

# Revision of the status of various bird species occurring or reported in Colombia

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## Abstract

The following species are added to Colombia's bird checklist: Parkinson's Petrel *Procellaria parkinsoni*; Leach's Storm-Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*; Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*; Tapaculo *Scytalopus* sp. (Alto de Pisones bird); and Black-and-white Tanager *Conothraupis speculigera*. The following species are removed: Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*, Scaly-naped Pigeon *Patagioenas squamosa*; Amazonian Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium hardyi*; Long-tailed Hermit *Phaethornis superciliosus*; Spot-tailed Antwren *Herpsilochmus sticturus*; Caribbean Martin *Progne dominicensis*; Peruvian Martin *Progne murphyi*; and Pale-legged Warbler *Basileuterus signatus*. Splits of Andean Teal *Anas andium*, three Trogon species, Ecuadorian Thrush *Turdus maculirostris* and Santa Marta Foliage-gleaner *Automolus rufipectus* are recognised. Three new subspecies for science, *Grallaria milleri gilesi*, *Grallaricula nana hallsi* and *Grallaricula nana nanitaea*, are recognised. Various species change category within the list, following a review of record documentation. Following these changes, the Colombian checklist stands at 1872 species, of which 1793 have 'confirmed' records.

## Resumen

Las siguientes especies se añaden al listado de aves de Colombia: *Procellaria parkinsoni*; *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*; *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*; *Scytalopus* sp. (Alto de Pisones) y *Conothraupis speculigera*. Las siguientes especies se eliminan: *Calidris ferruginea*, *Patagioenas squamosa*; *Glaucidium hardyi*; *Phaethornis superciliosus*; *Herpsilochmus sticturus*; *Progne dominicensis*; *Progne murphyi* y *Basileuterus signatus*. Separaciones taxonómicas de *Anas andium*, tres especies del género *Trogon*, *Turdus maculirostris* y *Automolus rufipectus* fueron reconocidas. Se reconocen tres subspecies nuevas para la ciencia, *Grallaria milleri gilesi*, *Grallaricula nana hallsi* y *Grallaricula nana nanitaea*. Varias especies cambiaron de categoría dentro de la lista, tras una revisión de registros recientes y bibliográficos. A raíz de estos cambios, Colombia alberga 1.872 especies de aves, de las cuales 1.793 se encuentran "confirmadas".

## Introduction

In connection with the 2008 checklist (Salaman et al. 2008a), reports of seventeen bird species poorly documented or new to Colombia were published (Salaman et al. 2008b). In this paper, the status of various bird species occurring or reported in Colombia is re-evaluated in order to enrich the 2009 version of the checklist (Salaman et al. 2009a).

This paper is split into various sections: (i) species added; (ii) subspecies added; (iii) splits; (iv) species removed; (v) subspecies removed; (vi) changes of category; (vii) linear order,

## Species added

### **Parkinson's Petrel *Procellaria parkinsoni***

Photographic record by Estela et al. (2007).

### **Leach's Storm-Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa chapmani***

Mid-1900s specimen record 150 nautical miles west of Buenaventura (www.biomap.net; Donegan et al. in press). A further specimen at IAVH labelled as of *O. leucorhoa* is also reported (Morales Roso et al. 2007) but requires verification.

### **Grey-hooded Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus***

Photographic record by Strewe et al. (2008).

### **Tapaculo *Scytalopus* sp.**

This refers to the "Alto de Pisones" bird occurring in the Western Cordillera and discussed in Cuervo et al. (2003, 2005).

### **Antpitta *Grallaria* sp.**

Fundación ProAves staff are describing a new species of *Grallaria* for science from the Colibrí del Sol Bird Reserve, beside Páramo del Sol, Western Cordillera of Antioquia (Alonso Quevedo and Carlos Andres Paez in litt. 2009) (mentioned in Salaman et al. 2009a).

### **Black-and-white Tanager *Conothraupis speculigera***

A mid-1900s specimen record exists from Putumayo (www.biomap.net; Bates & Verhelst in prep).

