

Taxonomic Round-up



A new colourful barbet from the eastern Andes of Peru

John O'Neill and others have described a striking new *Capito* barbet from the isolated cloud forest adjacent to the east bank of the río Cushabatay, near Contaman, Loreto Department, Peru. *Capito wallacei*, the Scarlet-banded Barbet was only located on a relatively flat plateau cloaked in cloud forest. The extremely humid conditions produce dense clouds, even in the dry season, and the species' microhabitat is characterised by short trees covered with epiphytes, and a spongy cover of mosses on the forest floor. The barbet has not been found in drier forest below 1,250 m. The authors speculate the presence of Gilded Barbet *Capito auratus*, in this drier forest, may restrict Scarlet-banded Barbet to cloud forest above 1,250 m. The entire speculated range for the new species experiences very little human activity and the biologically little-known headwater regions of the río Cushabatay may

present a reservoir of undiscovered taxa. The region has been proposed as a protected area; whatever develops with regard to formal nature park/reserve status, the cloud forests would receive legal protection as catchment forests.

- O'Neill, J. P., Lane, D. F., Kratter, A. W., Capparella, A. P. & Joo, C. F. (2000) A striking new species of barbet (Capitoninae: *Capito*) from the eastern Andes of Peru. *Auk* 117: 569–577.

The *Herpsilochmus pileatus* complex re-visited

Bret Whitney and colleagues have analysed taxa within this grouping and concluded that the traditional *H. pileatus* complex comprises three species-level taxa. True *H. pileatus* is confined to southern coastal Bahia, Brazil. This taxon's closest relative is *H. atricapillus*, Black-capped Antwren, a much more wide-ranging species, in much of central and eastern Brazil, east Bolivia, north-west Argentina and

east and north-west Paraguay. In addition, the authors describe *Herpsilochmus sellowi*, Caatinga Antwren, which as the vernacular name suggests, reflects the species' habitat within the well-defined caatinga biome of interior Brazil. The authors suggest that the vernacular name for *H. pileatus* be changed to Bahia Antwren, indicative of this taxon's restricted distribution in the humid Atlantic Forest of this part of north-east Brazil, from Salvador south to c.17°S.

- Whitney, B. M., Pacheco, J. F., Buzzetti, D. R. C. & Parrini, R. (2000) Systematic revision and biogeography of the *Herpsilochmus pileatus* complex, with description of a new species from northeastern Brazil. *Auk* 117: 869–891.

A new subspecies of Emerald Toucanet

Kevin Winker has described a new subspecies of the widespread Emerald Toucanet, from Sierra de Los Tuxtlas, in south Veracruz, Mexico. *Aulacorhynchus prasinus*



Scarlet-banded Barbet *Capito wallacei* by Daniel F. Lane, reproduced with kind permission from *The Auk*



Caatinga Antwren *Herpsilochmus sellowi* by Daniel F. Lane, reproduced with kind permission from *The Auk*

warneri is readily distinguished from other subspecies by its yellowish wash to the throat and moderately bright yellowish band at the white-green interface in the auricular area. .

- Winker, K. (2000) A new subspecies of toucanet (*Aulocorhynchus prasinus*) from Veracruz, Mexico. *Orn. Neotrop.* 11: 253–257.

Rufous Cacholote is two species

Kevin Zimmer and Andrew Whittaker have demonstrated that the Rufous Cacholote comprises two distinct species: *Pseudoseisura cristata* from the caatinga biome of north-east Brazil, and *P. unirufa* in the seasonally flooded savannas and deciduous woodlands of north and east Bolivia, north Paraguay and south-west Brazil. The two taxa are morphologically, vocally and ecologically distinct, and neither responds to playback of the others vocalisations.

- Zimmer, K. J. & Whittaker, A. (2000) The Rufous Cachalote (Furnariidae: *Pseudoseisura*) is two species. *Condor* 102: 409–422.

New analysis demonstrates that Pale-tipped Tyrannulet is two species

Elsewhere, Zimmer and Whittaker demonstrate that *Inezia subflava* comprises two species-level groups, based on biometric and plumage characters, as well as vocalisations and behaviour. One group, with a suggested English name of Pale-tipped Inezia *Inezia caudata* (comprising *caudata* and *intermedia*), can be considered northern/Guianan in distribution, while the primarily Amazonian distributed *subflava* and *obscura* represent the other species-level grouping, which is given the suggested English name Amazonian Inezia *Inezia subflava*. The two groupings differ

in several vocal, plumage and biometric characters, while *subflava* and *obscura* are also morphologically distinct, but their voice and behaviour are consistent with one another.

- Zimmer, K. J. & Whittaker, A. (2000) Species limits in Pale-tipped Tyrannulets (*Inezia*: Tyrannidae). *Wilson Bull.* 112: 51–66.

Conservation of *Schistochlamys* and *Neothraupis*

Steven Gregory has recently proposed that the long-standing tanager genera *Schistochlamys* Reichenbach, 1850 and *Neothraupis* Hellmayr, 1936, be preserved, even in the light of new information concerning their type species, in the interests of nomenclatural stability.

- Gregory, S. M. S. (2000) *Schistochlamys* Reichenbach, 1850 and *Neothraupis* Hellmayr, 1936 (Aves: Passeriformes): proposed conservation. *Bull. Zool. Nomenclature* 57: 162–165.