

Taxonomic Round-up



A new species of *Neopelma* Tyrant-manakin from south-eastern Brazil

Bret Whitney and his Brazilian colleagues are undertaking much research in Brazil at present, and a number of interesting conclusions have already been drawn from this work. Based on clear differences in external morphology, vocalisations, and habitat, the authors have split Wied's Tyrant-manakin *Neopelma aurifrons* into the lowland *N. aurifrons* (which retains the common name) in the north of the former species's range, and the montane Serra do Mar Tyrant-manakin *N. crysolophum* in the south. The paper outlines data which suggest that the two taxa may not even be their closest relatives, and also discusses diversification within the *Neopelma/Tyrannetes* complex. Using this taxonomic decision as an example, the authors also make a plea for recognising the need to conserve "representative populations of isolated forms, regardless of their level of formal classification".

- Whitney, B. M., Pacheco, J. F. & Parrini R. (1995) Two species of *Neopelma* in southeastern Brazil and diversification within the *Neopelma/Tyrannetes* complex: implications of the subspecies concept for conservation (Passeriformes: Tyrannidae). *Ararajuba* 3: 43-53.

A new species of *Synallaxis* spinetail from eastern Brazil

Fernando Pacecho and Luiz Gonzaga have described Bahia Spinetail *Synallaxis whitneyi* from the montane Atlantic Forest of the Boa Nova area in southern Bahia. The new species is closely related to Rufous-capped *S. ruficapilla* (to

the south-east) and Plain *S. infuscata* (to the north-east) Spinetails of the Atlantic Forest. Bahia Spinetail differs morphologically from Plain Spinetail by virtue of the former's obvious yellow post-ocular streak, and from Rufous-capped Spinetail (considered its sister species) by its dark grey, not whitish-brown underpart coloration. Bahia Spinetail was located between 900 and 1,000 m in the tangled undergrowth of montane forest, a habitat critically endangered in this part of Bahia.

- Pacecho, J. F. & Gonzaga, L. P. (1995) A new species of *Synallaxis* of the *ruficapilla/infuscata* complex from eastern Brazil (Passeriformes: Furnariidae). *Ararajuba* 3: 3-11.

Hylopezus nattereri reinstated as a valid species

Bret Whitney and colleagues have drawn attention to the taxonomic status of Speckle-breasted Antpitta *Hylopezus nattereri* which was described as a new species in 1937, but subsumed in White-browed Antpitta *H. ochroleucus* two years later. There are clear differences between the two taxa in voice, habitat, distribution and morphology (see Ridgely and Tudor 1994. *The birds of South America*, 2).

- Whitney, B. M., Pacecho, J. F., Isler, P. R. & Isler, M. L. (1995) *Hylopezus nattereri* is a valid species (Passeriformes: Formicariidae). *Ararajuba* 3: 37-42.

A new species of emerald hummingbird from Colombia

Gary Stiles has recently described a new species of *Chlorostilbon* hummingbird from the Sierra de Chiribiquete, south-eastern Colombia, where Chiribiquete

Emerald *Chlorostilbon olivaresi* is found in the edaphic scrub and adjacent forests of the middle and upper levels of the Sierra. The author explores the origin of the new species and also analyses the relationships within the *C. mellisugus* complex, and concludes that the various forms are best treated as comprising a single superspecies. The form *melanorhynchus* (including *pumilus*) of western Colombia and western Ecuador is sufficiently distinct to deserve (allo)species rank, and the author has proposed the English name West Andean Emerald.

- Stiles, F. G. (1996) A new species of emerald hummingbird (Trochilidae, *Chlorostilbon*) from the Sierra de Chiribiquete, southeastern Colombia, with a review of the *C. mellisugus* complex. *Wilson Bull.* 108 (1): 1-27.

A new genus of antbird (Formicariidae) from southern Brazil

M. Bornschein *et al.* have recently discovered a new genus of antbird in Paraná state, southern Brazil, in taboa *Typha domingensis* swamps adjacent to the main road connecting two of the region's busiest summer resorts. The generic name is *Stymphalornis* and the specific name is *S. acutirostris*. As yet there is no common name for the species, which is perhaps most closely related to *Formicivora* antbirds. The new genus has been differentiated from related genera using syringeal structure. Unfortunately, the new species may already be endangered due to the loss of its habitat to drainage and development.



Stymphalornis acutirostris sp. nov. female (Bianca Reinert)

- Bornschein, M. R., Reinert, B. L. & Teixeira, D. M. (1995) Um novo Formicariidae do sul do Brasil (Aves, Passeriformes). *Publicação Técnico-Científica do Instituto Iguazu de Pesquisa e Preservação Ambiental*, No. 1, Rio de Janeiro.

A reappraisal of the taxonomic status of Andean *Cinnycerthia* wrens

R.T. Brumfield and J. Van Remsen have examined geographic variation of morphometric and plumage characters of several populations previously included in Sepia-

brown Wren *C. peruana*. They have concluded that this taxon is better treated as three species based on discrete morphometric and marked plumage differences. These are: Sharpe's Wren *C. olivascens* (including *C.o. bogotensis* and *C.o. olivascens*) from Colombia south to the extreme northern part of Depto. Amazonas, Peru; Peruvian Wren *C. peruana* from Depto. Amazonas south to Depto. Ayacucho, Peru; and Superciliated Wren *C. fulva* (including the undescribed subspecies; *C.f. fulva*; and another undescribed subspecies) ranging from Cordillera Vilcabamba, Depto. Cuzco, Peru, south to Cochabamba in Bolivia.

- Brumfield, R. T. & Van Remsen, J. (1996) Geographic variation and species limits in *Cinnycerthia* wrens of the Andes. *Wilson Bull.* 108 (2): 205-227.