## Subspecies added

We recognise the following three newly described subspecies, all in the family Grallariidae:

**Brown-banded Antpitta *Grallaria milleri gilesi*** (Salaman et al. 2009b).

**Slate-crowned Antpitta *Grallaricula nana hallsi*** (Donegan 2008)

**Slate-crowned Antpitta *Grallaricula nana nanitaea*** (Donegan 2008)

Recently discovered but undescribed subspecies of Rusty-faced Parrot *Hapalopsittaca amazonina* (Donegan et al. in prep) and White-chinned Thistletail *Schizoeaca fuliginosa* (2 subspecies) (Avenidaño et al. in prep) are also included as "subsp." but were previously not listed.

## Splits

We have included the following splits proposed by Da Costa & Kicka (2008) and Remsen et al. (2009: Proposals 378-380):

**Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus*** from Violaceous Trogon *T. violaceus*

**White-tailed Trogon *T. chionurus*** from Green-backed Trogon *T. viridis*

**Ecuadorian Trogon *T. mesurus*** from Black-tailed Trogon *T. melanurus*.

**Andean Teal *Anas andium*** from Yellow-billed Teal *Anas flavirostris* (extralimital)

We also elevate **Ecuadorian Thrush *Turdus maculirostris*** to species rank (Voelker et al. 2007, Nylander et al. 2008, Remsen et al. 2009). There is a Colombian specimen of this species (F.G. Stiles comment in Remsen et al. 2009).

Finally, we recognise the split of **Santa Marta Foliage-gleaner *Automolus rufipectus*** (Krabbe 2008). The English name provided is more informative than the other mooted English name "Rufous-chested Automolus", given that many foliage-gleaners are rufous-chested and "Automolus" is not a word in the English language.

### Species removed

#### **Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea***

Published in Altman and Swift (1993) and subsequently Salaman et al. (2001, 2007, 2008), but we are not aware of any confirmed or published records in Colombia. The species has been removed from the list pending documentation.

#### **Scaly-naped Pigeon *Patagioenas squamosa***

Not listed for Colombia by Salaman et al. (2001) or Rodner et al. (2000) but included by Salaman et al. (2007, 2008a) on the basis of a communication to P. Salaman (now not located) that this species occurred in northern Colombia. The record could be due to confusion with Scaled Dove *Columbina squammata*, a species which has recently expanded its range to the Caribbean (Estela et al. 2005). It is found in Caribbean islands off Venezuela (Restall et al. 2007) and could potentially occur in San Andrés or on the Caribbean coast (e.g. PNN Los Rosarios or La Guajirá). Documentation of records is necessary.

#### **Amazonian Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium hardyi***

The species was included for Colombia by Salaman et al. (2001, 2007, 2008a) in the first case citing Vielliard (1989) but Vielliard does not report the species in Colombia and neither do Hilty & Brown (1986), Robbins & Howell (1995) or Restall et al. (2007). The only record of "*G. hardyi*" on Biomap (Los Angeles museum no. 58183: San Alberto, Cesar) is a doubtless mislabelled Central American Pygmy-Owl *G. griseiceps*, in light of recently discovered populations of this species in the Magdalena valley (Donegan et al. 2007). Avibase lists the species as rare or accidental for Colombia but the origin of records is not known and may be Salaman et al. (2001). *G. hardyi* doubtless occurs in humid habitats in eastern Colombia. Records of *G. brasilianum* from the Amazon region require revision to see if some may refer to *G. hardyi*. However, no published records exist to our knowledge.

#### **Long-tailed Hermit *Phaethornis superciliosus***

This species was split by Hinkelmann (1996), a treatment which is widely accepted (e.g. Remsen et al. 2009). Long-tailed Hermit was included in error by Salaman et al. (2007, 2008a) due to records based on old taxonomy in Hilty & Brown (1986) of Great-billed Hermit *P. malaris*.

#### **Spot-tailed Antwren *Herpsilochmus sticturus***

This species was split by Ridgely & Tudor (1994), a treatment which is widely accepted (e.g. Remsen et al. 2009). Spot-tailed Antwren was included in error by Salaman et al. (2007, 2008a) due to records based on old taxonomy in Hilty & Brown (1986) of populations referable to Dugand's Antwren *H. dugandi*.

