

# Revision of the status of bird species occurring or reported in Colombia 2014

*Revisión del estatus de las especies de aves que han sido reportadas en Colombia 2014*

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## Abstract

The following species are added to Colombia's bird checklist: Pacific Parrotlet *Forpus coelestis* (sight record, Nariño), Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*) (lost specimen, Providencia), Foothill Elaenia (*Myiopagis olallai*) (recently described subspecies, Antioquia) and Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) (photograph, San Andrés). Proposed splits are accepted of *Sclerurus* Leaf-tossers (with three species in Colombia: *andina*, *obscurior* and *peruviana*), Bicolored Antbirds *Gymnopithys leucaspis* / *bicolor* and Three-striped Warblers *Basileuterus tristriatus* / *tacarcunae*. Photographs and sonograms are presented of some of these split taxa. Colombian subspecies *occidentalis* of Great-billed Seed-Finch *Oryzoborus maximiliani* is lumped into Large-billed Seed-Finch *O. crassirostris*. Several amendments to genus and species names, English names and linear order are made, following recent publications. As a result of these changes, the Colombian checklist again increases again, to 1,911 species (excluding escapes), of which 1,835 are documented by 'confirmed' records on the mainland.

**Keywords:** Colombia, birds, checklist, taxonomy, species.

## Resumen

Las siguientes especies se agregan al listado de aves de Colombia: *Forpus coelestis* (registro visual, Nariño), *Tyrannus couchii* (especimen perdido, Providencia), *Myiopagis olallai* (subespecie recientemente descrita, Antioquia) y *Passerina ciris* (foto, San Andrés). Se reconocen las separaciones propuestas de *Sclerurus* en tres especies presentes en Colombia (*andina*, *obscurior* y *peruviana*) y además *Gymnopithys leucaspis* / *bicolor* y *Basileuterus tristriatus* / *tacarcunae*. Se presentan fotografías y sonogramas de algunas de dichas especies separadas. La subespecie colombiana *occidentalis* de *Oryzoborus maximiliani* se fusiona con *O. crassirostris*. Se realizaron varias modificaciones a los nombres de géneros y especies, nombres en inglés y el orden del listado. A raíz de estos cambios, el listado Colombiano aumentó nuevamente a 1,911 especies (excluyendo especies exóticas), de las cuales 1,835 han sido confirmadas con registros en el continente.

**Palabras clave:** Colombia, aves, listado, taxonomía, especies

## Introduction

This is the 14<sup>th</sup> year of the National checklist to the Birds of Colombia, a list which has grown steadily with research linked to the publication of four editions of the checklist (Salaman *et al.* 2001, 2008b, 2009, 2010), three field guide editions (McMullan *et al.* 2010, 2011, McMullan & Donegan 2014) and annual updates (Salaman *et al.* 2008a, Donegan *et al.* 2009a, 2010a, 2011, 2012, 2013a). The checklist will be available online in the near future. This paper sets out details of further changes to the Colombian list since our last update was published in November 2013. Many (but not all) of these changes are reflected in McMullan & Donegan (2014).

## Species added

### **Pacific Parrotlet *Forpus coelestis***

Added as known in Colombia only from observations (Obs) on account of Brinkhuizen & Seimola (2014)'s records in this edition.

### **Foothill Elaenia *Myiopagis olallai***

New subspecies *coopmansii* is confirmed in Colombia by sound recordings and specimens (Cuervo *et al.* 2014). This relatively recently described flycatcher is a long overdue addition to the Colombian list. However, few would have expected a new taxon or the first confirmed localities to come from Antioquia (although see Cuervo *et al.* 2008a,b) and San Lucas. It seems plausible that various different species are involved, but we understand the authors' caution in ranking *coopmansii* and other taxa as subspecies due to the lack of sound recordings from the Perijá range. The vocal affinities between the San Lucas and Antioquia populations also require further investigation.

### **Couch's Kingbird *Tyrannus couchii***

Yojanan Lobo–y–HenriquesJC (2014)'s reports a lost specimen from isla Providencia in this edition. Because there is no photograph or other corroborating data relating to the specimen, which has been lost, museum

data relating to it are best treated as equivalent to a sight record. Couch's Kingbird is therefore treated as a new species on Colombia's list in the category "SA(Obs)".

**Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris***

Reported by McNish (2003) and three mist-net captures noted by Pacheco Garzón (2012), in each case on San Andrés island. The bird illustrated in McNish (2003) is from the VIREO image collection and was taken by B. Shorre in Texas, USA so cannot be considered a confirmed record for Colombia. Pacheco Garzón (2012)'s records relate to three individuals, captured on 10 November 2008, 10 January 2009 and 23 January 2009 at a ringing station "aquí es más allá" (12°29'27"N, 81°43'40"W). One of these individuals is illustrated in Figure 1. As a result, this species can be treated as confirmed but for San Andrés only. It was previously overlooked for the Colombian checklist.



**Figure 1.** Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris*, 10 November 2008, A. Pacheco, San Andrés.

**Splits**

**Andean Leaf-tosser *Sclerurus andinus***

**Dusky Leaf-tosser *S. obscurior***

**Amazonian Leaf-tosser *S. peruvianus***

We adopt some but not all of the splits proposed in d'Horta *et al.* (2013), equivalent to Cooper & Cuervo in Remsen *et al.* (2014)'s option "B". This results in recognition of three species in Colombia (two of which are shown in Figs. 2-3). All species are known from specimens from the Colombian mainland and some of them from sound recordings, so they are all treated as confirmed species. Specimens of these three putative species are very similar indeed to one another (Fig. 4), and field identification is likely to be difficult. However, based on molecular data, the *S. obscurior* and *S. andinus* appear to replace one another by elevation on the Pacific slope of the Colombian Andes. *S. peruvianus* then seems to replace *S. andinus* at lower elevations on the eastern slope of the Andes.



**Figure 2.** Andean Leaf-tosser *S. andinus* Honduras Alto, El Carmen de Chucurí, Santander, Colombia, July 2006. B. Huertas / Proyecto EBA Colombia.



**Figure 3.** A juvenile Dusky Leaf-tosser *S. obscurior*. RNA Pagan, Nariño, Colombia, 700-800m. Juan Carlos Luna/Fundación ProAves.



**Figure 4.** (i) USNM 179461, *Sclerurus mexicanus*, Rio Suno, East Ecuador; (ii) USNM 402068, *S. andinus*, El Pescado, Antioquia, Colombia; (iii) USNM 486341 *S. obscurior*, Darién, Panamá.

We reviewed the specimens of this species at USNM. Plumage differentiation is quite slight and individual variation within populations is notable, with Figure 4 showing examples of some of the more extremes of variation within each group. On average, *S. peruvianus* has a paler shade of orange in the throat, whilst *S.*

*obscurior* is darker-mantled and shorter-billed on average.

In the West Andes, we have records only of apparent *S. obscurior* at RNA Pangan (dpto. Nariño, up to 700-800 m: Fig. 3) but in Tambito Nature Reserve and RNA Swarowski – Eriocnemis (both, dpto. Cauca), we have multiple photographs all apparently of *S. andina* from 1,550-2,000 m elevation, consistent with D'Horta *et al.* (2013)'s proposal that the two taxa are elevational replacements of one another in the West Andes.

