



FORTY-SIXTH SUPPLEMENT TO THE
AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION CHECK-LIST OF
NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

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This is the fifth Supplement since publication of the 7th edition of the *Check-list of North American Birds* (American Ornithologists' Union [AOU] 1998). It summarizes decisions made by the AOU's Committee on Classification and Nomenclature between 1 January and 31 December 2004. The Committee has continued to operate in the manner outlined in the 42nd Supplement (AOU 2000). Changes in this Supplement fall into the following categories: (1) two species replace others presently on the list because of splitting of extralimital forms (*Leptotila plumbeiceps* replaces *L. rufaxilla* and *Hylocharis humboldtii* replaces *H. grayi*); (2) one species is removed from the Appendix and added to the main list because of new distributional information (*Circus aeruginosus*); (3) one species is removed from the list because of its merger with another species on the list (*Motacilla lugens*); (4) one species is removed from the main list and placed in the Appendix (*Acridotheres cristatellus*); (4) two species are

removed from the families in which they were previously treated and placed in *incertae sedis* categories (*Donacobius atricapilla* and *Coereba flaveola*), and one family is removed from the list (Coerebidae); (6) one genus is removed from the list (*Mimodes*) because of its merger with another on the list (*Mimus*), with the consequent change of the scientific name of one species; and (7) the distribution of one species is restricted because of the removal of an extralimital population now treated as distinct (*Melanerpes chrysauchen*). Further, one species is added to the list of birds known to occur in the United States (*Tachycineta albilinea*). A few recent references are added to statements of distribution. Minor corrections are made in several citations or notes.

There is one more deletion from the main list than additions to it, so the number of species in the main list becomes 2,037. Literature that provides the basis for the Committee's decisions is cited at the end of the Supplement, and citations not already in the Literature Cited of the 7th edition (with Supplements) become additions to it. An updated list of the bird species known from the AOU *Check-list* area may be accessed at <http://www.aou.org/checklist/index.php3>.

The following changes to the 7th edition (page

⁹Authors are members of the Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union, listed alphabetically after the Chairman.

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numbers refer thereto) and its Supplements result from the Committee's actions:

pp. xvii–liv. Insert the following names in the proper position as indicated by the text of this Supplement:

Circus aeruginosus Western Marsh Harrier
Leptotila plumbeiceps Gray-headed Dove
Hylocharis humboldtii Humboldt's Sapphire
Mimus graysoni Socorro Mockingbird

Remove the following names:

Leptotila rufaxilla Gray-fronted Dove
Hylocharis grayi Blue-headed Sapphire
Mimodes graysoni Socorro Mockingbird
Acridotheres cristatellus Crested Myna
Motacilla lugens Black-backed Wagtail
Coerebidae

Insert the term Genus *INCERTAE SEDIS* above, and place an asterisk before, the following names (moving the entry for *Donacobius* to precede the family name Troglodytidae):

**Donacobius atricapilla* Black-capped Donacobius
 **Coereba flaveola* Bananaquit

Remove the annotation (H):

Gygis alba White Tern

p. 60. In the citation of the original description of *Branta sandvicensis*, change the reference for Olson (1989) to 'Elepaio 49:49–51.

p. 93. Because of new distributional information, *Circus aeruginosus* is added to the *Check-list*. After the account for *Circus cyaneus*, insert the following new account:

Circus aeruginosus (Linnaeus). Western Marsh Harrier.

Falco aeruginosus Linnaeus, 1758, Syst. Nat. (ed. 10) 1:91. (Europa = Sweden.)

Habitat.—Marshes and open grasslands.

Distribution.—Breeds in Europe and Asia from England to western Mongolia south to the Mediterranean, Caucasus, Iran, and northern Afghanistan, and winters in Africa south to Angola and the Transvaal, and from Iran through the Indian subcontinent south to Sri

Lanka and east to Myanmar; resident in northwestern Africa.

Casual to Madeira, and the Canary, Cape Verde, and Seychelles islands.

Accidental on Guadeloupe, 28 Nov. 2002–14 Apr. 2003 (Levesque and Malglaive 2004; photographs).

Notes.—The report of this species in Virginia (Shedd et al. 1998) that led to its inclusion in the Appendix (AOU 2000) is still considered unsatisfactory. Many authorities consider *C. aeruginosus* conspecific with *C. spilonotus* Kaup, 1847 [Eastern Marsh Harrier].

p. 108. In the account for *Falco tinnunculus*, add to Distribution: See Pranty et al. (2004) for additional detailed information.

p. 123. In the account for *Numida meleagris*, in the last line of Distribution, change Trinidad to Trindade.

p. 141. In the account for *Burhinus bistriatus*, add to first paragraph of Distribution: Recently reported breeding on Great Inagua, Bahamas (North American Birds 57:418, photo p. 432, 2003).

p. 207. The individual of *Gygis alba* photographed on Bermuda was originally identified as being of the *candida* group (Wingate and Watson 1974), and it was so listed in the 6th edition (AOU 1983). There is no evidence supporting its change to the *alba* group in the 7th edition (AOU 1998). Change the paragraph beginning "Accidental" in the distribution of this species by eliminating the mention of the *alba* group, and Tobago, which is out of the *Check-list* area.