#### **Merida Tapaculo *Scytalopus meridanus***

Following Donegan & Avendaño-C. (2008), Merida Tapaculo *Scytalopus meridanus* is changed to "Tapaculo *Scytaopus sp.*". This refers to the undescribed species that resembles *S. griseicollis* and *S. meridanus* which is present in the Perijá mountains.

#### **Caribbean Martin *Progne dominicensis***

This species was listed by Rodner et al. (2000) and Salaman et al. (2001) as "possible" for Colombia and by Salaman et al. (2007, 2008a) based on a record at Ciénaga de Baño, Santa Cruz de Lorica, Córdoba (DATAves). Avibase also lists the species as rare or accidental for Colombia presumably on the basis of this record. Alejandro Mejía Tobón, the person to whom the record is attributed in the DATAves database, has confirmed that he has not recorded the species in Colombia. The record appears to be erroneous. This species is not reported for San Andrés by McNish (2003) either.

#### **Peruvian Martin *Progne murphyi***

Included previous based upon a flock of Southern Martin "*P. modesta*" observed at Leticia (Hilty & Brown 1986). As noted by Ridgely & Greenfield (2001), Southern Martin *P. elegans* is regularly observed in nearby Iquitos, Perú (e.g. Oren 1980) and doubtless is the species involved. *P. murphyi* is known only from the western coast of Perú, very distant from Colombia (Schulenberg et al. 2007).

#### **Pale-legged Warbler *Basileuterus signatus***

We consider the specimen record of this species in Colombia to be implausible. Doubts were recently cast over its identification (Restall et al. 2007). The taxonomy of Citrine Warbler *B. luteoviridis* in Colombia requires revision in light of the Western Andes "subspecies" *richardsoni* being distinct in both its morphology and voice (Krabbe et al. 2006) and the "*B. signatus*" specimen.

### Subspecies removed

#### **Rusty-faced Parrot *Hapalopsittaca amazonina theresae***

An inspection of specimens by TMD reveals this subspecies to be restricted to the Mérida range of the Andes in Venezuela.

Specimens from Norte de Santander are closest in plumage to the nominate subspecies, known from further South in the Cordillera Oriental.

#### **Sharpbill *Oxyruncus cristatus* subspecies.**

Salaman et al. (2002) first recorded and confirmed this species in Colombia (*contra* that implied by Cuervo et al. 2008), suggesting that the population occurring in the north of the Central Andes may be related to "*O. c. tacarcunae*" of the Tacarcuna and Darién mountains on the Colombia-Panama border. Reference to this subspecies name was followed by Salaman et al. (2001, 2007, 2008a) and Restall et al. (2006) but the name is a *nomen nudum* (G. M. Kirwan in litt. 2008). Usage of the name "*tacarcunae*" probably follows mis-labelled specimens that are of the race *O. c. brooksi*. *O. c. phelpsi* was also included in the checklist with denotation of a "?" showing that it may occur in Amazonian Colombia, but this subspecies has not been recorded in Colombia. The population in the Central Andes is not considered to refer to *O. c. brooksi* or other described subspecies (Salaman et al. 2002, Cuervo et al. 2008). As a result, the previously included subspecies names are deleted and replaced with the single notation "subsp.". An undescribed taxon appears most likely to be involved.

#### **Changes of Category**

##### **Humboldt Penguin *Spheniscus humboldti***

Formerly listed as hypothetical ("Obs"), but there is a specimen record (Morales 1988, Ruiz-Guerra et al. 2008).

##### **Magellanic Penguin *Spheniscus magellanicus***

Formerly listed as hypothetical ("Obs"), but there is a specimen record (Franke-Ante & Falk-Fernández 2001, Ruiz-Guerra et al. 2008).

