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 January 1 and December 31, 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. rufa and Hylorchis 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 atricapillus 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 (Minus), 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 chrysaeus). 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...
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
*Minus 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 Trogodytidae):  
*Donacobius atricapilla* Black-capped Donacobius
*Coereba flaveola* Bananquit

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 Checklist. 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.


**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. 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 Checklist 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

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).
Humblodt’s Sapphire


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. chrysaeus, 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 (chrysaeus 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. 471. Genetic data (Barker 2004) show that Donacobius is neither a wren nor a mimid, as previously treated, but belongs in some Old World sylviid group. Remove the account for Donacobius atricapilla from the family Troglohydidae and place it ahead of that family, under a new centered heading Genus INCERTAE SEDIS.
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Insert in the appropriate place in main list:

*Circulus aeruginosus* Busard des roseaux
*Leptolilium plumbeiceps* Colombé à calotte grise
*Hylocharis humboldti* Saphir de Humboldt
*Minus graysoni* Moqueur de Socorro

Delete the entries for the following:
*Leptolilium rufaxilla*
*Hylocharis grayi*
*Mimodes graysoni*
*Motailea lugens*

**COEREEDIAE**

*Circulus 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 Troglohytiidae to follow *Donacobiini* and changing the name of the latter):

*Donacobiini atricapilla* Donacobe à miroir
*Coereba flaveola*

Move the entry for *Acrisotheres 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.

**Acknowledgments**

Normand David serves as the Committee's authority for classical languages relative to scientific names, and Michel Gosselin serves as the authority for French names. We also thank D. D. Gibson, Sir C. Lever, J. O'Donahue, A. P. Peterson, and F. G. Stiles.

**Literature Cited**


STEPANYAN, L. 1978. [Composition and Distribution of the Avifauna of the Soviet Union—Passeriformes.] Nauka, Moscow.


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