmentary data. Two of us (LeCroy & Vuilleumier 1990) presented a poster paper at the XXth International Ornithological Congress in New Zealand, making recommendations for criteria to be used in describing new species of birds. We have expanded these suggestions and publish them as a separate paper in this volume.



We reiterate a request made earlier (Vuilleumier & Mayr 1987) and ask that ornithologists who describe new species send us copies of their papers, to facilitate our task in the future, and to ensure the continuity of this catalogue, which we believe has proven helpful to the ornithological community. General reviews making use of instalments in this series include Vuilleumier (1976) and Prigogine (1985).

New taxa of subfossil birds (e.g. *Dromaius baudinianus*—Parker 1984 and *Ara cubensis*—Wetherbee 1985) are not treated in this paper, which deals only with extant taxa.

## OLD WORLD

### Diomedeidae

- (1) *Diomedea amsterdamensis* Roux, Jouventin, Mougín, Stahl & Weimerskirch 1983, *L'Oiseau et R. F. O.* 53: 8—Plateau des Tourbières, Amsterdam Island 37°50'S, 77°35'W, Indian Ocean.  
= *Diomedea (exulans) amsterdamensis* (Bb).

The head and wing of a bird found dead on 28 March 1982, preserved in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN) in Paris (C. G. 1982–1139) form the holotype of this new species. No additional specimens were collected owing to the threatened status of this taxon. The authors did not find any specimen of large albatross from the Amsterdam Island population in the collections of the MNHN (other than the holotype), the Natural History Museum (BMNH) in London, the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, the National Museum of New Zealand, or the U.S. National Museum (USNM) in Washington.

Although the existence of a breeding population of a large albatross on Amsterdam Island has been known since 1951, very little was known about these birds until 1981, when 7 breeding pairs were found and their behaviour observed until the young fledged. The total population size, from data gathered in 1979, 1981 and 1982, is estimated at 30–50 individuals. The distribution of this population at sea is entirely unknown.

*Diomedea amsterdamensis* was described on the basis of field observations and photographs of 23 breeding adults, and is illustrated with line drawings and black and white photographs. This population is closely related to *D. exulans* and *D. epomophora*. *D. amsterdamensis* differs from *D. exulans* and *D. epomophora* in its much darker colouration, in the dark terminal patch at the tip of the bill, in its white eyelid, in its underwing pattern, and in the timing of its breeding cycle. Roux *et al.* (1983) concluded (translated from the French): "The originality and the absence of variability in the colour characters of plumage and bill testify to the reproductive isolation of this population. Moreover, the phenology of its breeding cycle forbids [*interdit* in the original] any hybridization with the other populations of *D. exulans* and *D. epomophora*."

Bourne (1989: 110) reviewed the classification of the large albatrosses. He pointed out that *D. amsterdamensis* "appear[s] to be rather similar in size, proportions and appearance to the birds assigned to *exulans* from



the Antipodes Islands in the Pacific". The white eyelid, Bourne (1989: 110) remarked, was thought to be "a variable character in Wandering Albatrosses" by Murphy (1936). Bourne (1989: 111–113) also warned of possible nomenclatural problems: "If it is accepted that Edwards' birds [from which Linnaeus described the species] probably came from Amsterdam Island, the well-known name *exulans* would take priority over *amsterdamensis*, while if it is accepted that this is a distinct species another name, *chionoptera*, would then have to be used for most of the other populations currently included in *Diomedea exulans*." Because of difficulties in determining the identity of the population described by Edwards, however, Bourne (1989) suggested that the Amsterdam Albatross be called *Diomedea exulans amsterdamensis*, an opinion we accept here, (Bb). In Bourne's (1989: 113) words, *amsterdamensis* is "a small pelagic form which retains the immature plumage into adult life". Sibley & Monroe (1990: 327) included *exulans* and *amsterdamensis* as allospecies in a superspecies. Some ornithologists (for instance Jouanin, pers. comm.) feel that *exulans*, *epomophora* and *amsterdamensis* are 3 species in the same subgenus. Others (e.g. Boles, *in litt.*) point out that some populations of *exulans* approach *amsterdamensis* in colour.

Jouventin *et al.* (1989) reviewed data on the breeding biology of the Amsterdam Island population of great albatross, and compared this population to others in the species *epomophora* and *exulans*. The size of the population at this later date was estimated to be about 65 birds (between a minimum of 52 and a maximum of 90). Lequette & Jouventin (1991) discussed behavioural similarities and differences among the different taxa of great albatrosses and described the displays of *Diomedea amsterdamensis*. They concluded that *D. epomophora* is "more distinct than the other two [species (*exulans* and *amsterdamensis*)] which nevertheless present some differences in their nuptial displays" (Lequette & Jouventin 1991: 391).

Given some of the uncertainties of classification of the great albatrosses (e.g. Bourne 1989, Lequette & Jouventin 1991), it is to be regretted that authors of field guides (e.g. Harrison 1985) should have hurried to include *amsterdamensis* as a new species without having had the benefit of prior critical assessment.

## Rallidae

- (2) *Rallus okinawae* Yamashina & Mano 1981, *J. Yamashina Inst. Ornith.* 13: 2—Woodland path near Mt. Fuenchiji, Kunigami-gun, Okinawa Prefecture, Japan.  
= *Gallirallus [torquatus] okinawae* (Ac).

This new rail taxon, from the island of Okinawa, was not discovered until 1978. The holotype, an adult female, was found along the roadside on 2 June 1981, and is preserved in the Yamashina Institute for Ornithology (No. 810141). Two other birds, a juvenile captured 28 June 1981, and an (unsexed) adult caught 4 July 1981, were photographed, banded, and released. They are illustrated in 3 colour plates (from photographs) in Yamashina & Mano (1981). *Rallus okinawae* was compared to various taxa of the *torquatus* group (*torquatus*, *kuehni*, *celebensis*, *limarius*,



and *sulcirostris*), and found to have longer tarsi. This, coupled with the short and “soft” secondaries and tail feathers, suggested to Yamashina & Mano (1981) that *okinawae* has “very poor” flying ability, and hence that it is “a distinct new species”.

Brazil (1991: 111–112) summarizes what is now known of this bird. Its population, thought at first to be very small, is now believed to number between 1000 and 2000 birds. “It occurs in sub-tropical evergreen forests with dense undergrowth, but also along forest edges and in small forest patches, scrub and even agricultural land where it borders pools.” The bird appears “almost, but not quite, completely flightless” (Brazil 1991: 112). Other information about habitat, breeding, behaviour and vocalization are given by Brazil (1991).

*Rallus okinawae* is clearly closely related to island rails of the *torquatus* group, including *insignis* from New Britain, and various forms occurring from the Philippines to Sulawesi (Celebes), the Moluccas and Irian Jaya (New Guinea). We consider (near) flightless *okinawae* to belong in the superspecies including *torquatus* (flying) and *insignis* (flightless) (category Ac), and placed by Olson (1973) in the genus *Gallirallus*, an opinion that is shared by White & Bruce (1986) and Sibley & Monroe (1990: 223). Diamond (1991) in his description of another new flightless species of *Gallirallus* from the Solomon Islands, discussed some problems of the independent evolution of flightlessness in island rails.

Given the healthy population size of *R. okinawae*, we hope that a small sample of specimens, including skins, skeletons and tissues, will be collected and deposited in major collections for further study.

### Scolopacidae

- (3) *Calidris paramelanotos* Parker 1982, *South Australian Naturalist* 56(4): 63—Price Saltfields, upper Gulf St. Vincent, South Australia. =? *Calidris paramelanotos* (Ba).

The holotype, collected 5 March 1977, and the paratype, collected 16 February 1985, are in the South Australian Museum (Parker 1982). The very short original description (not accompanied by illustration) stated that the Cox’s Sandpiper *C. paramelanotos* “resembles the Pectoral Sandpiper *C. melanotos* in size, shape of tail and pigmentation of primary shafts”. It was said to differ from *C. melanotos* in several characters, including bill length and bill colour, leg colour, colour of pectoral plumage, colour of rump feathers, and other plumage characters, including colour of the median upper tail-coverts. The original description gave no information of a nature such as to suggest that the 2 specimens (holotype and paratype) did, indeed, represent a new biological taxon in the genus *Calidris*. No mention was made of detailed comparisons with any other *Calidris*, save *C. melanotos* or of the possibility of hybridization.

Since the original observation of an unusual sandpiper in southern Australia by John B. Cox (1989a) and others, a veritable flood of literature has been pouring forth on this putative species. In an article by Cox, entitled “The story behind the naming of Cox’s Sandpiper” (1989b), the author “seeks to clarify the . . . controversy . . . that has become an embarrassment to Australian ornithology”. We will not review here this



enormous literature, other than to note that little of it has appeared in *serious* scientific ornithological journals, but instead refer to a short piece by Monroe (1991), who listed the pertinent papers (*q.v.*) and who succinctly summarized much of the *evidence*. Several points need to be made: (1) There are 4 specimens; (2) "The breeding range is unknown"; (3) "The full alternate and juvenal plumages are also unknown"; (4) "All four specimens and most photographs . . . are intermediate in all characteristics between the Curlew Sandpiper (*C. ferruginea*) and the Pectoral Sandpiper (*C. melanotos*)"; (5) "It is hopeful that biochemical studies underway will resolve the issue with respect not only to the hybrid origin but also to the correct parentage" (Monroe 1991). See also Sibley & Monroe (1990: 240), who stated: "Present evidence is not sufficient to confirm or refute the hypothesis of valid species or that of hybrid origin".

Stepanyan (1990) suggested that *C. paramelanotos* is a hybrid between a male of either *C. acuminata* or *C. melanotos* and a female of *Philomachus pugnax* on the basis of morphological and behavioural characters. Furthermore, he suggested that the recent eastward range expansion of *P. pugnax* into the Chukotski Peninsula puts this species in sympatry with both *C. acuminata* and *C. melanotos*, hence the recency of the sudden appearance of *C. paramelanotos*. One of us (ML *in litt.* to Parker in 1978) suggested that if the birds are hybrids, "one parent might be *C. acuminata*".

For the time being, we suggest that *C. paramelanotos*, which is likely to be of hybrid origin, be maintained as a *species inquirenda* (category Ba).

We strongly feel that the inclusion of "*Calidris paramelanotos*" in a book such as *Shorebirds, an Identification Guide to the Waders of the World* (Hayman *et al.* 1986) is premature, given the lack of information on this putative new species.

### Strigidae

- (4) *Glaucidium albertinum* Prigogine 1983, *Rev. Zool. Afr.* 97(4): 887—Musangakye (1690 m.), Zaïre.  
= ? *Glaucidium albertinum* (Ba).

Five specimens of pygmy owls collected between 1950 and 1981 in Zaïre and Rwanda formed the basis for the description of this new species. All 5 (including the type) are in the Koninklijk Museum voor Midden-Afrika (KMMA), Tervuren (holotype has number 114546). "*Glaucidium albertinum* is restricted to forests around the Graben (Albertine Rift) in Central Africa. Whereas the first two specimens came from transitional forest, the other three were found in mountain forest" (Prigogine 1983: 889). Two poorly reproduced black and white photographs showing dorsal patterns accompany the original description. Formerly confused with *G. castaneum*, the birds included in *G. albertinum* differ from *G. capense* in several characters, including the pattern of the head and back, the barred uppertail coverts, and the brown rather than rich chestnut colour. *G. albertinum* is more uniformly coloured on the back than is *G. castaneum*. *G. albertinum* has a shorter tail, and a lower wing/tail ratio than *G. castaneum* and various subspecies of *G. capense*. *G. albertinum* also has fewer bars on the central tail section (6–8, *versus* 9–10 in *G. castaneum*,



and 10–11 or 13 in *G. capense*). Prigogine (1983: 892) concluded: "Taking into account the light barring on the back of *G. castaneum*, its barred uppertail coverts and its measurements, one must consider *castaneum* as a subspecies of *G. capense* which may form a superspecies with *G. albertinum*." No detailed information was given about the geographical relationships of these 3 taxa (*albertinum*, *capense* and *castaneum*). The voice of *albertinum* is unknown.

In a later paper, Prigogine (1985: 92) reviewed aspects of *G. albertinum* and confirmed its distinctness, based on morphological similarity among the 5 specimens, and morphological differences between them and *G. capense* and *G. castaneum*. (Small individual variation had been noted earlier—Prigogine 1983). In his Appendix (Table A.1, p. 106), Prigogine (1985) indicated the status of *G. albertinum* as '? species'. Keith (pers. comm.) believes *G. albertinum* to be a good species but that too little is known to ascribe it to a superspecies, especially since its voice is unknown. Sibley & Monroe (1990: 179) accept *G. albertinum* as a full species.

In view of the difficulties in the species-level systematics of owls in the genus *Glaucidium*, and given the absence of data on vocalizations and ranges, it seems impossible at present to decide whether *G. albertinum* is or is not an allospecies of *G. capense* or whether it is a *species inquirenda*. Given these uncertainties we conservatively rank it at present as Ba. Only further evidence will permit a decision to be made between these possibilities.

### Caprimulgidae

(5) *Caprimulgus prigoginei* Louette 1990, *Ibis* 132: 349—Malenge, Itombwe, Kivu Province, Zaïre, at 03°26'S, 28°30'E; in forest at 1280 m altitude.

