FORTY-FOURTH SUPPLEMENT TO THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS’ UNION CHECK-LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

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This is the third 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 2002 and 31 December 2002. The Committee has continued to operate in the manner outlined in the 42nd Supplement (AOU 2000), but will now publish Supplements annually so that changes accepted by the Committee may be publicized more quickly. Changes in this Supplement fall into the following categories: (1) one species is added to the main list because of splitting of a species previously on the list (Loxia megalapla); (2) one species replaces another presently on the list because of splitting of an extralimital form (Picoides dorsalis); (3) two genera (Euphonia and Chlorornis), with their 16 species in our area, are moved from the family Thraupidae and placed in the subfamily Euphoninae in the Fringillidae; (4) three new generic names are inserted in the list because of splitting of genera previously included (Pitiguiones, Megasporus, and Gymnoglaux), with the consequent change in generic names of 21 species; (5) one genus is removed from the list (Nyctea) because of its merger with another on the list (Bubo), with the consequent change of the scientific name of one species; (6) two English names are changed without change in scientific name (Belcher’s Gull and Rock Pigeon); (7) the distribution of one species is changed because of the merger with it of an extralimital form (Butorides striatus); (8) one species is added to part 2 of the Appendix (Oenoenas chiriquensis); and (9) changes are made in the endings of 9 species names to bring them into conformity with the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (see David and Gosselin 2002). In addition, several minor changes are made to correct citations of generic names or other errors. The addition to the main list brings the number of species recognized as occurring in the Check-list area (main list) to 2,031. 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/aou/birdlist.html.

A significant decision by the Committee reflected in the list of species posted on the AOU web site but not yet in the text of the Check-list is the recognition of a major grouping of birds generally known as the Galloanseres and comprising the orders Anseriformes and Galliformes. Multiple lines of evidence show that the Galloanseres forms a sister group to the rest of the presently recognized Neognathae (p. 3); for a review see Cracraft and Clark (2001). Recognition of this group is based on immunological distances (Ho et al. 1976), amino-acid sequences from conservative alpha-crystallin genes (Caspers et al. 1997), DNA-DNA hybridization (Sibley and Ahlquist 1990), mitochondrial DNA gene sequences (Mindell et al. 1997, van Tuinen et al. 2000), nuclear gene sequences (Groth and Barrowclough 1999), and morphological characters (Dzerhinsky 1995, Livezey 1997, Cracraft 1998, van...
We do not give formal nomenclatural recognition to this group at this time because of problems caused in the overall classification and because we anticipate that ongoing work in avian molecular genetics will result in additional changes in higher level classification. These changes will be incorporated into the next edition of the Check-list but cannot readily be incorporated into Supplements. The major present effect of recognition of the group Gallioanseres is the move of the Anseriformes and Galliformes, in that sequence, from their present positions in the list of species on pp. xvii–liv to a position between the Tinamiformes and Gaviiformes. The rest of the ordinal sequence is unchanged.

A recent series of papers on genetic relationships of members of the nine-primaried oscines has shown that some species and genera long classified in established family groups actually, or probably, are more closely related to members of other family groups. It has long been recognized that the distinction between “tanagers” and “finches” is problematical; see Notes under Emberizidae in AOU 1998:591. Recent studies of mitochondrial DNA (Burns 1997, Burns et al. 2002, Klicka et al. 2000, García-Moreno et al. 2001, Lovette and Bermingham 2002, Yuri and Mindell 2002) indicate that some species normally considered to be members of the Thraupidae are actually more closely related to the Cardinalidae, Emberizidae, or Fringillidae. Other groups of species seem not to belong in the Thraupidae, but relationships with other families are not obvious. Further, some species traditionally placed in the Emberizidae or Parulidae may make these families paraphyletic or polyphyletic in respect to other families in the nine-primaried oscines. In many instances these studies complement and support earlier morphological work that questioned traditional placement but that were inconclusive. The combination of several lines of evidence often provide compelling arguments that species and genera are misplaced in the current classification, but do not provide equally compelling arguments about where they should be placed. The primary reason for this is the limited sampling of taxa either within the misplaced groups or among the potential recipient groups. Another related reason is that different studies may lead to different placement, partly because of differences in taxon sampling. These studies leave us with varying degrees of uncertainty about the relationships of groups that have been studied—not to mention those that have not yet been tested. We anticipate that additional studies, some already under way, will lead eventually to definitive answers to questions raised by past studies. Meantime, we are faced with several options. First, we can leave the present classification alone, continuing with a system we know to be flawed but that is at least familiar. Second, we can remove genera from families where genetic data show that they do not belong and place them into a large and growing group of uncertain position (incertae sedis), which admits our ignorance but results in a mere list rather than a classification. Third, we can remove genera from families where they do not belong and place them tentatively in other families on the basis of genetic evidence, which risks an unstable classification that may change when more data become available. We have chosen what we believe is a middle ground, to retain the present sequence of families and species, but to mark those species that studies have shown or suggested should be transferred to another, but still indefinite, position.

