

AOU Announces Recent Actions

The American Ornithologists' Union, through the recently published biennial report of its Committee on Classification and Nomenclature, has announced some changes within the official list of North American birds. We very briefly summarize here its most significant announcements concerning bird species occurring north of Mexico. For the full report, consult the July 2002 issue (Vol. 119, No. 3) of *The Auk*.

- Black-crested titmouse *Baelophus atricristatus* is reinstated as a full species, after having been lumped into tufted titmouse *B. bicolor* since 1983. Its range extends along the Atlantic Slope of Mexico from northern Veracruz into parts of Texas and SW Oklahoma in the United States.
- Wilson's snipe *Gallinago delicata* of North America is split from common snipe *G. gallinago* of Eurasia based on differences in morphology and vocalizations. There are North American records of the latter, mostly from the Pribilofs and St. Lawrence Island in Alaska.
- Hawaiian petrel *Pterodroma sandwichensis* is split from *P. phaeopygia*, now called Galapagos petrel, based on differences in vocalizations and morphology.
- Gray-hooded gull *Larus cirrocephalus* is added to the list, based on a 1998 record in Florida. This species had been in the Appendix.
- Kelp gull *Larus dominicanus* is added to the list, based in part on a record 1998-2002 in Maryland. This species had been in the Appendix.
- Mitred parakeet *Aratinga mitrata* is added to the list, based on establishment of a population in southern California.
- Yellow-browed warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* is added to the list, based on a 1999 record from Alaska.
- The scientific name for roseate spoonbill is changed to *Platalea ajaja*.
- The scientific name for purple gallinule is changed to *Porphyrio martinica*.
- The scientific name for red phalarope is changed to *Phalaropus fulicarius*.
- The scientific name for blue grosbeak is changed to *Passerina cerulea*.
- The English name for *Euptilotis neoxenus* is changed from eared trogon to eared quetzal.
- Change the taxonomic order of the *Passerina* buntings to the following: blue grosbeak *P. caerulea*, lazuli bunting *P. amoena*, indigo bunting *P. cyanea*, varied bunting *P. versicolor*, painted bunting *P. ciris*.
- The southern California population of red-crowned parrot *Amazona viridigenalis* is regarded as established.
- The Phoenix-area (Arizona) population of peach-faced lovebird *Agapornis roseicollis* is regarded as established.

The Committee continues to consider proposals for the following splits:

- Splitting *Calonectris borealis* from *C. diomedea* (Cory's shearwater).
- Splitting *Anas carolinensis* (green-winged teal) from *A. crecca* (Eurasian or common teal).
- Splitting *Petrochelidon pallida* (cave swallow) from *P. fulva* (cinnamon-throated swallow).
- Splitting *Toxostoma palmeri* from *T. curvirostre* (curve-billed thrasher).

The Checklist Committee of the American Birding Association (ABA) follows the American Ornithologists' Union in all matters concerning taxonomy and nomenclature, but must deliberate and vote on records of new species not resulting from taxonomic changes (e.g., gray-hooded gull) in order to add them to the official ABA Checklist. In addition, the ABA Checklist Committee must make their own decision on whether a population of an introduced/escaped species (e.g., mitred parakeet, peach-faced lovebird) is actually established before adding that species to the ABA Checklist. —Ed. 🐦



The Dayton Airport in Montgomery County proved to be a fine place to look for and photograph grassland nesters this season. For example, this grasshopper sparrow was digiscoped there on 24 July 2002 by Bill Hull.

A friendly reminder...

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