= *Caprimulgus prigoginei* (Ab).

This new species of nightjar (illustrated in a colour plate) was described on the basis of a single female specimen collected on 11 August 1955 by Prigogine's collector in the Itombwe forest in Zaïre. The holotype, number 78975 is deposited in the KMMA.

Chiefly on the basis of size, proportions, and colour pattern, Louette (1990) thought that this bird represented a new species which is not closely related to *Caprimulgus batesi*, with which it was thought to belong previously. After comparing this specimen with all species of African Caprimulgidae except *C. eximius*, Louette (1990: 349) concluded that "it does not belong to any of the known species from Africa" and added "Although only known from a singleton, the evidence amply justifies treating this distinctive nightjar as a new species". Louette (1990: 352) went so far as to state: "I have no hesitation in considering *C. prigoginei* to be a new species without close relatives among the known nightjars."

This new species is unknown in life. Louette (1990: 352) listed other bird species collected at the type locality in order to predict what the new nightjar's habitat might be.

Keith (pers. comm.) believes that *Caprimulgus prigoginei* is undoubtedly a good species because it does not resemble any African species of



caprimulgid and it does not have any shared or intermediate characters that would cause one to suppose it might be a hybrid.

In view of the distinctiveness of this new species we classify it as Ab (new species not clearly a member of a superspecies). We hope that more museum specimens of this interesting new taxon will be discovered in the near future and that it can be studied in nature.

### Indicatoridae

- (6) *Melignomon eisentrauti* Louette 1981, *Rev. Zool. Afr.* 95(1): 131—  
c. 2 km east of Grassfield (7°30'N, 8°35'W), Mt. Nimba, Liberia.  
= ? *Melignomon eisentrauti* (Ba).

This new species is based on 2 specimens. The holotype (a ♀ with an enlarged ovary) was collected in 1980 and is housed at the KMMA (No. 80-36-A-218). The paratype (also ♀) is in the State Museum of Natural History, Stuttgart, and was collected by M. Eisentraut in 1957 on Mt. Cameroon. The 2 specimens of *M. eisentrauti* were compared to a series of *M. zenkeri* from Zaïre. The original description includes very little comparative information and no illustrations. Apparently *M. zenkeri* is "much more greenish-yellow ventrally". A table includes only measurements of 20 *M. zenkeri*, which do not differ significantly from measurements of the type and paratype of *eisentrauti*. Louette (1981: 135) stated: "*M. eisentrauti* is likely to be allopatric of [*sic*] the Lower Guinean *zenkeri* and will almost certainly be found in other forest remnants between western Cameroon and Sierra Leone."

Colston (1981) published, nearly simultaneously, a paper on the same taxon, and wrote: "A copy of this paper, proposing a new name, was sent to Dr M. Louette in October 1980, shortly after it had been submitted for publication. Dr Louette has since seen fit to describe the new honeyguide without informing us of his intention . . . His paper came to hand while this one was in proof and it has been possible to do little more than delete the proposed name and substitute *eisentrauti* for it in the text and table." Colston (1981) reported 11 specimens of *eisentrauti* (6 ♂♂ and 5 ♀♀), and compared them with *M. zenkeri*, which he grouped with *eisentrauti* in a superspecies.

Prigogine (1985) gave the status of *M. eisentrauti* as "species" (Appendix, Table A.1, p. 106), without comment. Although Keith (pers. comm.), Short (pers. comm.) and Traylor (pers. comm.) think that *M. eisentrauti* is a good species and that it forms a superspecies with *M. zenkeri*, it seems to us impossible at present for lack of pertinent biological data to decide whether *M. eisentrauti* is either an allospecies of *M. zenkeri* (Sibley & Monroe 1990: 44), or else a *species inquirenda*. Conservatively, we classify it for now as Ba.

### Alaudidae

- (7) *Mirafra ashi* Colston 1982, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 102(3): 107—13 km  
north of Uarsciek, southern Somalia, 2°17'N, 45°50'E.  
= *Mirafra ashi* (Ab).

This is the fourth new species of larks of the genus *Mirafra* to have been described since 1955, the others being *M. williamsi* MacDonald 1956



(discussed in Mayr 1971), *M. sidamoensis* Erard 1975 and *M. degodiensis* Erard 1976 (discussed in Mayr & Vuilleumier 1983). *M. ashi* is based on a series of 6 specimens “collected by Dr J. S. Ash 13 km north of Uarsciek (= Warsheikh), some 80 km NE of Mogadiscio, in southern Somalia on 9 and 10 July 1981”. The type is housed at the BMNH (Tring), No. B.M. 1982-3-1. The new species was compared chiefly with *M. somalica*, which “has been collected at Uarsciek, 2°17'N, 45°44'E” and is thus sympatric with it. Of comparisons with *Mirafra* larks other than *somalica*, Colston (1982: 107) only stated: “Comparison with BMNH material shows the Uarsciek larks to be similar in structure and plumage to other *Mirafra* species and closest to *M. somalica*.” “Whereas *somalica* is bright cinnamon-rufous above, *ashi* is greyish-brown above with a very faint overlaying wash of cinnamon. It is also considerably more streaked and scaly looking above in general appearance than *somalica*” (Colston 1982: 107). A table gave measurements of *M. ashi* and *M. somalica* and showed *ashi* to be smaller. Further brief comparison was made between *M. sharpei*, *M. ashi*, and *M. somalica*: *sharpei* has no white in the tail, whereas *M. ashi* has narrow white edges to outer retrices, and *M. somalica* much wider white edges. No illustrations accompanied the original description.

Prigogine (1985, Appendix, Table A.1: 106) accepted *M. ashi* as a species without comments. Keith (pers. comm.) believes that *M. ashi* is a good species but that it is premature to ascribe it to a superspecies until its voice and behaviour are known. Sibley & Monroe (1990: 649) maintain *M. ashi* as a species. Ash (*in litt.* 1 June 1988) wrote that “*Mirafra ashi* [had] been looked for, but not refound”. Given the difficulties of species-level systematics in larks of the genus *Mirafra*, one would have wished for more biological information bearing on the status of the new taxon. Pending such evidence, however, we keep *M. ashi* as a species (Ab).

### Hirundinidae

- (8) *Hirundo perdita* Fry & Smith 1985, *Ibis* 127: 2—Sanganeb Light House, Red Sea (19°43½'N, 37°26'E).  
= ? *Hirundo perdita* (Ba).

This new species is based on a single specimen found dead on 9 May 1984 by the junior author at the Sanganeb lighthouse, located on a reef “20 km northeast of Port Sudan and 14 km due east of the coast” (Fry & Smith 1985: 1). During a stay at Sanganeb lighthouse for 2 weeks from 30 April 1984 to at least 9 May 1984 many Palaearctic migrants were seen or caught, including a number of swallows: “one House Martin *Delichon urbica*, 2 Red-rumped Swallows *Hirundo daurica*, up to 100 *R. riparia* per hour and up to 500 *H. rustica* per hour” (Fry & Smith 1985: 2). The type (BMNH No. 1984.5.1) consists of wings and tail only. The original description is illustrated by a colour plate, which shows the dead bird (dorsal and ventral views) before it decomposed.

The putative new species was compared to *H. spilodera*, from which it differs in several colour characters, especially steely blue crown, blackish forehead and lores, grey rump, white chin, and bluish-black throat and upper breast. On the basis of these differences in a single unpreserved



specimen, Fry & Smith (1985) concluded that "it clearly represents a new form, to which we accord specific rank" (p. 2). The breeding range of the putative new species is unknown.

Sibley & Monroe (1990: 579) included *perdita* as an allospecies of the *Hirundo [spilodera]* superspecies, adding: "May be conspecific with some member of the *H. [spilodera]* superspecies". Keith (pers. comm.) thinks *H. perdita* is a good species but that it is premature to link it with any other species. Parkes (*in litt.*) is sceptical of *H. perdita* being a valid species: "strangely, considering the time and place of discovery, no mention was made of the (to me) strong possibility that it is a hybrid of Palearctic origin". Remsen (*in litt.*) also wondered about *perdita* being a hybrid. In view of the very incomplete nature of the unique type, we agree with Parkes and Remsen that a hybrid origin cannot be ruled out.

Pending further specimens (and the postscripts in Fry & Smith 1985: 6, notwithstanding), we judge it prudent to treat *H. perdita* as a *species inquirenda* (category Ba).

### Pycnonotidae

- (9) *Phyllastrephus leucolepis* Gatter 1985, *J. f. Ornith.* 126(2): 155—20 km NW Zwedru near Cavalla River, Grand Gedeh County, Liberia (6°12'N, 8°11'W).  
= *Phyllastrephus leucolepis* (Ab).

This species is described on the basis of the unique type, a mummified specimen ('Mumienpräparation') that had been damaged by the shot and by ants, and is now housed at the Alexander Koenig Museum, Bonn (No. ZFMK 84.221). The original description was accompanied by a colour plate. The new species was observed several times between October 1981 and January 1984, when the type was collected. Gatter (1985: 160, 161) ruled out conspecificity with the sympatric *Phyllastrephus icterinus* on several grounds, including morphological differences enhancing behavioural characteristics, especially light patches in the wing "used as an optical signal in the dark forest". Keith (pers. comm.) believes that *P. leucolepis* is a good species, quite unlike anything else, and that its nearest relative is hard to guess. Sibley & Monroe (1990: 588) accepted *P. leucolepis* as a full species. In view of the numerous sibling species among bulbuls, we tentatively accept the view that *P. leucolepis* is a distinct new species (Ab), but look forward to more data.

### Muscicapidae (Timaliinae)

- (10) *Stachyris latistriata* Gonzales & Kennedy 1990, *Wilson Bulletin* 102(3): 368—at an altitude of 1530 m, 11°8'N, 122°14'E, 1.1 km SSW of the peak of Mt. Baloy, Barangay San Augustin, Municipality of Valderrama, Antique Province, Panay, Philippines.  
= *Stachyris [striata] latistriata* (Ac).

A babbler of the genus *Stachyris* collected on 6 March 1987 from Mt. Baloy (Panay Island) differed sufficiently from *S. striata* (Luzon) and *S. nigrorum* (Negros) to suggest that it belonged to a new species. Consequently an expedition was launched in 1989 to the same area, and



35 specimens of this very common species were obtained: 18 skins, 13 skins with trunk skeletons, 3 fluid-preserved specimens, and 1 skeleton. Frozen tissues were also collected from 10 specimens. The type is in the National Museum of the Philippines (No. 16663). The paratype series consists of 15 specimens in the NMP and 16 in the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History. The original description includes a colour plate, 2 black and white photographs of the holotype, and an extensive discussion including details on habits and behaviour, habitat (illustrated with 2 black and white photographs), distribution (with a map), breeding (2 photographs of nest and nestlings), and vocalization.

This careful paper leaves no doubt that the new taxon is indeed a distinct new member of the *Stachyris* [*striata*] superspecies (category Ac). Dickinson *et al.* (1991) also list this taxon as a full species, but without discussing superspecies affinities.

Table 1 in Gonzales & Kennedy (1990: 371) gave a summary of character variation in the 3 taxa of the *Stachyris* [*striata*] superspecies that are most closely related. *S. latistriata* has a broader black band on the forehead; greenish olive crown, hind neck, mantle, and tail; broad black streaks on breast and flanks; and bluish olive legs and feet. The less closely related *S. hypogrammica* is discussed in the text. (p. 370). Note that *S. nigrorum*, a member of this superspecies, was described as recently as 1952 by Rand & Rabor. In his comment on this taxon, Mayr (1957: 29) had written: "Distantly related to *S. striata* of the mountains of northern Luzon, but fully deserving specific rank". Another member of the *S. [striata]* superspecies, *hypogrammica* was described by Salomonsen (1961). Of that taxon, Mayr (1971) wrote: "This species is clearly related to highland species of the Philippines, *striata* (Luzon) and *nigrorum* (Negros), but is sufficiently different, to judge from the description, not to form a superspecies with them. Six other specimens were collected with the type."

Besides the 3 species of *Stachyris* cited above, 3 other babbler species have been described from the Philippines in recent years: *Napothera rabori* from northern Luzon in 1960, *Micromacronus leytenensis* from Leyte in 1962 (both reviewed by Mayr 1971: 305), and *Napothera sorsogonensis* from southern Luzon in 1967 (see Mayr & Vuilleumier 1983: 219). Yet another *Stachyris* species, *rodolphei*, from northwestern Siam [Thailand] was reduced to the status of a subspecies of *Stachyris ruficeps* by Zimmer & Mayr 1943: 257–258. It seems likely that careful explorations of little known areas of Asia, such as those visited by Gonzales & Kennedy in the Philippines, will yield yet other new Timaliinae in the future.

### Muscicapidae (Sylviinae)

- (11) *Cettia carolinae* Rozendaal 1987, *Zool. Mededel.* 61(14): 179—forest c. 6 km northwest of Bomaki, northwest of Saumlaki across Saumlaki Bay, Yamdena Island (Pulau Yamdena), Tanimbar Islands, South Moluccas, Indonesia, 7°53'S, 131°15'E, altitude 70 m.