In the list of species on pp. xvii–liv of AOU (1998), and on the AOU web site, we suggest using the symbol * to mark such species. When additional studies resolve the relationship of these problematical taxa, formal changes will be proposed and acted on.

The following changes to the 7th edition (page numbers refer thereto) result from the Committee’s actions:

- pp. xvii–liv. In the list of bird species known from the Check-list area, change 2030 (from 43rd Supplement, Banks et. al. 2002) to 2031. Add to the Notes: The symbol * indicates a species that is probably misplaced in the current phylogenetic listing, but for which data indicating proper placement are not yet available.

In the list, insert the following species in the proper position as indicated by the text of this Supplement:

- Gymnoglaux laurenzii Bare-legged Owl.
- Picoides dorsalis American Three-toed Woodpecker.
- Loxia megaplaga Hispaniolan Crossbill.

Remove the following names:

- Otus laurenzii Cuban Scrreech-Owl.
- Picoides tridactylus Three-toed Woodpecker.

Change the following scientific names, with no change in English names:

- Neocrex colombianus to Neocrex colombiana
- Chlidonias hybrida to Chlidonias hybrida
- Columba cayennensis to Patagioenas cayennensis
- Columba speciosa to Patagioenas speciosa
- Columba squamosa to Patagioenas squamosa
- Columba leucocephala to Patagioenas leucocephala
- Columba flavirostris to Patagioenas flavirostris
- Columba inornata to Patagioenas inornata
- Columba fasciata to Patagioenas fasciata
- Columba caribaea to Patagioenas caribae
- Columba subvinaea to Patagioenas subvinaea
- Columba nigrostris to Patagioenas nigrostris
- Otus keniottii to Megascops keniottii
- Otus asio to Megascops asio
- Otus seductus to Megascops seductus
Otus cooperi to Megascops cooperi
Otus trichopsis to Megascops trichopsis
Otus choliba to Megascops choliba
Otus barbarus to Megascops barbarus
Otus guatemalae to Megascops guatemalae
Otus clarkii to Megascops clarkii
Otus nudipes to Megascops nudipes
Nyctea scandiaca to Bubo scandiacaus
Chaetura spinicauda to Chaetura spinicaudus
Ornithion brunneicapillus to Ornithion brunnei-capillus
Vireo atricapillus to Vireo atricapilla
Poecile atricapilla to Poecile atricapillus
Seiurus aurocapillus to Seiurus aurocapilla
Chrysothlypis chrysomelaena to Chrysothlypis chrysomelas

Change the following English names:
Larus belcheri Belcher's Gull.
Columba livia Rock Pigeon.

Move the species in Anseriformes and Galliformes to a position immediately following those in the Tinamiformes.

Move the species from Euphonia jamaica through Chlorophania callophrys to a position following Fringilla montifringilla, under the new heading Euphoniinae.

Change the following annotation:
Gracula religiosa Hill Myna. (I)

Add the symbol * before each of the following names:

Add the symbol * before each of the following names:

*Gracula religiosa* Hill Myna. (I)

*Chlorophania callophrys* to *Fringilla montifringilla*.