##### **Pale-winged Trumpeter *Psophia leucoptera***

Included by Salaman et al. (2007, 2008a) based on a published photographic record (Van Leeuwen & Hoogeland 2004). The published photographic record is barely recognisable as of this species or even as being a bird, although the pale / dark shapes visible are broadly reminiscent of a *Psophia* species. Until another photograph is published, we consider this record acceptable only as a sight record and hence denote the species as 'Obs'. Furthermore, it may relate to an escaped individual, as the species is replaced by Grey-winged Trumpeter *P. crepitans* north of the Amazon river (Schulenberg et al. 2007) including in Colombia. In Peru, there are cases of human-assisted *Psophia* being transported across the Amazon river (S. Hilty in litt. 2009) but breeding populations are not known to be established. The category of this species has been changed to "Int?" (introduced, not known to be established) pending further information.

##### **Ruff *Philomachus pugnax***

Known only from a "Bogota" specimen (Hilty & Brown 1986). Its status has been changed to "Bog".

##### **South Polar Skua *Stercorarius maccormicki***

Not included for Colombia by Salaman et al. (2001), Rodner et al. (2000) or Restall et al. (2007) but listed as accidental by Salaman et al. (2007, 2008a) based on sight records by Estela (2004). The category is changed to "Obs".

##### **Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudatus***

There are various previous sight and specimen records (Estela et al. 2004) meaning that this species should not be categorised as "Obs", as in the previous version of the checklist.

##### **Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus***

Estela et al. (2004) discussed the status of this species in Colombia, reporting a single specimen record and various observations. It is no longer treated as "Obs".

##### **Herring Gull *Larus argentatus smithsonianus***

A specimen taken of a moribund individual in Chocó in 2004 (Ruiz-Guerra et al. 2007) means that this species is no longer known just from sight records (cf. Naranjo & Franke-Ante 1995). We follow the AOU (e.g. Remsen et al. 2009) in not splitting this taxon from *L. argentatus* of Europe (cf. BOU treatment) given that mtDNA differences are too low to be determinative and the subspecies involved are essentially indistinguishable in adult plumage.

##### **Caribbean Coot *Fulica caribaea***

Included by Salaman et al. (2001, 2007, 2008a) based on records in San Andrés (e.g. McNish 2003, DATAves), where it is considered an uncommon migrant (Raffaele 1998) but not known from other Colombian records. There are however records on coastal islands and the mainland of Venezuela (Taylor & Van Perlo 1998) and in the Guajirá peninsula on the Venezuelan side close to the Colombian border at the north of the Edo Zulia (J. G. León in litt. 2009). The species doubtless occurs in coastal lakes in Guajirá of mainland Colombia. However, there are no known published photographs or specimens, even from San Andrés. The status in the 2008 checklist has been changed to "SA (Obs)" (known only from sight records on San Andrés or Providencia).

##### **Rufous Potoo *Nyctibius bractaeus***

A Bogotá specimen exists (Hilty & Brown 1986) and the species is considered present or likely in southern Colombia by Hilty & Brown (1986), Restall et al. (2000), Erize et al. (2007) and Salaman et al. (2001, 2007, 2008a). We are unaware of any published records of known locality, so the status is changed to "Bog".

##### **Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilocus colubris***

This species is a likely overshooting migrant in the mainland of Colombia. There are records of this species in San Andrés, including a published photograph presumably taken in San Andrés (McNish 2003). Salaman et al. (2008a) further listed various specimens apparently collected in Colombia based on data collected by Project BioMap. However, verification of the specimens has revealed these data all to be in error. Museum of

Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley no. 138894 is a mislabelled specimen (Carla Cicero & Beth Wommack in litt. 2008). Darwin Museum (Moscow) no. 3.350 is of *A. colubris* but there is no locality data associated with the specimen (Sergei V. Drovetski & Igor Fadeev in litt. 2009). Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle de Luxembourg no. ac1 is of another species (not *A. colubris*) and was collected in Mexico (J. M. Guinet in litt. 2009). Searches at each of these museums found no other *A. colubris* collected in Colombia. Despite various queries, we have been unable to verify a specimen at Instituto Vallecaucano de Investigaciones (no. 03310) supposedly collected at Piendamó, Cauca by F.C. Lehmann but do not accept this record without verification. The status of *A. colubris* in Colombia is therefore changed to "SA" (meaning that there are confirmed records in San Andrés or Providencia only).