= *Cettia carolinae* (Ab)

The type series includes, besides the holotype, 6 other specimens, collected by the author during field work on Yamdena Island between 23



August and 8 November 1985 and are housed at the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden. The habitat, in primary monsoon forest, and second growth, is illustrated by 3 black and white photographs. One colour photograph and 2 black and white photographs illustrate living birds that were later collected. Because the systematics of warblers of the genus *Cettia* are difficult, the author not only made extensive comparisons of skins of other *Cettia* species [*C. fortipes*, *C. vulcania*, *C. (diphone) seebohmi*, *C. (Psamathia) annae*, *C. (Vitia) ruficapilla*, and *C. (Vitia) parens*], but also used evidence from vocalizations from several *Cettia* taxa. In plumage characters, especially colour, *Cettia carolinae* resembles southwest Pacific *C. ruficapilla badiceps* and *C. r. castaneoptera* more than closer geographic neighbours like *C. vulcania everetti* from Timor.

On the basis of vocal characters, *C. carolinae* also seems to be more closely related to Pacific taxa of the *C. ruficapilla* group (formerly in the genus *Vitia* but merged in *Cettia* by Orenstein & Pratt 1983). However, vocalizations as depicted in Fig. 12 of Rozendaal's paper seem to ally *carolinae* with *fortipes davidiana*. The description of this undoubted new species is thorough and carefully prepared and Rozendaal has pointed out areas in which further work is necessary before superspecies affiliations can be worked out. A map illustrating the distribution of the various taxa would have helped greatly.

Sibley & Monroe (1990: 609) accepted *C. carolinae* as a full species, and we do so tentatively (Ab). Further data are needed to clarify superspecies limits.

- (12) *Cichlornis llaneae* Hadden 1983, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 103(1): 23—Crown Prince Range, 5000 ft (1550 m), central Bougainville Island, North Solomons Province, Papua New Guinea, c. 6°19'S, 155°30'E. = *Cichlornis [whitneyi] llaneae* (Ac).

The type specimen of this new thicket warbler was collected by Hadden (1983) on 17 June 1979, and is housed at the AMNH (No. 824713). A nest and egg were also collected, and are at the AMNH. This distinct new taxon of the genus *Cichlornis* is allopatric and different from *C. w. whitneyi* (Espiritu Santo), *C. w. turipavae* (Turipave), and *C. grosvenori* (New Britain). Little is known about these birds, which are represented by very few specimens in museum collections. Diamond (*in litt.*) suggested the possibility that an undiscovered *Cichlornis* exists in the mountains of New Ireland.

Whether *Cichlornis*, *Ortygocichla*, *Trichocichla*, *Buettikoferella* and *Megalurulus* are all congeneric, as proposed by Orenstein (*in* Hadden 1983), remains to be determined, a view shared by Diamond (*in litt.*). Mayr (*in* Mayr *et al.* 1986: 47) considered *C. whitneyi*, *llaneae* and *grosvenori* as separate species, not included in a superspecies (see also Ripley 1985). Sibley & Monroe (1990: 625) included these 3 taxa as allo-species of the [*whitneyi*] superspecies, a view with which 2 of us concur (category Ac).

### Muscicapidae (Malurinae)

- (13) *Malurus campbelli* Schodde & Weatherly, *in* Schodde 1982, *The Fairy Wrens: A Monograph of the Maluridae*, Lansdowne Edition,



Melbourne: 32—Bosavi, Southern Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea, 800 m altitude 6°24'S, 142°50'E.

= *Malurus grayi campbelli* (Bb).

The formal description of *M. campbelli* was published in January 1983 by Schodde & Weatherly in *Emu* 82 (suppl.): 308, [even though volume 82 carries 1982 as year of publication]; but the new taxon was actually confusingly 'described' earlier as an entry by Schodde & Weatherly in Schodde's monograph of the fairy wrens, copyrighted in 1982, as cited above. A colour plate illustrated the putative new taxon, but no type was designated. All this confusion is regrettable. Also regrettable is the fact that the description (whether the one in 1982 in Schodde's book, or the one in 1983 in the *Emu* supplement) was not based on a museum specimen, but on live birds and photographs. The putative male in a photograph to be distributed to various museums was designated as the type in the 1983 paper. At the time of writing this, no such photograph has been received at the AMNH. Only later were specimens collected and described (Schodde 1984).

Originally, in 1980, 2 birds were caught in mist nests by R. W. Campbell, photographed, and released. In 1981, 3 additional birds were banded and released. Then in 1982, 5 birds (2 ♂♂, 1 ♀, 2 fledglings) were collected by R. W. Campbell and R. D. Mackay at the type locality. Four of these birds are housed at the Papua New Guinea Museum and Art Gallery, Port Moresby, and one (subadult male) is on permanent loan at the Australian National Wildlife Collection, CSIRO, Canberra (No. 26467). To compound the problems created earlier, and as Schodde (1984: 249) wrote: "Regrettably, none of the adults can be identified as a syntype (or selected as a lectotype) because none is from the banded birds on which the original description was based. That description first appeared in 'The Fairy Wrens: A Monograph of the Maluridae' (Schodde 1982), and takes its date from the issuing of the first numbers of that work in August 1982".

Originally, *M. campbelli* was thought by Schodde & Weatherly (1982, 1983) to be closely related to the allopatric *M. grayi*, "with which it forms a superspecies" (Schodde & Weatherly 1983: 308), differing from it in several colour characters and in its smaller size. In the 1984 paper, however, Schodde (1984: 250) thought that *M. campbelli* also "seems to have links as close to Wallace's Wren *Sipodotus wallacii* as to any other member of *Malurus*; and the corollary, that *Sipodotus* is closer to *M. campbelli-grayi* than to any other group in *Malurus*, seems even clearer".

Sibley & Monroe (1990: 424) included *M. grayi* and *M. campbelli* in the *M. [grayi]* superspecies. Mayr (in Mayr *et al.* 1986: 393) considered *campbelli* as a subspecies of *grayi*. Recently, LeCroy and Diamond (ms) have been able to compare 32 of the 37 known specimens of *Malurus grayi* and *M. campbelli*. Their as yet unpublished study allowed them to recognize "the previously unappreciated geographic and individual variation in *M. grayi*, as well as to confirm the reality of certain previously reported sex-related differences that had been questioned". Beehler *et al.* (1986) regarded *campbelli* as a race of *M. grayi* in their recently published field guide to New Guinea birds on the basis of this analysis. We follow the same treatment here (Bb).



- (14) *Gerygone ruficauda* Ford & Johnstone 1983, *Western Austr. Nat.* 15: 133—"Thirteen Mile River", Rockingham Bay, Queensland.  
= *Gerygone chrysogaster* (Bc).

This new species of *Gerygone* was based on 3 specimens, 2 in the Australian Museum, Sydney (the type is number 0.17290) and one in the AMNH. It was said to be closest to *G. magnirostris* and *G. chrysogaster*. Schodde (1985) reduced *G. ruficauda* to the synonymy of *G. chrysogaster*, a view accepted by Sibley & Monroe (1990: 443). Some ornithologists (e.g. Boles, *in litt.*) even doubt that the specimens can be identified. We place it in category Bc (synonyms).

Incredibly, in this day and age, and given the profound experience of the late senior author in systematic and evolutionary biology, this putative new species in a difficult Australasian genus was described on the basis of 3 old and uncertainly labelled specimens. The wording smacks of an earlier era in ornithology, now past and gone: "Though there is some doubt regarding the exact collecting localities of these specimens, they are so distinct and yet uniform in morphology, a description of a new taxon is warranted" (Ford & Johnstone 1983: 133).

### Muscicapidae (Platysteirinae)

- (15) *Batis occultus* Lawson 1984, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 104(4): 145—Grassfield, Mt. Nimba, Liberia (7°30'N, 8°35'W), altitude 550 m.  
= *Batis poensis occulta* (Bb).

This is the second new species to be described from Mt. Nimba in the 1981–1990 period (see *Melignomon eisentrauti* earlier). *Batis occultus* was described on the basis of 13 specimens (?including the type) from Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Nigeria, Ghana and Liberia. The type, from Liberia, is housed at the BMNH, number 1977.20.2078. Mainland *B. occultus* differs from the insular populations (*B. poensis*) from Fernando Pó in colour and size. Mainland *occultus* is slightly smaller than insular *poensis* and has a conspicuous white supercilium that is lacking in *poensis*.

Lawson (1984: 145) said "It is here contended that the colouration differences between them [insular and mainland populations] are sufficiently marked for them to be considered distinct species". Keith (pers. comm.) thinks that *B. occultus* forms a superspecies with *B. poensis*. Sibley & Monroe (1990: 503) treated *occultus*, *poensis* and *minulla* as allo-species of the *B. [minulla]* superspecies. Traylor (*in litt.*) "finds this [taxon] hard to accept as a species", and "would accept *occultus* as a subspecies of *poensis*, but not as a species unless fresh Cameroon material shows all the differences". We agree with Traylor that *occultus* is best considered a subspecies of *poensis* (Bb).

Note that, following Clancey (1989) *occultus* should be spelled *occulta*.

### Nectariniidae

- (16) *Nectarinia rufipennis* Jensen 1983, *Ibis* 125(4): 447—Mwanihana Forest Reserve, Uzungwa Mountains, above the village Sanje,



Kilombero District, Morogoro Region, eastern Tanzania. Altitude 1000 m.

= *Nectarinia rufipennis* (Ab).

This new sunbird was described on the basis of a male (holotype, in the Zoological Museum, Copenhagen, No. 8.12.1981.1) and a female (in the BMNH, No. 1981.9.7) collected in 1981 in a remote area of rain-forest in eastern Tanzania. The new birds (illustrated in a colour plate) were compared to a variety of African sunbirds of the genus *Nectarinia*, including the *N. chalybea* species-group, the *N. afra* superspecies, and the *N. regia* superspecies. "The most remarkable [differences shown by *N. rufipennis*] are the bronzy throat patch of the male and the rufous edges of the flight feathers of both sexes, characters which appear unique among African sunbirds" (Jensen 1983: 449). In another, popular, article, Jensen (1985) published a colour photograph of a female, gave details about the original discovery of this new species, and indicated that during a subsequent expedition, he found that the new species was abundant from c. 4000–6000 feet, in montane forest habitat with lichens and mosses and epiphytic plants growing on trees. The area of this habitat in Mwanihana Forest "encompasses perhaps 20 square miles" (Jensen 1985: 21).

Sibley & Monroe (1990: 666) wrote: "Relationships unclear; a unique species with no certain affinities". Keith (pers. comm.) believes that *N. rufipennis* is very distinctive and not clearly allied to any other sunbird species. We agree that this new sunbird is a valid species with no clear affinity to members of an existing superspecies (category Ab).

### Meliphagidae

(17) *Meliphaga hindwoodi* Longmore & Boles 1983, *Emu* 83(2): 59—  
Massey Creek, Clarke Range, Queensland (21°04'S, 148°35'E).

= *Meliphaga [frenata] hindwoodi* (Ac).

This new species of honeyeater is described on the basis of 25 specimens, deposited at the Australian Museum and the Queensland Museum. The holotype is No. 0.17574 in the Queensland Museum. *M. hindwoodi* appears to be restricted to the Clarke Range, 80 km west of Mackay, Queensland. It differs from allopatric *M. frenata*, which occurs on the Atherton Tableland (Australia), and from *M. subfrenata* (New Guinea highlands), in having more grey in its plumage and streaked underparts. Comparisons of similarities and differences between *M. hindwoodi* and its relatives *frenata* and *subfrenata*, as well as *chrysops* and *obscura*, are carefully made and illustrated by photographs, drawings and tables. Longmore & Boles (1983) proposed a reconstruction of vegetational sequences in Australia and New Guinea to help explain the evolution of taxa in the *M. frenata* species-group.

Sibley & Monroe (1990: 431) accepted *hindwoodi* as an allospecies of the *Lichenostomus [frenatus]* superspecies. For an explanation of their use of the generic name *Meliphaga* instead of *Lichenostomus*, see Longmore & Boles (1983: 60). We believe *hindwoodi* to be an allospecies of *frenata* (category Ac), and we agree that the *Meliphaga-Lichenostomus* complex needs more study.



**Ploceidae (Ploceinae)**

- (18) *Ploceus burnieri* Baker & Baker 1990, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 110(1): 52—Ifakara 08°08'S, 36°40'E, in Morogoro Region, east central Tanzania, on the northern bank of the Kilombero River, 320 km southwest of Dar es Salaam, altitude 250 m.

= *Ploceus burnieri* (Ab).

This new weaver was described on the basis of 4 specimens (2 ♂♂ and 2 ♀♀). The ♂ 'holotype' (=syntype) is deposited at the BMNH, No. 1989-7-1, as is the ♀ 'holotype' (=syntype) No. 1989-7-2. The 2 paratypes are deposited at the University of Dar es Salaam Museum of Biology. The original description includes a colour plate painted from the ♂ and ♀ syntypes and photographs of live birds. The new weaver was observed breeding in riverside swamps containing *Phragmites*. A nest was collected and deposited at the BMNH. The authors compared *P. burnieri* with 57 other taxa of *Ploceus*, especially *P. taeniopterus*, *P. castanops* and *P. subaureus*. Baker & Baker (1990: 58) concluded: "We hesitate to attempt a systematic position for this species. It may well prove intermediate between the 'Masked Weavers' and *P. castanops*, although clearly the nest is closer to that of *P. subaureus*." In spite of the careful description of the new species, and of the extensive comparisons, it is difficult to evaluate the biological validity of this putative new *Ploceus*. The possibility of a hybrid population is discounted: "The large sample size of *P. burnieri* and its isolation from similar species does not suggest a hybrid population" (Baker & Baker 1990: 56). The "large sample size" consists, in fact, of only 4 specimens, and some birds handled live: hardly enough data to interpret potential variability of hybrids. In view of the great difficulties posed by the systematics of *Ploceus* species, we keep *P. burnieri* as a distinct species, (Ab), but stress that only further series of specimens and more extensive biological data will resolve its status.