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*Gracula religiosa* Hill Myna. (I)

*Chlorophania callophrys* to *Fringilla montifringilla*.

Add the symbol * before each of the following names:

*Gracula religiosa* Hill Myna. (I)

*Chlorophania callophrys* to *Fringilla montifringilla*.
Saltator striatipectus  Streaked Saltator.
Saltator coerulescens  Grayish Saltator.
Saltator maximus  Buff-throated Saltator.
Saltator atriceps  Black-headed Saltator.
Saltator grossus  Slate-colored Grosbeak.

p. 16. In the account for Pterodroma longirostris, the California record should be 53 rather than 35 miles southwest of Point Reyes.

p. 45. Butorides sundevalli of the Galapagos Islands is considered to be conspecific with B. striatus, following Payne in Mayr and Cottrell (1979) and most other sources. In the Distribution section of B. striatus, insert “(striatus Group)” after the words Resident and Wanders. To the Resident paragraph, add: “and (sundevalli Group) in the Galapagos Islands.” Change the last sentence of Notes to: Groups: B. striatus [Striated Heron] and B. sundevalli (Reichenow, 1877) [Lava Heron]. The latter Group is sometimes (e.g., Sibley and Monroe 1990) considered a distinct species. The extent of global variation in B. striatus suggests that more than one species may be involved.

p. 62. Remove the Notes section from Genus olor and place it at the end of the account for Geocitta buccinator. Change “the next three” to “the next two.”


p. 135. Neocrex colombianus should be N. colombiana (fide David and Gosselin 2002).

p. 187. Change the English name of Larus belcheri from Band-tailed Gull to Belcher’s Gull, a name parallel to that of Olrog’s Gull for the sister species L. atlanticus and used for L. belcheri by Murphy (1936). Change the last sentence of the Notes to: Also known as Band-tailed Gull.

p. 205. Chlidonias hybridus should be C. hybridus (fide David and Gosselin 2002).

p. 218. In the synonymy of the genus Columba, Óenonas should be Óenonas.

p. 218. Change the English name of Columba livia to Rock Pigeon, to conform to the recent name change by the British Ornithologists’ Union (1992), and modify the Notes accordingly.

On the basis of studies by Johnson and Clayton (2000) and Johnson et al. (2001) of nuclear and mitochondrial DNA, and a review of morphological (Ridgway 1916), serological (Cumley and Irwin 1944), and behavioral (Johnston 1962) characters, we place New World pigeons formerly included in Columba in a separate genus, Patagioenas Reichenbach, 1853.

p. 218. After the account of Columba livia, insert a heading:

Genus Patagioenas Reichenbach

Follow this heading with the citations for the generic names Patagioenas, Chloeoenas, Lepidoenas, and Oenoenas presently listed as synonyms under Columba and remove these citations from the synonymy of Columba.

Delete the Notes under the generic synonymy of Columba and insert the following after the synonymy of Patagioenas:

Notes.—For the use of Oenonas as a distinct genus, see Johnston (1962); for a contrary opinion, see Corbin (1968). Reichenbach (1853) simultaneously provided three new generic names for American species of pigeon, as indicated above. The name Patagioenas was used first and has priority if Chloeoena and Lepidoenas are considered synonyms of it, as here and as implied by Johnson et al. (2001).

Change the headings for the remaining species now listed in Columba as follows, and change generic names and abbreviations in Notes accordingly:

Patagioenas cayennensis (Bonanaterre). Pale-vented Pigeon.
Patagioenas speciosa (Gmelin). Scaled Pigeon.
Patagioenas squamosa (Bonanaterre). Scaly-naped Pigeon.
Patagioenas leucocephala (Linnaeus). White-crowned Pigeon.
Patagioenas inornata (Vigors). Plain Pigeon.
Patagioenas fasciata (Say). Band-tailed Pigeon.
Patagioenas caribaea (Jacquin). Ring-tailed Pigeon.
Patagioenas subvinacea (Lawrence). Rudy Pigeon.
Patagioenas nigrirostris (Sclater). Short-billed Pigeon.

p. 254. The subgenus Megascops, recognized for New World species of Otus except O. flammeolus (Marshall and King in Amadon and Bull 1988), is elevated to full generic status on the basis of mitochondrial DNA and vocal data (König et al. 1999). Otus flammeolus is retained within Otus because of vocal similarity with some Old World species.

