

# Taxonomic Round-up



## A new species of pygmy-owl from the Eastern Andes

A new species of pygmy-owl has recently been described from the Eastern Andes of Ecuador and Peru<sup>1</sup>. Subtropical Pygmy-owl *Glaucidium parkeri* sp. nov. is a bird of the subtropical forest subcanopy on outlying ridges from the main Andean chain. The species is found between 1,450 and 1,975 m and is considered uncommon; vocalisations and plumage indicate its' nearest relative to be the Least Pygmy-owl *G. minutissimum* complex. The ornithologists reporting the discovery, Steve Howell and Mark Robbins, also analyse the species limits within the Least Pygmy-owl complex<sup>2</sup>. They report that consistent song differences among the 10 described taxa in the species complex, along with other relevant data, support the recognition of four additional species in addition to the recently described *G. hardyi* and *G. parkeri*. The four species are: Colima Pygmy-owl *G. palmarum* of western Mexico (including the subspecies *palmarum*, *oberholseri*, and *griscomi*); Tamaulipas Pygmy-owl *G. sanchezi* of south-eastern Mexico, Central America and the Pacific coast of northern South America (including the subspecies *griseiceps*, *rarum*, and *occultum*); and Brazilian Pygmy-owl *G. minutissimum* of south-eastern Brazil and adjacent Paraguay.

### References

1. Robbins, M. B. & Howell, S. N. G. (1995) A new species of pygmy-owl (Strigidae: *Glaucidium*) from the eastern Andes. *Wilson Bull.* 107: 1-6.
2. Howell, S. N. G. & Robbins, M. B. (1995) Species limits of the Least Pygmy-owl (*Glaucidium minutissimum*) complex. *Wilson Bull.* 107: 7-25.

## A new species of nighthawk from Bahia, Brazil

*Chordeiles vieillardi* sp. nov. is a small nighthawk from the xerophytic caatinga of Bahia, Brazil<sup>1</sup>. The type-specimen was col-

lected from the Rio São Francisco area, and differs from other described nighthawks in lacking white on the wings, tail and throat. The two specimens collected were males: the female and indeed the voice of the species are as yet undescribed. The nearest relative is considered to be Least Nighthawk *Chordeiles pusillus*. No common name has yet been given to the species.

### Reference

1. Lencioni-Neto, F. (1994) Une nouvelle espece de *Chordeiles* (Aves, Caprimulgidae) de Bahia (Bresil). *Alauda* 62: 241-245.

## New subspecies described from Venezuela

The Fundación W. H. Phelps in Caracas has published a paper describing several new subspecies from Venezuela<sup>1</sup>, namely: Little Cuckoo *Piaya minuta barinensis*; Speckled Hummingbird *Adelomyia melanogenys debellardiana*; Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana bottomeana*; Long-tailed Antbird *Drymophila caudata aristeguietana*; Olivaceous Flatbill *Rhynchocyclus olivaceus jelambianus*; Coraya Wren *Thryothorus coraya barrowcloughiana*; Grey-throated Warbler *Basileuterus cinereicollis zuliensis*; Beryl-spangled Tanager *Tangara nigroviridis lozanoana* and Orange-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia xanthogaster lecrojana*. Additionally, the taxonomic status of Black-headed Parrot *Pionites melanocephala melanocephala* and two subspecies of Black-crested Antshrike *Sakesphoris canadensis* (*trinitatis* and *intermedius*) is discussed.

### Reference

1. Hostos, R. A. & Chincilla, L. A. (1994) Descripción de nueve subespecies nuevas y comentarios sobre dos especies de aves Venezuela. *Bol. Soc. Venez. Cienc. Nat.* 148: 229-257.

**The centenary volume of the British Ornithologists' Club, 1992 –****Avian systematics and taxonomy**

The above mentioned special edition of *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* (112A) has much to interest *Cotinga* readers. Of particular relevance are papers by H. Oullet on "Speciation, zoogeography and taxonomic problems in the Neotropical genus *Sporophila* (Aves: Emberizinae)", and by F. Vuilleumier, M. LeCroy and E. Mayr presenting a thorough review of new species of bird described between 1981 and 1990. This latter analysis includes over 30 Neotropical species, with the authors sometimes arriving at different conclusions as to the status of various taxa than the workers originally describing them.

**Correction**

In *Taxonomic Round-up, Cotinga 3*, the newly described Tepui Manakin *Lepidothrix suavisissima* was mentioned as possessing a small orange-yellow patch on the breast of the male, a feature described as lacking in its congener White-fronted Manakin *L. serena*. This description is erroneous, and in fact the opposite is true, with the Tepui Manakin (also called Orange-bellied Manakin: see illustration in *Birds of Venezuela*) in fact lacks the orange-yellow chest-spot completely. The editors wish to apologise for any confusion this may have caused.