p. 228. Genetic data (Johnson 2004) lead us to treat *Leptotila plumbeiceps* as a species distinct from *L. rufaxilla*, a treatment that follows traditional classifications (e.g. Meyer de Schauensee 1970, Goodwin 1983, Sibley and Monroe 1990, Baptista et al. 1997, Gibbs et al. 2001). The AOU (1983) considered *plumbeiceps* conspecific with *L. rufaxilla*, but did not provide or cite rationale. Remove the account of *L. rufaxilla* and insert the following in its place:

Leptotila plumbeiceps Sclater and Salvin. Gray-headed Dove

Leptotila plumbeiceps Sclater and Salvin, 1868, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, p. 59 (Prov. Verae Pacis in rep. Guatemalensi, et Mexico = Choctum, Vera Paz, Guatemala.)

Habitat.—Tropical Lowland Evergreen Forest Edge, Secondary Forest (0–1,000 m; Tropical and lower Subtropical zones).

Distribution.—As for the *plumbeiceps* and *battyi* groups in the account for *L. rufaxilla*.

Notes.—Groups: *L. plumbeiceps* [Gray-headed Dove]; *L. battyi* Rothschild, 1901 [Brown-backed Dove]. Formerly (AOU 1983, 1998) included in *L. rufaxilla* (Richard and Bernard, 1792) [Gray-fronted Dove] of South America but now treated as a separate species on the basis of genetic data (Johnson 2004) that supports the traditional classification (e.g. Goodwin 1983, Gibbs et al. 2001). The *battyi* group, which Wetmore (1968) recognized as a distinct species, has generally been included with *plumbeiceps* (e.g. Goodwin 1983, Ridgely and Gwynne 1989, Gibbs et al. 2001), which we continue to do here in the absence of published analyses. Reported vocal differences between *L. plumbeiceps* and *L. battyi* suggest that, with further study, they may merit status as separate species.

p. 295. *Hylocharis humboldtii* is separated from *H. grayi*, following Stiles (2003); see also Ridgely and Greenfield (2001). The two differ in habitat, elevation, coloration (especially males), and measurements (not only size but proportions), and they were treated as species until Peters (1945) treated them as conspecific without explanation. The population in the *Check-list* area is *H. humboldtii*, so the account for *H. grayi* is replaced by the following:

Hylocharis humboldtii (Bourcier and Mulsant).
Humboldt's Sapphire

Trochilus humboldtii Bourcier and Mulsant, 1852, Ann. Sci. Phys. et Nat. Lyon (2) 4:142. (River Mira, Esmeraldas [Ecuador]; perhaps southwestern Colombia as suggested by Ridgely and Greenfield 2001:353.)

Habitat.—Mangroves and adjacent lowlands (Tropical Zone).

Distribution.—*Resident* along the Pacific coast from extreme southeastern Panama (near

Jaqué in southern Darién) to northern Ecuador (Esmeraldas).

Notes.—Formerly treated as conspecific with *H. grayi* (DeLattre and Bourcier, 1845) [Blue-headed Sapphire] of the Pacific foothills and drier valleys of the Andean Pacific slope in Colombia and northern Ecuador, but Stiles (2003) showed that differences in habitat, color of males, size, and proportions are consistent with treatment as separate species; see also Ridgely and Greenfield (2001).

p. 333–334. The South American *Melanerpes pulcher* is recognized as a species distinct from *M. chrysauchen*, following the treatment by Wetmore (1968) and Stiles and Skutch (1989), who considered the plumage differences to be comparable to species level differences in other *Melanerpes*. Authors who have treated them as conspecific (e.g. Peters 1948, Sibley and Monroe 1990, Winkler et al. 1995) have not provided a specific rationale for so doing.

Remove the phrase (*chrysauchen* group) and all mention of the *pulcher* group from the paragraph on Distribution. Replace the first sentence of the Notes with: Formerly included *M. pulcher* Sclater, 1870 [Beautiful Woodpecker] of the Magdalena Valley of Colombia, now treated as distinct following Wetmore (1968) and Stiles and Skutch (1989). Add *M. pulcher* Sclater, 1870 to the species in the presumed superspecies.

p. 457. Sykes et al. (2004) documented the first Mangrove Swallow (*Tachycineta albilinea*) in the United States. To the statement of distribution of that species, add a paragraph: Accidental in Florida (Viera Wetlands, Brevard County, 18–25 Nov. 2002; Sykes et al. 2004).

p. 469–470. In the account for *Sitta pusilla*, add to Distribution: See Renfrow (2003) for additional information.

p. 471. Genetic data (Barker 2004) show that *Donacobius* is neither a wren nor a mimid, as previously treated, but belongs in some Old World sylvioid group. Remove the account for *Donacobius atricapilla* from the family Troglodytidae and place it ahead of that family under a new centered heading Genus **INCERTAE SEDIS**.