After Otus sunia, insert:

Genus Megascops Kaup

Megascops Kaup, 1848, Isis 14:769. Type, by subsequent designation (Gray 1855), Strix asio Linnaeus.
Move the citation for Gymnasio from the synonymy of Otus (on p. 253) to the synonymy of Megascops. Add the following under the generic heading and synonymy:

Notes.—Formerly treated as a subgenus within Otus (Marshall and King in Amadon and Bull 1988), but mitochondrial DNA and vocal differences with Old World species indicate that generic status is warranted (König et al. 1999).

Change the headings for the following species now listed in Otus as follows, and change generic names and abbreviations in Notes accordingly:

- Megascops keniocottii (Elliott), Western Screech-Owl.
- Megascops seductus (Moore). Balsas Screech-Owl.
- Megascops choliba (Vieillot). Tropical Screech-Owl.
- Megascops barbarus (Sclater and Salvin). Bearded Screech-Owl.
- Megascops guatemalae (Sharpe). Vermiculated Screech-Owl.
- Megascops clarki (Kelso and Kelso). Bare-shanked Screech-Owl.
- Megascops nudipes (Daudin). Puerto Rican Screech-Owl.

p. 256. In Notes under Megascops guatemalae, M. atricapillus should be M. atricapilla (fide David and Gosselin 2002).

p. 257. The monotypic genus Gymnoglaux is reinstated for Otus lawrencii on the basis of strong differences in morphology and vocal patterns, and because no justification was given for the merger of this species into Otus. Accordingly, the English name of this species is changed to Bare-legged Owl.

After Otus nudipes, insert the heading:

Genus Gymnoglaux Cabanis

Move the citation for the generic name from the top of p. 254, in synonymy of Otus.

Replace the species heading with:

Gymnoglaux lawrencii Sclater and Salvin. Bare-legged Owl.

Retain the species account for Otus lawrencii in 7th edition, but change Notes to: Formerly merged into Otus, following Marshall and King in Amadon and Bull (1988), as Cuban Screech-Owl, but separated on the basis of strong differences in morphology and vocal patterns. Also known as Cuban Bare-legged Owl or Cuban Screech-Owl.

p. 258. The genus Nyctea is merged into Bubo on the basis of genetic studies (Wink and Heidrich 1999). Move the heading and citation for Nyctea to the synonymy of the genus Bubo on p. 257.

Change the species heading Nyctea scandiaca (Linnaeus) to Bubo scandiacus (Linnaeus).

Add the following to the account of Bubo scandiacus: Notes.—Former treatment of this species in the monotypic genus Nyctea was based on distinct plumage and weak osteological differences (Ford 1967). Genetic studies, however, indicate that it is closely related to Bubo (Sibley and Ahlquist 1990) and in fact is nested within the genus (Wink and Heidrich 1999). The specific name is an adjective and changes to agree with the gender of the generic name.

p. 274. Following Cleere (2002), the citation for the genus Steatornis should be changed to: Humboldt, 1814, in Humboldt and Bonpland, Yov. Nouv. Cont., Pt. 1, 1:416. The type species remains unchanged.

p. 278. Chaetura spinicauda should be C. spinicaudus (fide David and Gosselin 2002).

p. 341. New World and Old World populations of Three-toed Woodpeckers are split on the basis of differences in mitochondrial DNA (Zink et al. 1995, 2002) and voice (Winkler and Short 1978, Short 1982). Ridgway (1914) considered New World and Old World populations to be separate species, and the merger of New World dorsalis into Old World tridactylus (e.g., AOU 1931, Peters 1948) was never explained. Replace the account for Picoides tridactylus with the following:


Habitat.—Coniferous forest, mixed coniferous-deciduous forest, willows in riparian areas; favors areas with trees killed by fire or beetles.