- (19) *Ploceus victoriae* Ash 1986, *Ibis* 128: 331—Entebbe, Uganda, 0°04'N, 32°28'E, altitude 1200 m.

= ? *Ploceus victoriae* (Ba).

This new *Ploceus* weaver was described on the basis of the unique holotype, a male collected 20 March 1983 and deposited at the BMNH, (No. 1985.1.29). The female is still unknown. "Although the specimen is unique, other individuals are known to exist in the field, and it is desirable to describe this as a new taxon at full specific level" (Ash 1986: 331). This species is somewhat similarly marked (facial pattern) as *Ploceus taeniopterus*, *P. melanocephalus*, *P. castanops* and *P. velatus* (diagrammatically illustrated), but seems to have a different wing formula. Furthermore, "*P. victoriae* differs markedly from *taeniopterus* in being a non-colonial and solitary species" (Ash 1986: 335). Ash (1986: 336) believed that morphological characters and nesting behaviour differences justify separating this specimen as a full species, and stated that it "can be regarded as a member of a superspecies including *melanocephalus*, *taeniopterus*, *jacksoni*, *dicrocephalus* and *intermedius*". He discarded the possibility of hybridization, chiefly on the ground that: "The probability of seeing several hybrids looking alike in the same area in the course of one year seems to be highly unlikely, and would appear to indicate that



*victoriae* is not a hybrid. Also, at no time were any mixed pairs seen in the colonies of breeding Ploceids, which often contained several species” (Ash 1986: 335).

Louette (1987) has questioned the specific status of *victoriae*, in a critique of Ash’s (1986) description, in which he pointed out that this specimen could be the result of several hybrid combinations (*P. castanops* × *P. melanocephalus fischeri* or *P. castanops* × *P. jacksoni*). Louette (1987: 405) also points out that several *Ploceus* species breeding at Entebbe have been found breeding in colonies, “but sometimes solitarily or a couple together”. Thus the solitary nesting behaviour of *P. victoriae*, based on limited field evidence, might not be as significant as Ash (1986) suggested (see also Ash 1987 in reply to Louette 1987).

Although Sibley & Monroe (1990: 683) included *victoriae* in the *Ploceus [taeniopterus]* superspecies, they also stated that *victoriae* is “possibly a subspecies of *P. taeniopterus* or some other species of ‘masked weaver’”. At the end of his paper, Ash (1986: 336) wrote that “without more study and more specimens of *victoriae* [its status] is largely conjecture”. Indeed, we feel that there is too little evidence in this case, and for the moment maintain *P. victoriae* as a *species inquirenda* (category Ba).

- (20) *Ploceus ruweti* Louette & Benson 1982, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 102(1): 26—Kinsamba, near the eastern edge of the maximum level of Lake Lufira (i.e. Lake Shangalele, or Tshangalele—cf. *Times Atlas*, 1975: 203, at 10°50’S, 27°03’E, and map in Ruwet 1963: facing 60), Zaïre. = *Ploceus [reichardi] ruweti* (Ac).

The unique holotype, “a male in almost complete breeding dress”, was probably collected in March 1960, and is now kept in the KMMA (No. 113379). This specimen “has been compared by both of us with every conceivable form of *Ploceus* (males in breeding dress), both in the KMMA and in the British Museum (Natural History)” (Louette & Benson 1982: 25–26). The specimen is illustrated, together with a male of *P. reichardi*, in a black and white photograph. Other photographs in the original description include a nest attributed to *P. ruweti*, a colony of nests attributed to *P. ruweti*, and the typical habitat (swamp) of *P. ruweti* in the Lufira delta. Louette & Benson (1982) make a good case to suggest that *P. ruweti* is a member of the *reichardi* group, including also *P. reichardi* and *P. katangae* (with *upembae* as a subspecies). This group of swamp-dwelling allopatric forms, seem to form a superspecies. Sibley & Monroe (1990: 683) treated these 3 forms as members of the *P. [reichardi]* superspecies. Traylor (*in litt.*) “would have to accept the conclusions” of Louette & Benson (1982). We feel that this treatment seems reasonable (hence our classification as Ac), but given the incomplete information available to date on these birds, we emphasize that the possibility that *P. ruweti* is a subspecies of *reichardi* has not been sufficiently addressed.

### Ploceidae (Viduinæ)

- (21) *Vidua raricola* Payne 1982, *Misc. Publ. Mus. Zool., Univ. Michigan*, No. 162: 16—Banyo, Cameroon, 6°45’N, 11°50’E, altitude 1050 m. = *Vidua raricola* (Ab).



The holotype, a male in breeding plumage, housed at the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (number 204008), was collected by Payne on 6 November 1980. Other material used to describe *V. raricola* include 17 specimens from Cameroon, one from Sierra Leone, and 2 from Ghana. "The species name *raricola* refers to the affinity of this brood parasite species for its foster species and song model, the Black-bellied Firefinch *Lagonosticta rara*" (Payne 1982: 33). *V. raricola* differs from other indigo-birds *Vidua* "by the mouth pattern of the immature birds, which mimic the mouth pattern of nestling Black-bellied Firefinches *Lagonosticta rara*" (Payne 1982: 17). Males mimic the songs of *L. rara*. It seems impossible to identify some individual specimens of *Vidua* unless their host species is known. Also, variability of plumage colour in *V. raricola* matches that of other *Vidua* species. This clearly presents exceptional difficulties for systematics. But, as Payne (1982: 17–18) stated: "the morphogenetic uniqueness of certain young indigobirds in mimicking the mouth pattern of *L. rara*, the restriction of these young to the localities where *L. rara* occur and where adult male indigobirds mimic the songs of *L. rara*, and the morphogenetic distinctiveness of these males from other locally sympatric male indigobirds that mimic other species of firefinches in Cameroon and in Sierra Leone together indicate that the population [*raricola*] behaves as a species distinct from the others". As Payne (1982: 18, 22) himself pointed out: "This diagnosis recognizes that it may be impossible to identify to species those birds in regions where the song behaviour is unknown." Female and juvenile *V. raricola* are indistinguishable from similar plumages of other species of indigo birds.

In Cameroon, Payne (1982) found 3 sympatric species of *Vidua*, *V. raricola* mimicking *Lagonosticta rara*, *V. funerea* mimicking *L. rubricata*, and *V. wilsoni* mimicking *L. rufopicta*. "No habitat differences were apparent between the green *V. raricola* and blue *V. funerea* at Banyo; the birds were on neighbouring territories in scrub at the edge of fields cultivated for manioc and pineapple" (Payne 1982: 26).

*V. raricola* occurs together with its host species *Lagonosticta rara* from Sierra Leone to Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon, and probably also in parts of Zaïre and of Sudan.

Sibley & Monroe (1990: 700) accepted *V. raricola* as a full species. Traylor (*in litt.*), who has studied indigobirds, made the point that *V. raricola* (and the next species *V. larvaticola*) must be considered good species "if you accept Payne's thesis that the species of *Vidua* are each obligate nest parasites on a single species of *Lagonosticta*, and that they can be identified by mimicking the songs of their respective hosts, and by the juvenals having the same palatal markings" (italics ours). We classify *raricola* as Ab, a species not clearly a member of a superspecies.

(22) *Vidua larvaticola* Payne 1982, *Misc. Publ. Mus. Zool., Univ. Michigan*, No. 162: 33—Zaria, Nigeria, 11°10'N, 7°40'E.  
= *Vidua larvaticola* (Ab).

The holotype, a male in breeding plumage, kept in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (number 216994), was collected by Payne on 6 August 1968. Additional specimens used to describe *V. larvaticola* include 21 birds from Nigeria. "The species name *larvaticola* describes



the affinity of this indigobird for its host species *Lagonosticta larvata*” (Payne 1982: 41).

“The species *V. larvaticola* is characterized by its species-specific mimicry of the Black-faced Firefinch *Lagonosticta larvata*” (Payne 1982: 34). As in *V. raricola*, it is impossible to identify some specimens of *V. larvaticola*, especially females and juveniles, but males also, unless they were collected with their host species (males vary regionally from green to blue in colour). Immature *V. larvaticola* have mouth markings that mimic those of *L. larvata*. Further, male *V. larvaticola* mimic the vocalizations of *L. larvata*.

Payne (1982: 36–39) found local sympatry in Nigeria between *Vidua chalybeata* (and its host *Lagonosticta senegala*), *V. larvaticola* (and host *L. larvata*), and *V. wilsoni* (and host *L. rufopicta*). *V. larvaticola* occurs in Nigeria and Cameroon, and probably also locally in other west African countries (The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Mali, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo), as well as in Sudan and elsewhere in central Africa. Payne’s (1982) Fig. 21 illustrates the distribution of *V. larvaticola* and its host *Lagonosticta larvata*.

As for *Vidua raricola*, Payne’s (1982) evidence strongly suggests specific distinctness of *V. larvaticola*, a view adopted by Sibley & Monroe (1990: 700). Although more work is needed to establish clearly the status of *V. raricola*, we classify it as Ab.

## NEW WORLD

### Anatidae

- (23) *Tachyeres leucocephalus* Humphrey & Thompson 1981, *Occ. Papers Mus. Nat. Hist. Univ. Kansas*, No. 95: 3—Puerto Melo, Provincia de Chubut, Argentina (45°01’S, 65°50’W).  
= *Tachyeres* [*pteneres*] *leucocephalus* (Ac).

The holotype, an adult male, no. 52694 in the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales (MACN), Buenos Aires, Argentina, was collected on 24 September 1979 by Humphrey & Thompson (1981). The description is based on material deposited at the MACN (one skin and partial skeleton, the holotype); Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas (6 skins and partial skeletons); and Museum of Natural History of the University of Kansas, Lawrence (25 complete skeletons). *T. leucocephalus* is ‘abundant’ at the type locality, Puerto Melo, “and presumably other localities with rocky shorelines along the coast of Chubut” (Humphrey & Thompson 1981: 8); elsewhere in the paper, the authors mention the species having been photographed at Punta Tombo and Camarones, and state that *T. leucocephalus* “probably occurs in appropriate habitat along the coast of Chubut from Bahía Bustamante north perhaps as far as Puerto Madryn and Península Valdez” (p. 7). See Beno (1982) for a popular account of the discovery of this species.

“*Tachyeres leucocephalus* is distinct from all known species in the genus [*pteneres*, *brachypterus* and *patachonicus*] in terms of various combinations of characters, including body weight, proportions of certain measurements, shape of humerus and posterior region of sternum, and



colouration of the feathering of the head and neck in various plumages" (Humphrey & Thompson 1981: 5). A colour plate illustrates head plumages of males and females, in various moult stages, and of a juvenal.

On the basis of a phylogenetic study, Livezey (1986) concluded that the 3 flightless taxa of *Tachyeres* were a monophyletic assemblage, within which *T. leucocephalus* and *T. brachypterus* (Falklands) were the most closely related taxa (sister species). Livezey (1986) proposed a model of differentiation, according to which allopatric speciation between proto-*leucocephalus* and proto-*brachypterus* was the latest of several postulated vicariance events. In another study, Corbin *et al.* (1988) analyzed steamer-ducks by means of electrophoretic characters, and confirmed the close relationships of the 3 flightless taxa, and the sister-species relationship of *brachypterus* and *leucocephalus*. Corbin *et al.* (1988: 779) speculated that "the divergence of lineages leading to *T. brachypterus* and *T. leucocephalus* would have occurred about 13,000 years ago".

Sibley & Monroe (1990: 32) placed the 3 flightless taxa of *Tachyeres* in a single superspecies. Humphrey (*in litt.*) felt that they are too different to be included in a superspecies. One of us (F V) recently saw *T. leucocephalus* at the type locality and Cabo dos Bahias, and feels that still more study is needed to clarify relationships between it and *T. pteneres*. Given the taxonomic problems posed by the different populations of *Tachyeres*, we tentatively place the 3 flightless steamer ducks in a single superspecies *T. [pteneres]*, and hence classify *T. leucocephalus* as Ac.

### Psittacidae

- (24) *Pyrrhura orcesi* Ridgely & Robbins 1988, *Wilson Bulletin* 100(2): 174—c. 9.5 road km west of Piñas, altitude c. 900 m, 3°40'S, 79°44'W, Prov. El Oro, Ecuador.

= *Pyrrhura [melanura] orcesi* (Ac).

The holotype, an adult male, is deposited in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (ANSP) (No. 177523). Sixteen additional specimens exist, 14 at the ANSP, one in the BMNH, and one in the Museo Ecuatoriano de Ciencias Naturales in Quito. The 17 specimens come from 2 localities, in Provinces El Oro and Azuay. *P. orcesi* (illustrated by a colour plate in the original description) is allopatric with various populations of *P. melanura*, from which it differs in having a red forehead, obsolete scaling on the breast, and greener crown (variation illustrated in a colour plate including both species and their geographic distribution). *P. orcesi* appears restricted geographically and occurs in humid mid-montane forest between 600 and 1100 m. (except that the BMNH specimen was collected at 300 m).