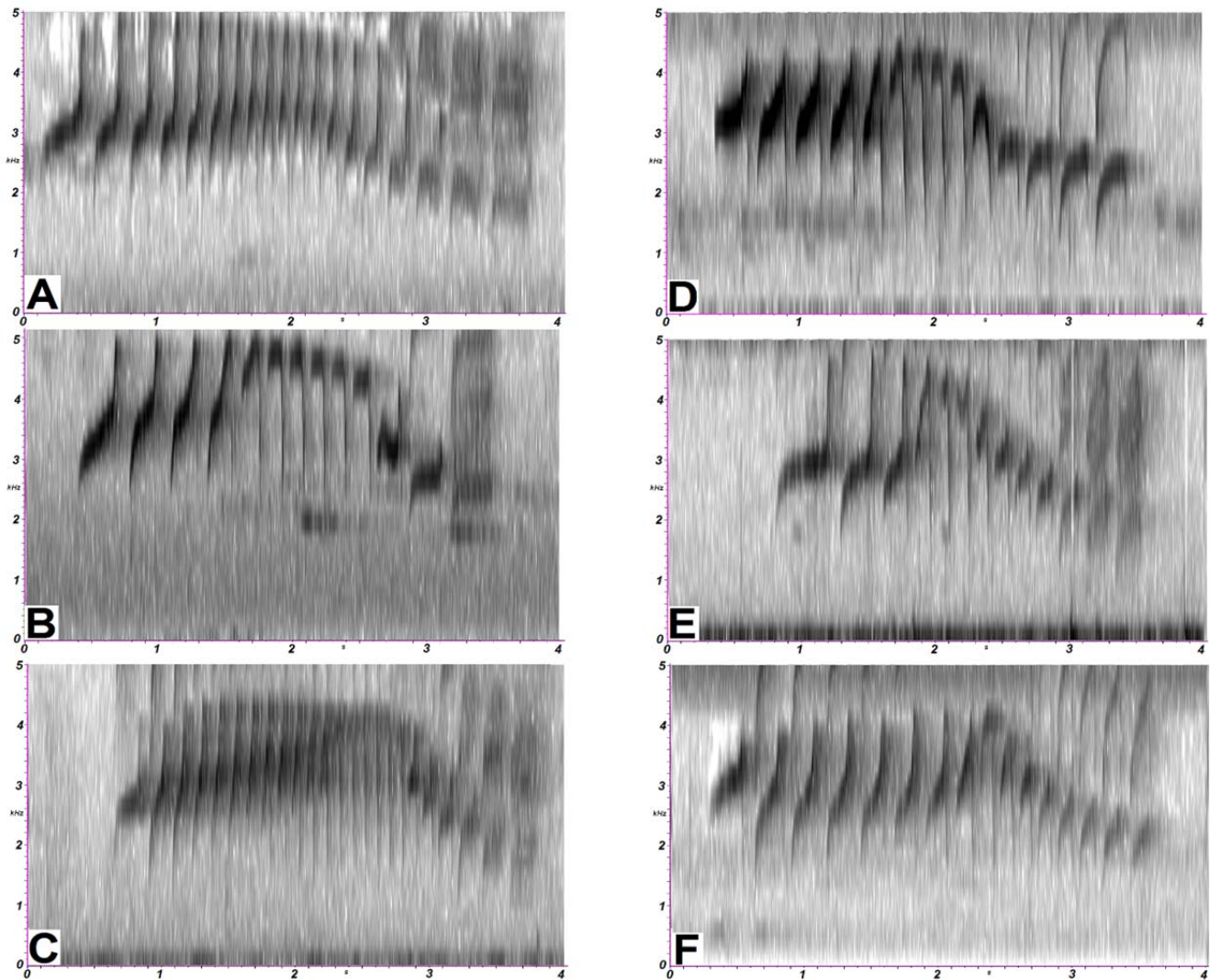
These taxa appear to be differentiated from one another in their songs, but we understand that a separate study into vocal differentiation is in preparation (J. Cooper in prep. *per* Remsen *et al.* 2014) so do not present data on voice here.

**Bicolored Antbird *Gymnopithys bicolor***

**White-cheeked Antbird *G. leucaspis***

We follow Freeman in Remsen *et al.* (2014) in splitting these taxa, based on the molecular data in Brumfield *et al.* (2007). *G. bicolor* occurs west of the Andes in Colombia and *G. leucaspis* occurs east of the Andes. This reverts to the long-standing treatment for these birds in Colombia (Hilty & Brown 1986, Salaman *et al.* 2001), reversing one of the lumps we adopted in Salaman *et al.* (2008) when we moving to the taxonomy of Remsen *et al.* (2014). Following this split, *leucaspis* occurs in Colombia's Amazonian region and *bicolor* in the Chocó and across the north of the Andes to the Magdalena valley.