#### **White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica***

There are sight records on the Caribbean coast (Hilty & Brown 1986) with documented records only for San Andrés and Providencia, where the species is common (multiple specimens: BioMap; published photograph: McNish 2003; various DATAves records).

Records on the Colombian mainland (Hilty & Brown 1986, Restall et al. 2007) relate to reported observations by Steve Russell at various localities in Magdalena department (Merachón, Maicao, Guira, Isla Salamanca and Uribe) on 17 August 1969, 21 October 1971, 30 October 1971, 8 December 1971, 11 December 1971, 4 March 1972, 5 March 1972, 3 May 1972 and 4 May 1972. Steve Russell's field notes (in litt. 2009) described some of the birds involved as follows: "Wings distal to white band are definitely blacker than in Arizona birds; bill is much whiter". *Z. asiatica* shares its plumage pattern with Bare-eyed Pigeon *Patagoeinas corensis* which is found in the region and has more extensive black wing markings and a whiter bill than *Z. asiatica*. Given the lack of a field guide at the time the observations were made, we and Steve Russell now consider these observations to refer to *P. corensis*. The status of *Z. asiatica* has been changed to "SA" (meaning that there are confirmed records in San Andrés or Providencia only).

#### **Bar-breasted Piculet *Picumnus aurifrons***

Sight records apparently exist from Resguardo Indígena - Buenavista, Puerto Asís (DATAves, no data on the observer) and various sight records at PNN Amacayacu (Kelsey et al. unpublished, Hilty & Brown 1986). For example, Paul Salaman observed a very approachable individual at the village of Mocawa (adjacent to the PNN Amacayacu visitor centre: 03°49'17.63"S, 70°15'19.87"W) around shrubs in 2004. No other plain green backed, barred underpart piculets are present in the region. However, no published photographs or specimens exist to our knowledge. Also, the subspecies involved require verification. Until photographic records become available, the status of this species is changed to "Obs" (known only from sight records).

#### **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus***

This species was listed as Salaman et al. (2001) as "possible" for Colombia. Restall et al. (2007) report possible sight records in NW coast of Colombia (and also for Venezuela) but no details were provided, leading to its inclusion by Salaman et al. (2007, 2008a) (listing San Andrés). No records exist from San Andrés of which we are aware (McNish 2003, Raffaele et al. 1998). We understand that a specimen may have been collected recently in Colombia but details have not yet been published and are not available to us. Outside of the country, a sight record was apparently reported from Ecuador (Ridgely et al. 1998) but the species was not mentioned in the recent field guide for the country (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is a plausible overshooting vagrant. As we have been unable to verify the source of any records in Colombia, there is a case for removing this species from Colombia's list altogether. However, given that records are widely reported (even if details are unpublished), it seems more appropriate to change the status of this species in Colombia provisionally from "SA" to "Obs" rather than to remove it from the checklist altogether. The status of this species remains under review and will be revised if and when details of any records become available.

#### **Southern Martin *Progne elegans***

As noted above (Peruvian Martin discussion), this species should be regarded as known from sight records only in Colombia (Obs). Further recent observations were made by Samuel Hansson, Markus Lagerqvist, Torsten Persson, Juha Autio, Jonas Rosquist, Niklas Lindberg and Jan-Åke Engfors on a Heliangelus tour on 28 August 2007 at Leticia, Amazonas (S. Hansson in litt. 2009). Doubtless, other observations of this species in the Leticia area exist given that it is reported at times in such large numbers south of the Amazon in Peru (Oren 1980). However, we are not aware of any photographs or specimens to date.

#### **Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea***

An old sight record exists from northern Colombia (Gochfeld et al. 1980). DATAves reports this species at Coveñas, Tolú Viejo (Daniel Piedrahita Thiriez) but we have not been able to verify this record. Rodner et al. (2000), Restall et al. (2007) and Salaman et al. (2001, 2007, 2008a) mention this species as occurring in Colombia. The status noted in the 2008 checklist was incorrect and has been changed to "Obs" (known only from sight records). The status of this species in northern South America requires revision in light of possible confusion with Chilean Swallow *Tachycineta meyeni*.