Forshaw (1989: 493) treated *orcési* as a full species. Sibley & Monroe (1990: 126) treated it as a member of the *P. [melanura]* superspecies, and we treat it likewise here (Ac).

- (25) *Amazona kawalli* Grantsau & Camargo 1989, *Rev. Brasil. Biol.* 49(4): 1018—Rio Juruá, Amazonas, Brazil (region circumscribed in



a radius of c. 75 km from Seringal de Mato Piri, along the right bank of the Rio Juruá, downstream from the town of Eirunepé, on the left bank of the Rio Juruá [ $6^{\circ}38'S$ ,  $69^{\circ}50'W$ ]).

= ? *Amazona kawalli* (Ba).

The description of this new species is based on 3 birds, the holotype (a female, housed in the Museum of Zoology of the University of São Paulo (MZUSP), number 2727) collected in 1902, and 2 paratypes (one, female, in MZUSP, number 3478, also collected in 1902; the second, a male, in the collection of Rolf Grantsau, number 7577, from Santarém, Pará, collected in 1970). This new taxon has previously been confused with *A. farinosa*. It differs from *farinosa* in bill colour, a white patch of skin at the base of the bill, an ashy grey ocular ring, pale green carpal joint without any trace of red, generally green colour, external rectrices with red at the base of the inner vane, restricted amount of pale green at distal tip of central rectrices. Two live birds are also cited by Grantsau & Camargo (1989), in Nelson Kawall's collection. The new bird was compared to a series of 25 *Amazona f. farinosa*. A colour plate accompanies the original description.

Grantsau & Camargo (1990) essentially re-published their 1989 description in the semi-popular German journal *Trochilus*, with the same colour plate (but less well-produced), but with the addition of a table of measurements of *A. kawalli* and *A. f. farinosa*, and a map of the distribution of *A. kawalli*, showing the 2 localities, 1700 km apart.

We feel that there is not enough evidence at present to decide what the status of this form is, hence our classification as Ba.

### Strigidae

(26) *Otus marshalli* Weske & Terborgh 1981, *Auk* 98(1): 1—Cordillera Vilcabamba,  $12^{\circ}38'S$ ,  $73^{\circ}36'W$ , altitude 2180 m., Provincia de la Convención, Departamento de Cuzco, Perú.

= *Otus marshalli* (Ab).

The holotype is an adult male kept at the AMNH (number 824160). Eight specimens were available for the original description, all collected from c. 1920–2240 m in the northern Cordillera Vilcabamba, Cuzco, Perú. Since the original description, the species has been found farther north, in the Cordillera Yanachaga (Schulenberg *et al.* 1984). In the Cordillera Vilcabamba, this owl seems to be common and reached its peak abundance between 2130 and 2190 m, where it was “the 29th most commonly netted bird species among a total of 53” (Weske & Terborgh 1981: 4). Its habitat is cloud forest with a luxuriant understorey, including a profusion of clinging bamboo. The new owl differs from other Neotropical owls, except the Central American species *O. barbarus* and *O. clarkii*, in the barred and streaked underparts. No Andean taxon appears to be closely related to *O. marshalli*. The morphological differences between *O. marshalli*, *O. barbarus* and *O. clarkii* are rather well marked. It is thus unclear whether *O. marshalli* should be included in a superspecies with *barbarus* and *clarkii*.

Further problems are raised by the description of *O. petersoni* (see below, under 27), which Fitzpatrick & O'Neill (1986) compared with



*marshalli* and other *Otus* spp. (especially *ingens*, *colombianus* and *watsonii*). These 4 species appear to form a species-group of brown-eyed *Otus*. Note that Fitzpatrick & O'Neill (1986) did not discuss the affinities of *O. clarkii* and *O. barbarus*.

Marshall & King (1988: 335) treated *O. marshalli* as a full species; Sibley & Monroe (1990: 173) included *marshalli* and *petersoni* in a super-species, an action that may be premature. That *O. marshalli* is a valid species is not in question, but whether it belongs to a superspecies and with what other species is as yet uncertain. Thus our tentative classification of this bird as Ab. It is unfortunate that the voice of *O. marshalli* is unknown.

- (27) *Otus hoyi* König & Straneck 1989, *Stuttgarter Beitr. Naturk.*, Ser. A (Biol.), No. 428: 4—La Cornisa, c. 40 km north of the town of Salta, Argentina.

= *Otus atricapillus hoyi* (Bb).

The type, a bird collected by G. Hoy in 1987, is in the ornithological collection of the Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde in Stuttgart (number SMNS 62849); one paratype is in the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales in Buenos Aires, and 8 others in the Instituto Miguel Lillo in Tucumán. These 10 birds differ from *O. choliba* and *O. guatemalae* in several characters (illustrations of skins and sonagrams of vocalizations are provided in the description), and in colour and pattern resemble more closely Central American *O. barbarus*, *O. marshalli* from Perú (see number 26 above), or else an *Otus* from southern Brazil. The vocalizations of *Otus guatemalae* from Perú appear closer to those of *O. hoyi* than those of other *Otus* spp. *O. hoyi* lives in wet montane forest between c. 1000 and 2600 m, in areas with dense undergrowth. König & Straneck (1989) mentioned the similarity in habitats between *O. hoyi* and *O. marshalli*.

In a later paper, König (1991) examined in detail the relationships of *O. atricapillus*, *O. sanctaecatarinae* (parapatric) and *O. hoyi* (allopatric), especially through comparisons of vocalization. Together with *O. guatemalae*, König (1991: 213) placed these 3 forms in the *O. [atricapillus]* superspecies. On the basis of this additional evidence, one could either accept his classification or consider *hoyi* as a subspecies of *atricapillus*. For the present we favour the latter designation (Bb).

- (28) *Otus petersoni* Fitzpatrick & O'Neill 1986, *Wilson bulletin* 98(1): 2—Cordillera del Cóndor, above San José de Lourdes, Dept. Cajamarca, Perú, 5°02'S, 78°51'W, altitude 1950 m.

= *Otus colombianus petersoni* (Bb).

The holotype is an adult male housed at the AMNH (No. 824049). Nine additional specimens are paratypes. The new species occurs at 4 localities, 2 in southern Ecuador and 2 in northern Perú. An additional (11th) specimen is a Bogotá trade skin (at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia). A colour plate accompanies the original description.



The new species lives in subtropical forest, and is sympatric at 3 of the 4 localities with *O. ingens*. After a detailed analysis of morphology and vocalizations, Fitzpatrick & O'Neill (1986) concluded, convincingly, that *O. petersoni* is the sister-taxon of *O. colombianus*, from the eastern Andes of Colombia and Ecuador. "In plumage pattern and colour, *colombianus* and *petersoni* are so nearly alike as to suggest they could be conspecific" (Fitzpatrick & O'Neill 1986: 9). They prefer to treat them as distinct species, but they "emphasize that based upon present data the question cannot be settled unequivocally". Sibley & Monroe (1990: 173) treated *petersoni* and *marshalli* as members of a superspecies. Marshall & King (1988: 335) treated *petersoni* as a subspecies of *colombianus*, and we are inclined to agree with this placement (Bb).

### Furnariidae

- (29) *Asthenes luizae* Vielliard 1990, *Ararajuba* 1: 121—c. 1100 m. altitude, serra do Cipó, município de Jaboticatubas, Minas Gerais, Brazil.  
= ? *Asthenes luizae* (Ba).

This new *Asthenes* was described on the basis of 2 specimens. The holotype, an adult male, "will be deposited at the MZUSP when the work in progress is completed" (Vielliard 1990: 121). At present the holotype is in F. Lencioni's collection (number 349). The paratype, an immature male, is also in F. Lencioni's collection (number 568). Thus, the accessibility of the type specimen is in doubt, and we strongly deplore the practice of having specimens of (putative) new taxa in private collections, as both appear to be in this instance. These birds were collected in December 1985 and December 1988 in the Serra do Cipó, Minas Gerais. A coloured plate of the new bird has been prepared by F. Lencioni (but has not been published—F. Lencioni *in litt.*). A subsequent paper is promised.

The original description only states that F. Lencioni recognized that the specimen he collected in 1985 "belonged to the genus *Asthenes* and that it was a new species" (Vielliard 1990). Nowhere in the original description did the author state whether comparisons had been made between the 2 type specimens and any other Furnariidae, including *Asthenes*. It is thus impossible to make any statement about *Asthenes luizae* on the basis of Vielliard's (1990) description.

More or less simultaneously, Pearman (1990) published a paper on an "undescribed Canastero *Asthenes* species from Brazil". Pearman (1990) apparently published his paper, which seems to deal with the same taxon as Vielliard's (1990) new species, because: "After carrying out extensive fieldwork personally in 1988 and 1989, and due to the long time lapse since the original discovery [in 1985], lack of any information on the species in the literature and no definite forthcoming description, I feel there is a need to publish the present findings" (Pearman 1990: 146). Pearman's (1990) description of the new *Asthenes* species is based entirely on field observations, since "the collecting of specimens was not possible". Pearman (1990), like Vielliard (1990) gave no information concerning the reasons why the 'new bird' belongs in the genus *Asthenes*. Vocalizations (sonagrams) of the 'new species' are compared to those of



several species of *Asthenes*. Clearly, the description of a putative new *Asthenes* in Minas Gerais, many km away from the Andean-Chacoan-Patagonian region, where *Asthenes* is distributed, requires substantiation. If correct, such a discovery would be quite interesting biogeographically, and would parallel somewhat the case of *Schizoeaca*, another Furnariidae. For the present, however, this is conjectural. There is simply not enough evidence and the new name must remain, for the time being, a *species inquirenda* (Ba). The practice of naming putative new species the way *Asthenes luizae* was described is not very professional.

- (30) *Philydor novaesi* Teixeira & Gonzaga 1983a, *Bol. Mus. Paraense Emilio Goeldi, Nova Série Zoologia*, No. 124: 4—'Serra Branca', Município de Murici (c. 9°15'S, 35°50'W), Alagoas, Brazil, c. 550 m. altitude.

= ? *Philydor novaesi* (Ba).

Both the holotype (adult male, number 32029) and the paratype (adult male, number 32028) are housed in the Museu Nacional in Rio de Janeiro (MNRJ). They were collected almost simultaneously in mist nets as part of a mixed flock in a tract of rainforest of northeastern Brazil visited during an expedition in February 1979. These specimens were compared with series of *Philydor atricapillus*, the type of *Philydor hyperythrus*, and colour photos of *P. hylobius* (but about the status of *P. hylobius* see Appendix IV). A black and white drawing (Teixeira & Gonzaga 1983a: 8) illustrated the head pattern of the 4 taxa of *Philydor*. *P. novaesi* differs from *P. atricapillus* in having a narrower and less conspicuous superciliary stripe, and a less well marked postocular band. The mystacial stripe of *P. novaesi* is also less well marked than the one in *P. atricapillus*. The rufous nape band, conspicuous in *P. atricapillus* is lacking in *P. novaesi*. *P. novaesi* is larger and heavier than *P. atricapillus*.

*Philydor novaesi* and *P. atricapillus* are allopatric (map in Teixeira & Gonzaga 1983a: 13). The authors suggested that the differences between *P. novaesi* and *P. atricapillus* are sufficient to justify their classification as members of a superspecies.

Since the original description, Teixeira *et al.* (1987) have reported 4 additional specimens, including 3 females. "According to this material, the females of *P. novaesi* are identical to males in plumage, and also show no trace of the bright nuchal collar which is very conspicuous in the closely related Black-capped Foliage gleaner *Philydor atricapillus*" (Teixeira *et al.* 1987: 155).

Sibley & Monroe (1990: 408) placed these 2 taxa in the *Philydor* [*atricapillus*] superspecies. Ridgely (*in litt.*) believed *P. novaesi* to be a good species; Sick (*in litt.*) thought that *P. novaesi* was either an "allospecies or geographic race of *P. atricapillus*"; Fitzpatrick (*in litt.*), however, queried the validity of *P. novaesi*.

In view of the fact that '*Philydor hylobius*' was recently shown by Dickerman *et al.* (1986) to be a synonym of *Automolus roraimae*, we believe that the identification of the correct status of *P. novaesi* must await further, broader comparisons, including other genera of Furnariidae. We classify it for the time being as a *species inquirenda* (Ba).



## Formicariidae

- (31) *Clytoctantes atrogularis* Lanyon, Stotz, & Willard 1990, *Wilson Bulletin* 102(4): 571—Cachoeira Nazaré, west bank of Rio Jiparaná, Rondônia, Brazil, 9°44'S, 61°53'W, altitude 100 m.  
= *Clytoctantes [alixii] atrogularis* (Ac).

The unique type, a female, was mist-netted during an expedition to Rondônia. It is housed at the MZUSP (number 66111); colour slides are on file at the Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH), Chicago, and with VIREO at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. Although 2 males were observed, "subsequent attempts to collect more specimens and observe it further were unsuccessful" (Lanyon *et al.* 1990: 571). The authors point out that they "are reluctant to describe a new taxon on the basis of a single specimen", but that "the bird's features are so distinctive . . . that [they] believe it represents an undescribed species" (Lanyon *et al.* 1990: 571). A colour plate accompanied the original description.

