

Taxonomic Round-up



A newly described flycatcher from the cerrado of central South America

Kevin Zimmer *et al.* have described a cryptic new species of tyrannid, Chapada Flycatcher *Suiriri islerorum*, hitherto confused with *S. s. affinis*, the yellow-bellied form of the genus *Suiriri*. The new species differs from *S. s. affinis* by virtue of all vocalisations, bill size, colour pattern of the tail and shape of the central rectrices. The species' vernacular name reflects the type-locality, Chapada dos Guimarães National Park, Mato Grosso, Brazil, although it has been located in another cerrado reserve, Noel Kempff Mercado National Park, dpto. Santa Cruz, Bolivia. The authors present information on the natural history of the new species, including a unique wing-lifting display and discuss conservation issues pertaining to the cerrado region. In addition, they demonstrate that the morphologically different sister taxa *S. s. affinis* and *S. s. bahiae* are vocally and behaviourally similar.

- Zimmer, K. J., Whittaker, A. & Oren, D. C. (2001) A cryptic new species of flycatcher (Tyrannidae: *Suiriri*) from the cerrado region of central South America. *Auk* 118: 56–78.

Recent *Pyrrhura* studies

Leo Joseph has presented an analysis of taxa comprising the two Neotropical parakeets *Pyrrhura picta* and *P. leucotis*, and concluded that these refer to more than two species. The 13 taxa are usually aligned thus: *picta* group—*picta*, *amazonum*, *lucianii*, *roseifrons*, *caeruleiceps*, *subandina*, *pantchenkoi* and *eisenmanni*, and the *leucotis* group—*leucotis*, *pfimeri*,

griseipectus, *emma* and *auricularis*. The main findings are as follows. Prevalent taxonomy treating all taxa as subspecies of *picta* or *leucotis* is inappropriate because it concentrates on some morphological features at the expense of others. The taxa *subandina* and *pfimeri* are sufficiently distinct as to stand apart from each other as much as other taxa within the group. In addition, *eisenmanni* and *caeruleiceps* have *leucotis*-type underparts and cheek patterns yet have been traditionally placed within the *picta* group, which has confused understanding of variation, taxonomy and biogeography. The taxa *auricularis* and *pantchenkoi* are not diagnosable and should be considered synonyms of *emma* and *caeruleiceps*. Closer study of the western Amazonian populations referred to *lucianii* and *roseifrons* is needed to determine how many taxa are involved.

- Joseph, L. (2000) Beginning an end to uncertainty: the Neotropical parakeets known as *Pyrrhura picta* and *P. leucotis* comprise more than two species. *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia* 150: 279–292.

Advances in West Indian mimid phylogenies

Hunt *et al.* recently constructed phylogenetic hypotheses for Greater and Lesser Antillean mimidae, including five endemic species of tremblers and thrashers, Brown *Cinlocerthia ruficauda* and Grey Tremblers *C. gutturalis*, Pearly-eyed *Margarops fuscatus* and Scaly-breasted Thrashers *M. fuscus*, and Antillean and continental populations of the Tropical *Mimus gilvus* and Northern Mockingbirds *M. polyglottos*. Phylogeographic

analysis distinguished three strongly differentiated clades among tremblers, as well as distinct southern (St. Lucia and Martinique) and northern (Dominica to Montserrat) lineages within Scaly-breasted Thrasher. Minor geographic subdivision was also observed between continental and Antillean populations of Tropical Mockingbird.

Phylogenetic analyses of species-level Mimidae relationships based on DNA provide strong support for the monophyly and Antillean origin of a clade consisting of tremblers and Pearly-eyed and Scaly-breasted Thrashers, but reject monophyly in the genus *Margarops*. The analysis failed to confirm monophyly of all endemic Antillean mimids because of the apparently contemporaneous diversification of the Antillean White-breasted Thrasher *Ramphocinclus brachyurus* with the continental Grey *Dumetella carolinensis* and Black Catbirds *Melanoptila glabrirostris*. However, the endemic Lesser Antillean mimids do appear to be an indigenous radiation.

- Hunt, J. S., Bermingham, E. & Ricklefs, R. E. (2001) Molecular systematics and biogeography of Antillean thrashers, tremblers and mockingbirds (Aves: Mimidae). *Auk* 118: 35–55.

A new genus for the Andean green pihas

Rick Prum has erected a new genus for Grey-tailed *Lipaugus subalaris* and Olivaceous Pihas *L. cryptolophus*. The genus is named *Snowornis*, in honour of David Snow who first suggested the Andean green pihas were only distantly related to other *Lipaugus* species. The author outlines his reasoning behind the new genus, provides some

information on the biology of the two species, and recommends they be renamed Grey-tailed Cotinga and Olivaceous Cotinga to reflect their distant relationship to other pihas.

- Prum, R. (2001) A new genus for the Andean green pihas (Cotingidae). *Ibis* 143: 307–309.

Primolius has priority over Propyrrhura

John Penhallurick has demonstrated that the placing of Blue-winged *Ara maracana*, Blue-headed *A. couloni* and Golden-collared Macaws *A. auricollis* in the genus

Propyrrhura is erroneous, as the earlier generic name *Primolius* has priority.

- Penhallurick, J. (2001) *Primolius* Bonaparte, 1857 has priority over *Propyrrhura* Ribeiro, 1920. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 121: 38.