Distribution.—As that listed for P. tridactylus, ending with “Nova Scotia,” deleting the clause beginning “and in Eurasia . . . .”

Notes.—Formerly considered conspecific with the Old World P. tridactylus (Linnaeus) [Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker], but separated because of significant differences in mitochondrial DNA sequences (Zink et al. 1995, 2002) and call (Winkler and Short 1978, Short 1982).
p. 372. Add to the Notes under Scytalopus panamensis: Also known as Pale-throated Tapaculo.

p. 373. Ornithion brunneicapillum should be O. brunneicapillus (fide David and Gosselin 2002).

p. 432. Vireo atricapillus should be V. atricapilla (fide David and Gosselin 2002).

p. 463. Pocile atricapilla (as changed by AOU 2000) should be P. atricapillus (fide David and Gosselin 2002).

p. 508. In the account for Turdus iliacus, the date of the record at St. Anthony, Newfoundland, should be 1980 rather than 1950.

p. 554. Seiurus aurocapillus should be S. aurocapilla (fide David and Gosselin 2002).

p. 571. Chrysethlypis chrysolomaena should be C. chrysoloma (fide David and Gosselin 2002); remove Notes from the account.

p. 582–586, 659. Studies of mitochondrial DNA (Burns 1997, Klicka et al. 2000, Burns et al. 2002, Yuri and Mindell 2002) show some genera traditionally considered to be members of the Thraupidae are more closely related to members of other families. The genera Euphonia and Chlorophonia, always considered close to each other, are shown to fall well outside the limits of the Thraupidae and, among taxa sampled, closest to members of the Fringillidae (sensu AOU 1998). Because of incomplete sampling of species in the Fringillidae, placement of these genera within that family is uncertain. We resurrect the subfamily Euphoniinae (Cabanis 1847), previously used to separate these genera within the Thraupidae (Sclater 1886), and transfer it to the Fringillidae, where it is tentatively placed between the Fringillinae and Carduelinae.

Remove the genera Euphonia and Chlorophonia, and included species, from pages 582–586 and transfer them to a position in the Fringillidae on p. 659; see below.

p. 585. In the citation for the genus Chlorophonia, Pipra cyanus Vieillot should read Pipra cyanus Thunberg.

p. 659. After the account for Fringilla montifringilla, insert the following heading:

Subfamily EUPHONIINAE: Euphonious Finches

Insert the accounts for the genera Euphonia and Chlorophonia, and included species, from pages 582–586.

p. 663. Crossbills on the island of Hispaniola in the Greater Antilles are separated as a species on the basis of vocal and morphological differences that seem not to have been adequately considered when the species was merged with Loxia leucoptera many years ago (see Benkman 1994, Smith 1997). After the account for Loxia curvirostra, insert the following:

Loxia megaplagia Riley. Hispaniolan Crossbill.


Habitat.—Pine forests.

Distribution.—Resident on Hispaniola, in the mountains of the Dominican Republic and the Massif de La Selle of southeastern Haiti.

Notes.—Formerly considered conspecific with L. leucoptera, but separated on the basis of vocal and morphological differences (Benkman 1994, Smith 1997).

In the account for Loxia leucoptera, delete the Greater Antilles portion of the breeding distribution and the Hispaniola portion of the winter distribution. Add the following sentence to the Notes: “Formerly included populations resident on Hispaniola, now separated as L. megaplagia.”

p. 697. In the heading and account for Garrulax cæralatus, change Laughing-thrush to Laughingthrush, to agree with use elsewhere in the text.

p. 699. The following species, discussed under Columba nigrorstris in the 7th edition, is added to Part 2 of the Appendix. Insert the following after the account for Larus nelsoni:

Oenoenas chiriquensis Ridgway. Chiriqui Pigeon.