"Within the Formicariidae, only *Clytoctantes* and *Neoctantes* share the unusual bill shape of the new taxon, in which the upper mandibular tomia curve dorsally" (Lanyon *et al.* 1990: 573). *C. atrogularis* differs from females of *C. alixii* chiefly in having a black bib, which is lacking in *C. alixii*. An all black-plumaged male appeared, in the field, different from the grey and black-bibbed male of *C. alixii*. Lanyon *et al.* (1990: 578) remarked: "Five experienced observers spent 1400 field hours at the type locality and accumulated 1450 net-days. The single netted individual and 2 sight records suggest that either: (1) this species is extremely uncommon or secretive, or (2) we encountered only dispersing individuals and that it normally occurs in a different habitat." Actually, both possibilities are likely; many tropical lowland forest avian species in Amazonia are rare. On the basis of the unique type and 2 field sightings, Lanyon *et al.* (1990) concluded that *C. atrogularis* is, indeed, a valid species and not an aberrant *C. alixii*. It seems likely to us that *C. atrogularis* is a valid new species level taxon, forming a superspecies with distantly allopatric *C. alixii* (Ac), but much more evidence is needed.

- (32) *Herpsilochmus parkeri* Davis & O'Neill 1986, *Wilson Bulletin* 98(3): 338—c. 15 km by trail northeast of Jirillo on the trail to Balsapuerto, 06°03'S, 76°44'W, altitude 1350 m, Department of San Martín, Perú.

= *Herpsilochmus pileatus parkeri* (Bb).

The holotype is an adult male deposited in the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology (LSUMZ) (No. 116908). A total of 6 males and 4 females of this new species are all at LSUMZ. So far, *H. parkeri* is known only from the type locality, an ecologically heterogeneous area consisting of a savanna-like habitat, a low-diversity ridge-top habitat on sandy soil, a semi-stunted forest, and a tall cloud forest on good soil. "*H. parkeri* was noted most commonly in the canopy and midlevels of the tallest forest" (Davis & O'Neill 1986: 343). It also occurred in other habitats, but less commonly. *H. parkeri* was often found in mixed flocks with other Formicariidae, Furnariidae and Tyrannidae.



Davis & O'Neill (1986) argued that several taxa of *Herpsilochmus*, hitherto considered to be subspecies of *H. pileatus*, ought to be treated as distinct, allopatric species. *H. parkeri* is geographically closest to *motacilloides*. The various allopatric taxa of this group of species within *Herpsilochmus* vary slightly in both morphological and vocal characters, but not enough data exist as yet about vocalizations. Davis & O'Neill (1986: 350–351) considered the question of subspecific *vs.* specific identity of the allopatric trio *H. parkeri*, *H. motacilloides* and *H. atricapillus*, and believed that species status is the better alternative at present. Furthermore, they "hesitate to classify them [these 3 species plus *H. pileatus*] formally in a single superspecies until the ranges of *H. pileatus* and *H. atricapillus* are better known" (Davis & O'Neill 1986: 351). Sibley & Monroe (1990: 386) included *parkeri*, *motacilloides*, *atricapillus* and *pileatus* in a single superspecies.

It seems to us that it is not possible to decide on species status at present. *H. parkeri* may be treated as a subspecies of *pileatus* or as a member of the [*pileatus*] superspecies; for the time being we favour the former (Bb).

- (33) *Terenura sicki* Teixeira & Gonzaga 1983b, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 103: 133—"Serra Branca", Murici, Alagoas, northeastern Brazil (c. 9°15'S, 35°50'W).

= *Terenura sicki* (Ab).

This new antbird was originally described on the basis of a single female collected in 1979 and deposited in the MNRJ, number 32048 (Teixeira & Gonzaga 1983b). Further work has permitted the collection of 5 additional specimens in 1983 (3 males and 2 females, all in the MNRJ), and one sub-adult and one adult male (both also in MNRJ) in 1987 (Teixeira *et al.* 1988). The holotype is now identified by Teixeira (1987b) as an immature female.

The new taxon is known on the basis of specimens from the type locality (Serra Branca, Murici, Alagoas) and from Quebrangulo, Alagoas, and from sight records from Novo Lino, Alagoas. The only illustration of the new species is a black and white figure of 3 specimens in Teixeira (1987b: 244). Details about plumages, habitat, relative abundance, behaviour, vocalization and breeding are given in Teixeira (1987b). The male resembles in plumage colour and pattern several species of *Myrmotherula*. The female is said to differ from other species of *Terenura* by its orange underparts. Nowhere is it clearly indicated why the new taxon was placed in *Terenura*.

Remsen (*in litt.*), Fitzpatrick (*in litt.*), Sick (*in litt.*) and Ridgely (*in litt.*) all thought that *T. sicki* is a valid new species. Sick and Ridgely (*in litt.*) stated that it is close to *T. maculata*, forming a superspecies with it. Sibley & Monroe (1990: 388) accepted *T. sicki* as a full species (not in a superspecies with *T. maculata*).

It seems to us that a comparative study of the type series of *T. sicki* with a number of other small Formicariidae should be undertaken before the generic status of this form can be fully confirmed. Pending further reviews, we accept *T. sicki* tentatively as a new species (Ab).



- (34) *Cercomacra manu* Fitzpatrick & Willard 1990, *Auk* 107(2): 239—12 river km downstream from Shintuya on left bank of Alto Rio Madre de Dios, Dept. Madre de Dios, Perú, 12°33'S, 71°17'W, altitude 420 m.

= *Cercomacra [melanaria] manu* (Ac); or *Cercomacra [nigricans] manu* (Ac).

A total of 14 males and 10 females of this new antbird was examined (deposited in the LSUMZ, FMNH and AMNH). The holotype, an adult female, is number 310653 in the FMNH. *C. manu* is a member of the '*Cercomacra nigricans*' species group, including 4 allopatric species-level taxa besides *manu*: *nigricans*, *carbonaria*, *ferdinandi* and *melanaria*. *C. manu* occurs in bamboo habitats (illustrated by photographs) in Perú (Depts. Cuzco, Ucayali and Madre de Dios) and Bolivia (Dept. Pando). The males of the taxa of the '*nigricans*' group are very similar to one another, but the females are more distinct (a colour plate accompanied the original description). On the basis of several "shared characteristics we hypothesize that *manu* and *melanaria* are sister taxa, possibly close enough to be recognized as a superspecies" (Fitzpatrick & Willard 1990: 243). *C. manu* and *C. melanaria* are allopatric, but their geographical disjunction is not nearly as large as that among the other members of the '*nigricans*' group. We would include *manu* as an allospecies of either the *C. [melanaria]* superspecies (if only *C. manu* and *C. melanaria* are included as members), or of the *C. [nigricans]* superspecies (if all allopatric members of this 'group' are included); hence Ac in the classification.

- (35) *Grallaria carrikeri* Schulenberg & Williams 1982, *Wilson Bulletin* 94(2): 105—Cordillera Colán, SE La Peca, c. 5°34'S, 78°19'W, altitude 2450 m, Dept. Amazonas, Perú.

= *Grallaria [nuchalis] carrikeri* (Ac).

The type series of this new species consists of 13 specimens, one in the Delaware Museum of Natural History and all the others in the LSUMZ. The holotype is an adult male (number 88044 at LSUMZ). A colour illustration accompanies the original description. *G. carrikeri* is known from 3 localities in the northern Peruvian Andes: Cordillera Colán (Dept. Amazonas), near Ingenio on the road to Laguna Pomacochas (Dept. Amazonas), and Cumpang, near Ongón (Dept. La Libertad). *G. carrikeri* is closely related to the allopatric *G. nuchalis*. The 2 forms are separated by the low and dry valley of the Rio Maraón. The morphological differences (especially whitish bill) and vocal differences (including data from some playback experiments) suggested to Schulenberg & Williams (1982: 111) that "*G. carrikeri* has achieved species status". Wiedenfeld (1982) has described the nest of *G. carrikeri* and discussed the nests of antpittas. Fitzpatrick (*in litt.*), Graves (*in litt.*), Remsen (*in litt.*) and Ridgely (*in litt.*) all believe that *G. carrikeri* is a valid species belonging in a superspecies with *nuchalis*. Sibley & Monroe (1990: 417) also placed *nuchalis* and *carrikeri* in the *G. [nuchalis]* superspecies. We accept this view here and classify *carrikeri* as Ac.



- (36) *Grallaria blakei* Graves 1987, *Wilson Bulletin* 99(3): 314—east slope of the Cordillera Carpish, near the Carretera Central, c. 2400 m. altitude, Department of Huánuco, Perú.  
= *Grallaria blakei* (Ab).

This new species, described on the basis of 8 specimens (one in the FMNH and 7 in the LSUMZ) occurs at 3 localities along the eastern Peruvian Andes in the Departments of Huánuco and Amazonas, between 2135 and 2470 m. At Cordillera Carpish and Cordillera Colán, where *G. blakei* has been collected nearly sympatrically with the very similar and widespread *G. rufula*, “a distributional hiatus is found between their known elevational ranges” (Graves 1987: 320). Graves (1987: 320) added that “whether this gap is real or an artefact of sampling is not known”. The holotype (adult female) is number 64228 in the LSUMZ. A colour plate of *G. blakei* accompanied the original description. *G. blakei* differs slightly from *G. rufula* in colour and size.

Sibley & Monroe (1990: 418) listed *G. blakei* as a full species. However, as Graves (1987) himself pointed out, more evidence is needed on the status of these 2 forms in their contact areas. For the time being, we classify *G. blakei* as Ab, but look forward to more corroborating evidence.

- (37) *Grallaricula ochraceifrons* Graves, O'Neill & Parker 1983, *Wilson Bulletin* 95(1): 1—10 km (by road) below (NE) Abra Patricia, altitude c. 1890 m (6200 ft), 5°46'S, 77°41'W, Depto. San Martín, Perú.  
= *Grallaricula* [*peruviana*] *ochraceifrons* (Ac).

The holotype (LSUMZ number 81998) is an adult male. The type series consists of 5 specimens (all at LSUMZ) collected at 2 localities in northern Perú (Depts of San Martín and Amazonas), at altitudes from 1890 to 1980 m. A colour plate and a black and white photograph of a live, hand held bird, accompany the original description. *G. ochraceifrons* is sexually dimorphic (although only 1 ♀ has been collected to date). *G. peruviana*, which is allopatric with *G. ochraceifrons* and separated from it by the dry Marañón Valley, is also sexually dimorphic. Unfortunately the vocalizations of *G. ochraceifrons* are unknown. Tentatively, Graves *et al.* (1983: 4) suggested that *G. peruviana* and *G. ochraceifrons* are members of the same superspecies. Graves (*in litt.*) wrote that *G. ochraceifrons* was “perhaps superspecifically related to either *G. lineifrons* or *G. peruviana*”. Fitzpatrick (*in litt.*) thought *G. ochraceifrons* to belong in a superspecies with *G. peruviana*. Sibley & Monroe (1990: 419) placed *peruviana* and *ochraceifrons* in the *G.* [*peruviana*] superspecies. We treat it here as Ac, but more evidence (specimens, vocalizations) is clearly needed.

### Rhinocryptidae

- (38) *Scytalopus psychopompus* Teixeira & Carnevalli, 1989, *Bol. Mus. Nac., Nov. Ser., Zool.*, no. 331: 2—Valença, Bahia, Brazil.  
= *Scytalopus* [*indigoticus*] *psychopompus* (Ac).



Based on 3 specimens, 2 housed in the MNRJ and one in the Museu de Zoologia of the University of São Paulo (one adult female holotype, MN number 34371, and 2 males), this new species has been collected at Valença, Bahia and Ilhéus, Bahia, in northeastern Brazil. *S. psychopompus* is allopatric with the widespread *S. indigoticus*. A photograph in the original description shows the 2 species (female specimens) side by side. *S. psychopompus* differs from *S. indigoticus* in having uniform (unbarred) chestnut on the flanks and crissum. *S. psychopompus* was compared with a large series of *S. indigoticus*, which shows a substantial amount of individual variation, but which always seems to have barring on the crissum or flanks. Tentatively we list *S. psychopompus* as an allospecies of *S. [indigoticus]* (Ac). Much more information on individual variation and especially new data on voice are needed for the Bahia populations. *Scytalopus* is a notoriously difficult genus.

### Tyrannidae

- (39) *Phylloscartes ceciliae* Teixeira 1987a, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 107(1): 38—‘Serra Branca’, Murici, Alagoas, northeastern Brazil (c. 9°15’S, 35°50’W), altitude 550 m.  
= ? *Phylloscartes ceciliae* (Ba).

Described on the basis of 5 specimens collected in 1983 and 1984 (Teixeira 1987a), to which were added 4 specimens collected in 1987 (Teixeira *et al.* 1988), this new species occurs in Alagoas (2 localities). All specimens are in the MNRJ. The holotype, an adult male, is number 34041. It is not clear to what other species of *Phylloscartes* (*sensu stricto* or *sensu lato*?) the putative new species has been compared, since the original description does not indicate what comparative material (if any) was used. A black and white line drawing in the original description is the only illustration of *P. ceciliae*. Sibley & Monroe (1990: 347) accepted *P. ceciliae* as a valid species.

