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Authors: Gaudin, Jimmy, Sangster, George, and Bruce, Murray D.

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# A family name for the Crested Shrikejay *Platylophus galericulatus*

by Jimmy Gaudin, George Sangster & Murray D. Bruce

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*Platylophus galericulatus* (Cuvier, 1816) is a lowland forest bird found in southern Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia, Borneo, Sumatra and Java. Its taxonomic placement has long puzzled systematists (e.g. Amadon 1944, Goodwin 1976). Comparisons of feather tracts and osteology led some to believe that it does not belong to the crows (Clench 1985, Hope 1989). Nevertheless, from the 1940s until recently *Platylophus galericulatus* was universally classified as a crow (Wolters 1977, Sibley & Monroe 1990, Clements 2007, Dickinson & Christidis 2014, Gill *et al.* 2021).

Recent molecular phylogenetic studies of Corvidae have shown that *Platylophus galericulatus* is neither a true shrike (Laniidae) nor a corvid (Corvidae), and placed the species as the sister of the true shrikes (Jønsson *et al.* 2008, Aggerbeck *et al.* 2014, Oliveros *et al.* 2019); in a polytomy with two major clades that include Corvidae, Laniidae and several other groups (Jønsson *et al.* 2011); sister to *Eurocephalus* outside Laniidae and Corvidae (Jønsson *et al.* 2016, Fuchs *et al.* 2019); or sister to the birds-of-paradise (Paradisaeidae; Stervander *et al.* 2020). In rank-based taxonomy, it seems best to place *Platylophus galericulatus* in its own family.

Winkler *et al.* (2015), Oliveros *et al.* (2019), Irham & Kurniawan (2020) and Stervander *et al.* (2020) used the name Platylophidae, but this is a *nomen nudum* because no such name has been validly introduced. The 'Platylophidae' account in Winkler *et al.* (2015) listed *P. galericulatus* as its sole species and provided a description that might be construed as a diagnosis. However, these authors did not explicitly indicate the name as intentionally new, and it does not meet ICZN (1999) Art. 16.1. Oliveros *et al.* (2019), Irham & Kurniawan (2020) and Stervander *et al.* (2020) merely used the name 'Platylophidae' and did not make the name available.

The name Lophocittidae was listed by Bock (1994) as a family-group name based on *Lophocitteae* Kaup, 1855. The latter name is derived from the genus *Lophocitta* G. R. Gray, 1841, which is a junior synonym of *Platylophus* Swainson, 1832. However, Kaup's *Lophocitteae* and four other new family-group names attributed to Kaup (1855) by Bock (1994) were proposed as 'Hauptgenera' (i.e. *Cisseae*, *Cyanocitteae*, *Cyanocoraceae*, *Keropieae*). Kaup used his 'Hauptgenera' as divisions of a subfamily<sup>1</sup>. Consequently, Lophocitteae is a genus-group name rather than a family-group name.

Because no family-group name for *P. galericulatus* is available, we propose:

## Platylophidae new family

Type genus: *Platylophus* Swainson, 1832

Diagnosis: Differs from Corvidae, Laniidae and *Eurocephalus* by a combination of (i) vestigial nasal bristles, (ii) long upstanding crest, (iii) white crescent on the sides of the neck,

<sup>1</sup> Kaup's philosophical approach to classification and the number five also supported the English Quinarian theory of classification, promoted by several ornithologists in the first half of the 19th century, but the methodology proved unpopular and Kaup was one of its last adherents (Bruce 2003: 24–25).

(iv) buff spots at the tips of the feathers of the underparts and wing-coverts in juveniles, and (v) only six feather tracts and 50 feathers on the back (vs. 8–13 feather tracts and 114–198 feathers in Corvidae, 8–10 feather tracts and 126–129 feathers in Laniidae; Clench 1985).

Remarks: *Platylophus galericulatus* has been called ‘Crested Jay’ (e.g. Sibley & Monroe 1990, Madge & Burn 1994, Clements 2007, Dickinson & Christidis 2014), ‘Crested Shrikejay’ (Winkler *et al.* 2015) and ‘Jay Shrike’ (Eaton *et al.* 2016). The evidence of its phylogenetic relationships argues against the names Crested Jay and Jay Shrike because it is neither a jay nor a shrike. We believe the English name Crested Shrikejay is appropriate because it captures both the most pronounced morphological feature of the species and the ambiguity of its phylogenetic position (compare ‘Cuckooshrike’ for some members of Campephagidae).

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*Addresses:* Jimmy Gaudin, 34, avenue Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, 17 000 La Rochelle, France, e-mail: jimmy.gdn.lr.taxo@gmail.com. George Sangster, Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Darwinweg 2, PO Box 9517, 2300 RA Leiden, the Netherlands, e-mail: g.sangster@planet.nl. Murray D. Bruce, P.O. Box 180, Turramurra, NSW 2074, Australia, e-mail: m.d.bruce@hotmail.com