This species was based on a unique type. Conover (in Hellmayr and Conover 1942) suggested that the locality was in error and that the bird was Columba purpureotincta of the Guianas. Johnston (1962) believed it to be an aberrant individual of C. subvinacea, but Wetmore (1968) declared it to be C. nigrorstris. A hybrid origin has not been ruled out. With the generic changes accepted above, the name would be Patagioenas chiriquensis.
pp. 705–730. In the list of French Names of North American Birds, insert the following species in the proper position as indicated by the text of this Supplement:

*Picoides dorsalis* Pic à dos rayé
*Loxia megaplaga* Bec-croisé d’Hispaniola

Delete the entry for the following name:

*Picoides tridactylus*

Change the following scientific names, with no change in French names:

*Neocrex colombianus* to *Neocrex colombiana*

*Chlidonias hybrida* to *Chlidonias hybrida*

*Columba cayennensis* to *Patagioenas cayennensis*

*Columba speciosa* to *Patagioenas speciosa*

*Columba squamosa* to *Patagioenas squamosa*

*Columba leucocephala* to *Patagioenas leucocephala*

*Columba flavirostris* to *Patagioenas flavirostris*

*Columba inornata* to *Patagioenas inornata*

*Columba fasciata* to *Patagioenas fasciata*

*Columba caribaea* to *Patagioenas caribaea*

*Columba subvinacea* to *Patagioenas subvinacea*

*Columba nigroptera* to *Patagioenas nigroptera*

*Otus kennicottii* to *Megasccops kennicottii*

*Otus asio* to *Megasccops asio*

*Otus seidulcatus* to *Megasccops seidulcatus*

*Otus cooperi* to *Megasccops cooperi*

*Otus trichopsis* to *Megasccops trichopsis*

*Otus cholina* to *Megasccops cholina*

*Otus barbara* to *Megasccops barbara*

*Otus guatemalae* to *Megasccops guatemalae*

*Otus clarkii* to *Megasccops clarkii*

*Otus nudipes* to *Megasccops nudipes*

*Otus laurercii* to *Gymnoglaux laurercii*

*Nyctea scandiaca* to *Bubo scandiaca*

*Chaetura spinicauda* to *Chaetura spinicauda*

*Oreotithon brunneicapillus* to *Oreotithon brunneicapillus*

*Vireo atricapillus* to *Vireo atricapillus*

*Poecile atricapilla* to *Poecile atricapilla*

*Seiurus auricapillus* to *Seiurus auricapillus*

*Chrysothlypis chrysomelaena* to *Chrysothlypis chrysomelas*

Change the French name of one entry as follows:

*Rhytiphetna holerythra* Tyran plaintif

Move the species in the Anatidae and in the Cracidae, Phasianidae, and Odontophoridae, in that sequence, to a position between the Tinamidae and Gaviidae.

Move the species from *Euphonia jamaica* through *Chlorophonia calliphras* to a position following *Fringilla montifringilla*.

Add the following to the list in Appendix, part 2:

*Oenoenas chiriquensis* Pigeon du Chiriqui

Taxonomic proposals considered but not yet accepted by the committee include the transfer of the species *clamator* from the genus *Pseudoscops* to *Asio*, the merger of *Ciccaba* into *Strig*, and the division of *Ammodramus maritimus* into two (or more) species. We considered and rejected suggestions to change the English names of the Nazca Booby (*Sula granti*; see AOU 2000) and the prairie-chickens. Still under consideration is the proper placement of the species now considered *incertae sedis* between the Tyrannidae and Cotingidae, and the proper classification of genera and species of Tetraoninae. We are aware of reports in our area of several species not now on our list, but are awaiting consideration of these reports by our sister committee of the American Birding Association.

Acknowledgments

M. Gosselin serves as the Committee’s authority for French names, and N. David serves as authority for classical languages, especially relative to scientific names. N. Bahr, P. Davis, A. L. Edwards, D. D. Gibson, J. Heindel, S. N. G. Howell, I. Paulson, and T. S. Schuleberg either called matters to our attention or provided helpful advice, or both.

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