#### **Yellow-throated Warbler *Dendroica dominica***

Yellow-throated Warbler is added to the main list following a recent photographic record published together with this paper (Ellery et al. 2009).

#### **Tricolored Munia *Lonchura malacca***

Status has been changed from "Int?" to "Int" following the long overdue publication of a photographic record of this species in Colombia (Carantón et al. 2008) and reports of specimens from

Cauca (Ayerbe-Quiñones et al. 2008). It is now relatively widespread in the Cauca and Magdalena valleys.

### Linear Order, Distributions and English names

We also made the following minor changes, which are either under consideration or have been accepted by Remsen et al. (2009) (Proposal numbers below):

Recognition of Tricolored Munia as the English common name for *Lonchura malacca* (368).

Change linear sequence of species in *Pteroglossus* (381)

Change linear sequence of genera in the Cotingidae (382)

Change linear sequence of “kite” genera in Accipitridae (384)

Change linear sequence of genera in Psittacidae (386).

Change English name of *Pittasoma* to "Gnatpitta" (395).

*Chlorospingus* species are moved to the Emberizidae following Kicka et al. (2007). *Mitrospingus* is provisionally moved to the Thraupidae, where traditionally placed, despite a recent molecular study which found the genus to be sister, among sampled taxa, to a group including the Parulidae, Icteridae and Emberizidae (Klicka et al. 2007). It appears likely that a new family may need erecting for this genus in due course but no available family-level name exists to our knowledge. We recognise that the treatment of this genus will require to be changed. Linear re-arrangements of Cardinalidae, *Saltator* and *Parkerthraustes* have been made to follow more closely the linear order of Remsen et al. (2009).

Range extensions reported by Cuervo et al. (2008) are included in the distributional data. Various changes to ProAves reserve lists have also been made to reflect the latest available data.

The following species are now newly classified as endemics: Gorgeted Puffleg *Eriocnemis isabellae*; Black-backed Thornbill *Ramphomicron dorsale*; Indigo-capped Hummingbird *Amazilia cyanifrons*; *Grallaria sp.*; *Scytalopus sp.* (Alto de Pisones); Santa Marta Foliage-gleaner *Automolus rufipectus*; and Antioquia Brush-Finch *Atlapetes blancae*.

### Threat Categories

Updates to the threat status of the following a review process by BirdLife International that concluded in May 2009. The authors and ProAves provided considerable input into this process for Colombian birds. The changes are:

Great Curassow *Crax rubra* (NT to VU)

Reddish Egret *Egretta rufescens* (LC to NT)

Banded Ground-cuckoo *Neomorphus radiolosus* (VU to EN)

Gorgeted Puffleg *Eriocnemis isabellae* (newly described and CR)

Chestnut-bellied Hummingbird *Amazilia castaneiventris* (CR to EN)

Five-colored Barbet *Capito quinticolor* (NT to VU)

Bahama Swallow *Tachycineta cyaneoviridis* (VU to EN)

Antioquia Brush-Finch *Atlapetes blancae* (newly described and CR).

### Total Number of Species

The checklist now includes the following total numbers of bird species shown in the table below:

	Status	2008	Change	2009
	Species confirmed by photo, specimen or sound recording on mainland	1794	-1	1793
<b>Bog</b>	Species known from 'Bogotá' specimens	3	+2	5
<b>Obs</b>	Species known only from observations	43	-	43
<b>Obs*</b>	Species observed in Colombia but with confirmed records only in San Andrés or Providencia	6	-1	5
<b>SA</b>	Species known only from San Andrés and Providencia (including species known from observations only)	17	-	17
<b>Int</b>	Introduced species	3	+1	4
<b>int?</b>	Introduced species possibly not established	4	-	4
	<b>TOTAL Bird Species in Colombia</b>	<b>-1870-</b>	<b>+1</b>	<b>1871</b>

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specimens. Samuel Hansson gave details of records of *Progne elegans*.

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