Given the difficulties of Tyrannidae systematics, and the very incomplete nature of the description, however, we feel that we do not have enough information about *P. ceciliae* at present for us to classify it as anything but a *species inquirenda* (Ba).

- (40) *Phylloscartes lanyoni* Graves 1988, *Wilson Bulletin* 100(4): 529—El Pescado, 12 km below Pto. Valdivia on the Río Cauca, c. 1500–1700 ft [457–518 m], Department of Antioquia, Colombia.  
= ? *Phylloscartes lanyoni* (Ba).

Known only from the holotype, an adult male at the USNM, Washington, DC (number 402716), the type locality of this new *Phylloscartes* is distant from the ranges of *P. venezuelanus* and *P. orbitalis* (colour plate in original description). As Graves (1988: 532) himself stated: “Based on the similarity of body plumage and reduced auricular spot, *P. lanyoni* appears to be a trans-Andean relative of *P. orbitalis*, although a close relationship to *P. venezuelanus* and *P. gualaguizae* is possible.” Given this uncertainty, Sibley & Monroe’s (1990: 346) inclusion of this species in a superspecies with *P. orbitalis* appears premature.



Further research on song and other characteristics is needed to determine the rank of these forms. Owing to the great similarity of species in this genus it is difficult to decide whether allopatric populations should be ranked as subspecies or allospecies. We classify it conservatively here as a *species inquirenda* (Ba).

### Troglodytidae

- (41) *Thryothorus eisenmanni* Parker & O'Neill, 1985, *American Orn. Union, Orn. Monogr.* no. 36: 9—San Luis on Ollantaitambo-Quillabamba road, above Huyro, 13°06'S, 72°25'W, altitude '9000 feet' [2744 m], Department of Cuzco, Perú.

= *Thryothorus euophrys eisenmanni* (Bb).

Based on 16 specimens, all at the LSUMZ except one (at the AMNH), this new wren is closely related to *T. euophrys*. *T. eisenmanni* occurs from 1830 to 3350 m in montane forest with dense bamboo thickets, apparently its favoured habitat, in the Department of Cuzco (eastern Peruvian Andes). The holotype is an adult male (LSUMZ number 78913). A colour plate accompanied the original description.

Some playback experiments showed that *T. euophrys atriceps* individuals respond much more strongly to songs of *T. euophrys longipes* than to songs of *T. eisenmanni*, "which supports our taxonomic decision to regard *eisenmanni* as a full species" (Parker & O'Neill 1985: 12). Ridgely (*in litt.*) suggested that *T. eisenmanni* is "close to *euophrys*". Graves (*in litt.*) and Fitzpatrick (*in litt.*) would put *T. eisenmanni* as "allospecies of *T. euophrys*". Sibley & Monroe (1990: 560) treated *euophrys* and *eisenmanni* as members of the *T. [euophrys]* superspecies. We believe, however, that *eisenmanni* is a well-marked subspecies of *euophrys*, and treat it tentatively as Bb here.

### Emberizidae (Thraupinae)

- (42) *Tangara meyerdeschauenseei* Schulenberg & Binford 1985, *Wilson Bulletin* 97(4): 413—2 km northeast of Sandia, c. 2175 m altitude, 14°17'S, 69°26'W, Department of Puno, Perú.

= *Tangara [cayana] meyerdeschauenseei* (Ac).

Based on 4 specimens in the LSUMZ (2) and the MNHN, (2), this new *Tangara* occurs in the Andes of southeastern Perú (Dept. Puno). The holotype is an adult male, number 98917 in LSUMZ. A colour plate accompanied the original description. This montane *Tangara* is clearly a member of the group of species of the "cayana group", including taxa *flava*, *cucullata* and *vitriolina*. *T. meyerdeschauenseei* differs from these other taxa in several characters, including the lack of orange or rufous-buff crown.

Sibley & Monroe (1990: 755) accepted *meyerdeschauenseei* as a valid species but did not include it in any superspecies. Other workers, however, feel that this species is closely allied to other allopatric species. Graves (*in litt.*) thought that *T. meyerdeschauenseei* was "probably an allospecies of *T. vitriolina*". Fitzpatrick (*in litt.*) thought that it belonged in the same superspecies as *cayana* and *vitriolina*. Ridgely (*in litt.*) also felt



that it belonged “clearly in the *cayana* complex”. We list it here as a member of the *T. [cayana]* superspecies (Ac).

- (43) *Tangara phillipsi* Graves & Weske 1987, *Wilson Bulletin* 99(1):1—  
Cerro del Sira, 9°26'S, 74°45'W, 1300 m altitude, Departamento de  
Huánuco, Perú.

= *Tangara heinei phillipsi* (Bb).

The holotype is deposited at the AMNH (No. 820969). One other specimen is at the AMNH, and 2 more at the Zoological Museum of the University of Hamburg, Germany. The new species is darker than, but otherwise is quite similar to, allopatric *T. heinei*. Graves & Weske (1987: 4) placed *heinei* and *phillipsi* in the same superspecies, and Sibley & Monroe (1990: 756) adopted this procedure. We feel that *phillipsi* is not very different from *heinei* and therefore might be considered a subspecies of *T. heinei*. We so consider it here (Bb).

## DISCUSSION

Of the 43 species described as new in 1981–1990, 24 (58%) can be considered good species. Of these 24 species, 13 (54%) belong to superspecies. An average of 2.4 good new species per year were thus described in 1981–1990. This rate is identical to the figure for the 5-year period 1976–1980. Earlier average figures are 3.1/year for 1966–1975, 3.5/year for 1956–1965, 2.6/year for 1941–1955, and 6.0/year for 1938–1941. 162 good new species of birds have been described in the 52 years from 1938–1990, a rate of about 3.1/year.

In 1981–1990, one new species has been reduced to the synonym of an already known species. We consider 8 of the new species as probably subspecies of already known species. Finally, 10 species are kept here tentatively as *species inquirenda* pending further research into their status.

Even though our summary above seems to indicate that the new species can easily be assigned to a given category, in practice many uncertainties still exist. In particular many new species belong to allopatric groups of taxa which on present evidence could be considered either as allospecies or subspecies. In the text we have taken some pains to point out these difficulties, thereby hoping to spur further needed new research on these forms. We would like to stress here the importance of having more specimens and more complete data in hand before descriptions are attempted. We present specific guidelines for species descriptions in a separate paper in this volume.

## SUMMARY

A total of 43 species of birds was described as new in the 10 year period from 1981–1990. Of these, 24 can be considered ‘good’ species:

**Aa** New species in new genera: None.

**Ab** New species not clearly members of a superspecies (11): 5, 7, 9, 11, 16, 18, 21, 22, 26, 33, 36.

**Ac** Allospecies (members of a superspecies) (13): 2, 10, 12, 17, 20, 23, 24, 31, 34, 35, 37, 38, 42.



An additional 19 names cannot now be assigned the status of valid full species:

- Ba** *Species inquirendae* (10) 3, 4, 6, 8, 19, 25, 29, 30, 39, 40.  
**Bb** Subspecies (8): 1, 13, 15, 27, 28, 32, 41, 43.  
**Bc** Synonyms (1): 14.  
**Bd** Invalid names: none.

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## APPENDIX I

### Alphabetical list of the 43 putative new species described from 1981 to 1990

(Numbers in parenthesis refer to the species' number in the text.)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <i>Amazona kawalli</i> (25)            | <i>Otus hoyi</i> (27)                  |
| <i>Asthenes luizae</i> (29)            | <i>Otus marshalli</i> (26)             |
| <i>Batis occultus</i> (15)             | <i>Otus petersoni</i> (28)             |
| <i>Calidris paramelanotos</i> (3)      | <i>Philydor novaesi</i> (30)           |
| <i>Caprimulgus prigoginei</i> (5)      | <i>Phyllastrephus leucolepis</i> (9)   |
| <i>Cercomacra manu</i> (34)            | <i>Phylloscartes ceciliae</i> (39)     |
| <i>Cettia carolinae</i> (11)           | <i>Phylloscartes lanyoni</i> (40)      |
| <i>Cichlornis llaneae</i> (12)         | <i>Ploceus burnieri</i> (18)           |
| <i>Clytoctantes atrogularis</i> (31)   | <i>Ploceus ruwetii</i> (20)            |
| <i>Diomedea amsterdamensis</i> (1)     | <i>Ploceus victoriae</i> (19)          |
| <i>Gerygone ruficauda</i> (14)         | <i>Pyrrhura orcesi</i> (24)            |
| <i>Glaucidium albertinum</i> (4)       | <i>Rallus okinawae</i> (2)             |
| <i>Grallaria blakei</i> (36)           | <i>Scytalopus psychopompus</i> (38)    |
| <i>Grallaria carrikeri</i> (35)        | <i>Stachyris latistriata</i> (10)      |
| <i>Grallaricula ochraceifrons</i> (37) | <i>Tachyeres leucocephalus</i> (23)    |
| <i>Herpsilochmus parkeri</i> (32)      | <i>Tangara meyerdeschauenseei</i> (42) |
| <i>Hirundo perdita</i> (8)             | <i>Tangara phillipsi</i> (43)          |
| <i>Malurus campbelli</i> (13)          | <i>Terenura sicki</i> (33)             |
| <i>Melignomon eisentrauti</i> (6)      | <i>Thryothorus eisenmanni</i> (41)     |
| <i>Meliphaga hindwoodi</i> (17)        | <i>Vidua larvaticola</i> (22)          |
| <i>Mirafra ashi</i> (7)                | <i>Vidua raricola</i> (21)             |
| <i>Nectarinia rufipennis</i> (16)      |  |



## APPENDIX II

## SPECIES OMITTED IN EARLIER ACCOUNTS

## OLD WORLD

## Phasianidae

*Lophura hatinhensis* Vo Quy 1975, *Birds of Vietnam*: 245.

=? *Lophura hatinhensis* (Ba).

The single existing specimen of this new taxon (a male, no number or place of deposition are given in the description) was compared to closely related pheasants “like *L. imperialis* Delacour and Jabouille, *L. edwardsi* Oustalet in Viet Nam, *L. inornata* Salvadori in Sumatra and *L. swinhoi* Gould in Taiwan”. The new species is “closest to *L. edwardsi* the only difference is [*L. edwardsi*] has darker color, there is no shiny green [in the upper wing coverts] and there are no middle four white tail feathers”. Measurements: “wing 245; tail 270; feet 89; beak 30 mm. Weight 1100 g.”

We overlooked this species in the account for the period 1966–1975 (Mayr & Vuilleumier 1983), as pointed out to us by King (pers. comm.). It has been extremely difficult for us to obtain copies of the original description. We are grateful to Craig Robson for sending us a copy of this description and to Toan Nguyen for translating it.

Recent accounts in the western literature include that of Collar & Andrew (1988: 38), who stated that this species is “only known from a small area south of Vinh in several adjacent valleys on the eastern slopes of the mountains, preferring lower altitudes than Edwards’ Pheasant *L. edwardsi*”. Robson *et al.* (1989: 76) stated that *Lophura hatinhensis* “is only known to occur in the vicinity of the type-locality: Song Tund, and adjacent Ky Thuong sub-district”. They added: “The original and only (existing) specimen was collected in 1964 by the late Do Ngoc Quang. A second specimen was collected from Ky Thuong sub-district in 1974 by T. V. L. [Truong Van La], but was not preserved in its entirety.” A popular account has been published in German (see Bahr & Nguyen 1992) including a photograph in colour of a living bird in the Hanoi zoo.

In the absence of further information, we feel we cannot comment on whether *Lophura hatinhensis* is a recognizable species. As an allopatric population closely related to *L. edwardsi*, *L. hatinhensis* might be considered either as a subspecies or an allospecies. Until further information is available, upon which to base a decision, we prefer to classify it as Ba.

## Caprimulgidae

*Nyctisyrigmus kwalensis*, Davis 1978, *Pan American Studies* 1(2): 47—Kwale, SE Kenya.

=? *Caprimulgus pectoralis* (Bd).

This new species and the next (*Allasma northi*) were omitted from the 1976–1980 account (Vuilleumier & Mayr 1987), and we thank Ralph Browning for bringing them to our attention.



*Nyctisyrigmus kwalensis* was described on the basis of tape recordings of songs. We quote from Davis (1978: 47): "Diagnosis: External morphological characters are the same as those of other members of the *Caprimulginae* (sic). The species specific song is a typical two figure phrase of the genus *Nyctisyrigmus* in which the terminal portion of the second figure shows frequency modulation." And further: "The type song phrase specimen is listed under 'species with whistling songs' and is number '4' of the 'Dusky or South African Nightjar—*Caprimulgus pectoralis*' group in the Myles North papers. North gave credit for the recording to Keith and said it was from Kwale, SE Kenya and made in 1961."

This name is thus based exclusively on a sonagram. It is a *nomen nudum*, a conclusion that agrees with that reached by Browning & Richard Banks (*in litt.*).

*Allasma northi*, Davis 1978, *Pan American Studies*, 1(2): 52—no type locality given.

=? *Caprimulgus clarus* (Bd).

"The type song phrase specimen is listed as number '4' in the group of recordings discussed under: 'SLENDER-TAILED NIGHTJAR'—*Caprimulgus clarus* Reichnow (sic). This heading comes on page 5 of the unpublished paper: AN INVESTIGATION OF THE SONGS OF THE NIGHTJARS OF EAST, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AFRICA, by Myles E. W. North. The paper is rather widely circulated and is found in various Museums" (Davis 1978: 52).