Replace the Notes under the genus *Donacobius* with the following: This enigmatic taxon was formerly treated in the Mimidae (Davis and Miller in Mayr and Greenway 1960) and then the Troglodytidae (AOU 1983, 1998), but recent genetic analysis indicates that it is closest to members of an Old World sylvioid assemblage (Barker 2004). Its proper placement is yet to be determined by a more complete taxonomic sampling.

p. 516–518. An analysis of mtDNA sequence data (Barber et al. 2004) shows that the species known as *Mimodes graysoni* is actually embedded within the genus *Mimus* and is most closely related to *Mimus polyglottos* and *M. gilvus*. This necessitates the following changes: Remove the heading for the genus *Mimodes* from p. 518; move the citation for *Mimodes* to p. 516, under the citation for *Mimus*; move the account for the species *Mimus graysoni* to a position following that of *M. gilvus* on p. 517; add to the Notes under *M. graysoni*: Formerly treated in the monotypic genus *Mimodes*, but now shown by genetic data (Barber et al. 2004) to be embedded in *Mimus*.

p. 524. *Acridotheres cristatellus* has become extirpated in North America (Self 2003), nearly a century after its introduction. Remove the species from the main list, and add an account for it in the Appendix (see p. 697, below).

p. 526–527. Reevaluation of the evidence for considering *Motacilla lugens* a species distinct from *M. alba*, of which it had long been considered a subspecies (AOU 1982, 1983), has led to its merger back into that species, in agreement with most recent treatments (e.g. Voelker 2002, Alström and Mild 2003). Incorporate the appropriate sections of the Distribution in the present *M. lugens* account into the account of *M. alba*, as the [*lugens* group], after the *alba* group. In the Notes for *M. alba*, insert: “*M. lugens* Gloger, 1829 [Black-backed Wagtail]” after the *alba* group and change the sentence following the listing of groups to read: *Motacilla lugens* was separated as a distinct species by AOU (1982, 1983, 1998) and some Russian workers (Stepanyan 1978, Kistchinski 1980) on the basis of contact with supposedly only limited hybridization in areas of overlap in Ussuriland with *M. a. leucopsis* Nazarenko (1968) and in northern Kamchatka with *M. a. ocularis* (Kistchinski and Lobkov

1979). Most European authorities did not separate the forms as species, however. Alström and Mild (2003) suggested that the amount of hybridization had been underestimated, and they treated *lugens* as a subspecies of *alba*, a treatment also indicated by Voelker (2002) on the basis of genetic analysis.

p. 569. Two genetic data sets (Sato et al. 1999, Burns et al. 2002, 2003) have shown that the genus *Coereba* is embedded in a clade of “island” taxa, most of which were formerly classified as sparrows (Emberizidae/Emberizinae). Therefore, maintaining the family Coerebidae, as constituted solely by *Coereba*, is untenable. The familial placement of *Coereba* is yet to be determined. Remove the heading for the Family Coerebidae and replace it with the centered heading Genus **INCERTAE SEDIS**.

p. 691. In the citation for *Buteo buteo*, change the page number from 1 to 50.

p. 697. Before the account for *Acridotheres javanicus*, insert the following account for *A. cristatellus*:

Acridotheres cristatellus (Linnaeus). Crested Myna.

Gracula cristatellus Linnaeus, 1758, Syst. Nat. (ed. 10) I: 109. Based on “The Chinese Starling or Blackbird” Edwards, Nat. Hist. Birds I: 19, pl. 19. (In Chinese.)

A population of this native of China and southeastern Asia was introduced and seemingly well established in southwestern British Columbia (Vancouver region) from the late 1800s until February 2003, when it was extirpated (Self 2003). Individuals from that population ranged to Vancouver Island (nesting attempted) and northwestern Washington. A bird seen in Portland, Oregon, in 1922 may have been from that population or may have escaped locally (Gabrielson and Jewett 1940, Marshall et al. 2003). Reports from Florida (Miami-Dade and Brevard counties) are based on escaped birds. Also reported in Puerto Rico, but status uncertain.

p. 705 ff. In the list of French names of North American Birds, make the following changes:

Insert in the appropriate place in main list:

Circus aeruginosus Busard des roseaux

Leptotila plumbeiceps Colombe à calotte grise

Hylocharis humboldtii Saphir de Humboldt

Mimus graysoni Moqueur de Socorro

Delete the entries for the following:

Leptotila rufaxilla

Hylocharis grayi

Mimodes graysoni

Motacilla lugens

COEREBIDAE

Circus aeruginosus Busard des roseaux (from Appendix portion of list, where added by AOU (2000))

Insert the term *INCERTAE SEDIS* above, and place an asterisk before, each of the following names (moving the name Troglodytidae to follow *Donacobius* and changing the name of the latter):

**Donacobius atricapilla* Donacobe à miroir

**Coereba flaveola*

Move the entry for *Acridotheres cristatellus* from the main list to the Appendix.

The committee considered several other taxonomic changes, but did not make changes because of insufficient or conflicting information. Included were several proposals concerning generic and specific limits and relationships in the Parulidae. Action on these proposals awaits further genetic data from studies that include more complete coverage of the taxa involved.

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