Described solely on the basis of sonagrams, as was the previous species, this new name is a *nomen nudum* without nomenclatural validity. We agree in this with Browning & Banks (*in litt.*).

### APPENDIX III

#### TAXA MENTIONED AS POTENTIAL NEW SPECIES IN THE PERIOD 1981–1990 BUT NOT FORMALLY DESCRIBED

We list below 2 taxa that have been mentioned in the literature as new or potentially new, but that the authors have refrained from naming as new species. Note that this listing does not pretend to be complete, as we cite only those papers that have come to our attention during our search for new species' descriptions. We include these accounts here only to warn ornithologists who might be tempted to designate such populations as new species in the future, that they must do so in professional fashion, with a precise description and designation of type specimens.

#### OLD WORLD

##### Muscicapidae (Sylviinae)

*Phylloscopus* sp.

Alström *et al.* (1990) heard and saw *Phylloscopus* warblers in Sichuan Province and Hebei Province, China, in 1986, 1988 and 1989, that were



distinct from *P. (p.) chloronotus* (for taxonomy of *P. proregulus* and *P. (p.) chloronotus* see Alström & Olsson 1990). No specimens were obtained. On the basis of visual and voice observations, the differences between “*Phylloscopus* sp.” and *P. chloronotus* were listed. Playback tests of *P. (p.) chloronotus* vocalizations showed “no response whatsoever to the *P. sp.* song and ‘calls’, but a very strong aggressive response to its own song” (Alström *et al.* 1990: 45–46).

We wish to compliment the authors for their restraint. Despite extensive field experience with the ‘new’ taxon, they declined formally to name it until specimens are collected.

## NEW WORLD

### Trochilidae

#### *Patagona* sp.

Fjeldså & Barbosa (1983) suggested that a new species of *Patagona* occurs in the Andes of NE Colombia, based on the observations of a single bird in October 1981. Such an occurrence would be of interest, since *Patagona* currently has a single species, *gigas*, and since this would represent a northward extension of 900 km as well as an ecological shift. After careful study of the Fjeldså & Barbosa (1983) paper, Robert Bleiweiss and one of us (F.V., unpub. ms.) believe that there is not enough evidence to warrant the suggestion of a new species of *Patagona*. No specimen of the purported new taxon was collected, and the informal description of the putative new form is not a diagnosis and does not even permit unquestionable generic assignment. In fact, the information provided by Fjeldså & Barbosa (1983) is equally consistent with the identification of the observed bird as a female *Pterophanes* in slightly unusual plumage. *Pterophanes* is the second largest hummingbird, close to *Patagona* in size, and is known to occur in the region where the purported *Patagona* was observed.

Only a few characters of the described bird indicate that it could be a *Patagona*. These include light undertail coverts, and a non-uniform tail colour, darkest distally. No mention is made, however, of the rump, which is uniquely white in all known *Patagona* populations and could thus serve as a diagnostic feature. Other characters are equally consistent with either *Patagona* or *Pterophanes*: long forked tail, and slow wingbeat. The majority of characters suggest *Pterophanes*. Fjeldså & Barbosa (1983) claim that female *Pterophanes* have extensive green discs on rufous underparts, but female *Pterophanes* in the collection of the AMNH have uniform rufous underparts, as in the bird they described. The dark back with a green lustre, and a straight bill, thinner than that of *Patagona*, are also both characteristic of *Pterophanes*.

Plumage variants and morphs are not uncommon in the Trochilidae. This possibility should be considered before any attempt at a formal taxonomic description of this bird is made. Until such time as specimens are collected, Bleiweiss and Vuilleumier advise that the suggestion of a new species of *Patagona* be disregarded.



## APPENDIX IV

## ADDITIONAL NOTES ON 13 SPECIES REPORTED IN PREVIOUS ACCOUNTS

We comment below on 13 species described in earlier accounts (Mayr 1971, Mayr & Vuilleumier 1983, Vuilleumier & Mayr 1987) and for which new information has appeared in the literature since our earlier reviews.

## OLD WORLD

## Turdidae

*Zoothera kibalensis* = ?*Zoothera kibalensis*

In the instalment for the years 1976–1980 Vuilleumier & Mayr (1983: 138) treated *Z. kibalensis* (Prigogine 1978) “as a *species inquirenda* pending either further specimens or life history information”. In a later paper, Prigogine (1989: 189) reported that a recent search for this bird had failed, but that “it is possible that this ground-thrush will be recorded finally when the search will be extended in a convenient biotype, at an altitude near 1,500 metres”. Prigogine stated that the 2 specimens of *kibalensis* “have nothing in common with . . . *Zoothera princei*”, that *kibalensis* is heavier than *Z. camaronensis graueri*, and that the characters of the 2 specimens of *kibalensis* are such as to rule out hybridization between *cameronensis* and *princei*. He concluded: “For these reasons *Z. kibalensis* must be retained as a good species” (Prigogine 1989).

Keith (pers. comm.), who is editing *Zoothera* for Vol. 5 of *The Birds of Africa*, does not intend to treat it as a valid species unless further evidence is forthcoming on voice and behaviour. R. J. Dowsett (pers. comm. to Keith) does not believe *Z. kibalensis* to be a good species, and it does not appear in his forthcoming *Checklist of Afrotropical Birds*. We prefer to retain it as a *species inquirenda* for the time being, as did Sibley & Monroe (1990: 511).

## Sittidae

*Sitta ledanti* = *S. [krueperi] ledanti*

Bellatreche & Chalabi (1990) and Bellatreche (1991) have reported new localities for this new nuthatch (Vielliard 1976), which is not restricted to *Abies numidica* habitats as was previously believed, but also occurs in 3 other areas between 900 and 1400 m in oak (*Quercus canariensis* and *Q. afares*) woodlands. The 4 locations are: Djebel Babor (2300 ha.), Guerrouch Forest (10,500 ha.), Tamentout Forest (9600 ha.) and Djimla Forest (1000 ha.). The population size of this nuthatch is therefore larger than once thought, and its habitat requirements more varied.

## NEW WORLD

## Cracidae

*Crax estudilloi* = ?*Crax estudilloi*

The saga of *Crax estudilloi* Allen *et al.* (1977), reported by Vuilleumier & Mayr (1987) in the 1976–1980 instalment, continues. The bird died



when still not fully adult, and much effort was expended to send the specimen frozen to Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology. Unfortunately, it arrived in a decomposed state, and it was possible to save only the skeleton and a few feathers—LSUMZ No. 140000 (V. Remsen, pers. comm.).

Remsen & Traylor (1989: 56) discussed this bird and concluded: “Although a number of cracid experts feel that this bird represents a valid species, we remain cautious until a thorough analysis of the specimen is completed; therefore, we follow Vuilleumier & Mayr (1987) in listing this as a *species inquirenda*.” Sibley & Monroe (1990: 9) regarded it “as a likely hybrid between *C. fasciolata* and some other *Crax* species”.

### Trochilidae

In the 1976–1980 instalment Vuilleumier & Mayr (1987) gave additional information on 6 putative new species of hummingbirds in the genera *Threnetes* (3 species) and *Phaethornis* (3 species) that they had reviewed previously (Mayr & Vuilleumier 1983). We provide below some additional comments resulting from useful critical studies by Hinkelman (1988a, 1988b).

*Threnetes cristinae* = *Threnetes leucurus loehkeni*.

In an earlier paper (Mayr & Vuilleumier 1983) it was suggested that *T. cristinae* Ruschi (1975) was likely to be a “synonym of *Threnetes* (?*leucurus*) *loehkeni*”. Hinkelman’s (1988b) discussion makes it clear that “there remains little doubt that ‘*T. cristinae*’ is merely a synonym of *Threnetes leucurus loehkeni*”.

*Threnetes loehkeni* = *Threnetes leucurus loehkeni*

In an earlier account (Mayr & Vuilleumier 1983) it was thought that *T. loehkeni* Grantsau (1969) was a subspecies of *leucurus*, but later Vuilleumier & Mayr (1987) concluded that *loehkeni* was a recognizable species. Grantsau (in Vuilleumier & Mayr 1987) thought that *Threnetes niger freirei* is the adult of “*T. loehkeni*”. Hinkelman (1988b) concluded that “until more recently collected *Threnetes* specimens are available from Amapá, Brazil, and from French Guiana, the taxonomic affinities between *T. niger* and *T. leucurus* remain obscure, and the best treatment of *loehkeni* for the present is as a distinctive subspecies of *T. leucurus*”. We concur.

*Threnetes grzimeki* = *Glaucis hirsuta*

That *T. grzimeki* Ruschi (1973b) is a synonym of *Glaucis hirsuta*, an opinion reached earlier by Vuilleumier & Mayr (1987), is in agreement with Hinkelman (1988b).

*Phaethornis margarettae* = *Phaethornis malaris margarettae*

*P. margarettae* Ruschi (1972), based on the 10 specimens available to Ruschi and an additional 8 specimens listed by Hinkelman (1988b), is not easy to define. Hinkelman (1988b), after a review of the evidence, concluded that he agrees (with various authors) “in considering



*margarettae* a subspecies of the *P. superciliosus/malaris* species group but prefer[s] to treat it as *P. malaris margarettae* until further information concerning its relationship to *P. malaris insignis* is available". This seems a wise suggestion to us.

*Phaethornis nigristrois* = *Phaethornis eurynome eurynome*

The question of the status of *P. nigristrois* Ruschi (1973a) seems to have been solved by Hinkelmann (1988b): "I consider '*P. nigristrois*' to represent aberrant black-billed individuals occurring within the *P. eurynome* population in the Nova Lombardia Reserve, Espirito Santo, Brazil."

*Phaethornis maranhaoensis* = *Phaethornis nattereri*

In 1983 Mayr & Vuilleumier had listed *P. maranhaoensis* Grantsau (1968) as *species inquirenda*, and in 1987 Vuilleumier & Mayr accepted Grantsau's view of specific distinctness. Hinkelmann (1988a) carried out a detailed study of *maranhaoensis* and concluded that "the description of *Phaethornis maranhaoensis* Grantsau 1968 is based on the previously undescribed male plumage of *Phaethornis nattereri* Berlepsch 1887; *P. maranhaoensis* should, therefore, be regarded as synonymous with *P. nattereri*". We agree with Hinkelmann (1988a).

## Furnariidae

*Cinclodes olrogi* = ?*Cinclodes fuscus olrogi*

Vuilleumier & Mayr (1987) discussed *Cinclodes olrogi* Nores & Yzurieta (1979) and concluded: "We tentatively list this species as an allospecies of *oustaleti*, but we are aware that a thorough comparative study of *Cinclodes* spp. carried out in the Sierra de Córdoba and in the Andes of Argentina might modify this conclusion". Nores (1986) described a new subspecies (*riojanus*) of *Cinclodes fuscus* from La Rioja, and compared this new taxon to several other subspecies of *fuscus* (*albiventris*, *tucumanus*, *rufus* and *yzurietae*) and to *olrogi*. Resemblances between *C. fuscus riojanus* and *C. olrogi* prompted Nores (1986) to conclude that "*C. olrogi* is not a species, but a subspecies of *C. fuscus*, a species which has differentiated into several subspecies in the montane zone of Argentina, especially in the Sierras Pampeanas". Unfortunately, Nores (1986) did not compare *olrogi* to *C. oustaleti*. Although it now seems more likely to us that *olrogi* belongs to *C. fuscus* than to *C. oustaleti*, as we had believed earlier, we still feel the need for more study. It is retained as an allospecies by Sibley & Monroe (1990: 395).

*Philydor hylobius* = *Automolus roraimae*

Mayr (1971), in the new species instalment for 1956–1965, considered *Philydor hylobius* Wetmore & Phelps (1956) as a valid species, "similar to and related to *P. atricapillus*", and classified it as Ad (allospecies which some authors would consider merely subspecies). Recent collections in the Cerro de la Neblina area did not include new material of this taxon. Additional material of *Automolus roraimae*, however, permitted Dickerman *et al.* (1986) to conclude that the juvenile *Philydor hylobius* in



the USNM was 'inseparable' from juvenile *Automolus roraimae*, and that the adult *Philydor hylobius* (the type) "is actually an erythristic specimen of *A. roraimae*". Thus "*Philydor hylobius* Wetmore and Phelps should be considered a junior synonym of *Automolus roraimae* Hellmayr" (Dickerman *et al.* 1986: 431).

## Tyrannidae

*Serpophaga griseiceps* = *Serpophaga subcristata munda*

*Serpophaga griseiceps* Berlioz (1959), which Mayr (1971) had considered as a new species not clearly a member of a superspecies, "very similar to *munda*", is actually a synonym of *S. subcristata munda* (Traylor 1979: 41). Sibley & Monroe (1990: 344) treat *munda* as a distinct species (*fide* J. V. Remsen) on the basis of differences in vocalizations between it and *subcristata*.

*Todirostrum albifacies* = *Poecilotriccus tricolor*

*T. albifacies* Blake (1959), reviewed by Mayr (1971) and considered as a full species in the superspecies *T. capitale*, is in fact a synonym of *Poecilotriccus tricolor* (Traylor 1979: 77).

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