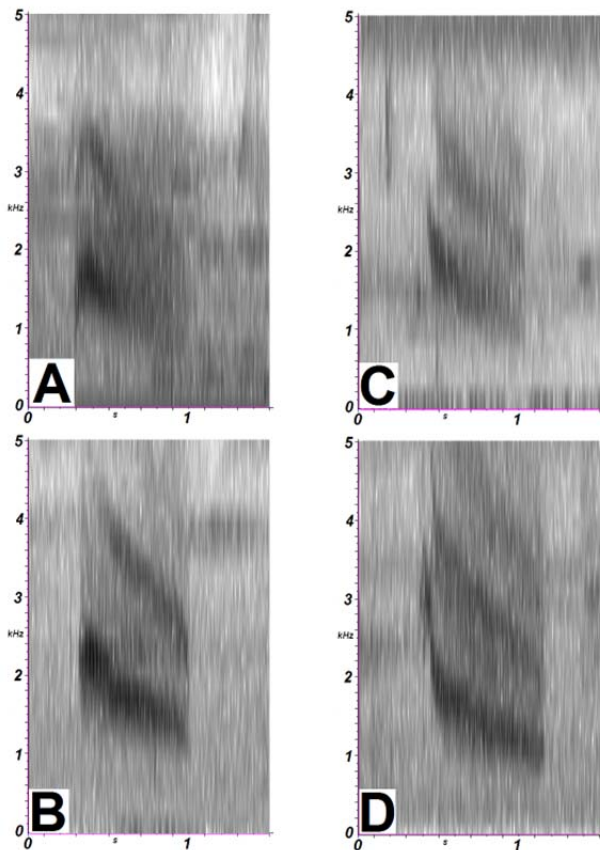
Although songs have been claimed likely to be diagnostic for multiple variables (M. Isler in Remsen *et al.* 2014), our study of songs reveals remarkable similarities.



**Figure 5:** Sonogram of songs of *Gymnopithys* species. A-C: *G. bicolor*; D-E: *G. leucaspis*. A. El Valle-Utría National Park, Colombia (XC167079: O. Janni). B. Corcovado National Park, Puntarenas, Costa Rica (XC138698: O. Herrera Mena). C. Bilsa Research Station, Ecuador (XC63474: J. Tobias & N. Seddon). D. Mitú, Vaupés, Colombia (XC81809: A. Spencer). E. Shiripuno Amazon Lodge, Huaorani reserve, Orellana / Pastaza, Ecuador (XC4173: W. Halfwerk). F. Yarina Lodge, Rio Napo, Orellana, Ecuador (XC8071: Nick Athanas).

A sample of sonograms suggests that songs overlap marginally in song speed (see Fig. 5B versus Figs. 5E/F) whilst note shapes exhibit considerable individual variation in both proposed species. However, most examples of *G. bicolor* are faster and marginally higher-pitched than those of *G. leucaspis*. Significant vocal differentiation is at least evident (Fig. 5).

One of the calls of these two proposed species (Fig. 6) differs substantially in structure based on available recordings in our sample. In *G. leucaspis*, call notes decrease more intensely in acoustic frequency at the start of the call note. In *G. bicolor*, the call decreases more uniformly in frequency over time and often includes a small increase in frequency at the start (Fig. 6). In addition, the peak of the strongest visible tone on sonograms (the lowest tone) is of lower acoustic frequency in *G. bicolor*.



**Figure 6.** Sonogram of calls of *Gymnopithys* species. A-B: *G. bicolor*; C-D: *G. leucaspis*. A. Pipeline Road, Colon, Panama (XC133165: Jerome Fischer). B. La Union Road, 6.5 km NW of Alto Tambo, Esmeraldas, Ecuador (XC112224: T. Brooks). C. Mitu, Vaupes, Colombia (XC81809: A. Spencer). D. São Gabriel da Cachoeira, Amazonas, Brazil (XC90226: J. Minns).

Plumage differences between the two species in Colombia are substantial in the context of *Thamnophilidae* (Figs. 7-8), with White-cheeked being

more extensively white below the eye and having a black (not brown) border around the upper flanks / underwing (see also Hilty & Brown 1986, McMullan *et al.* 2010, 2011, McMullan & Donegan 2014).

Taking into account plumage variation, at least near-diagnosability of songs and apparent diagnosable differences in calls, as well as the molecular data, we support ranking these antbirds as separate species.



**Figure 7.** Bicolored Antbird *G. bicolor ruficeps* Cerro de la Paz, mun. Zapatoca, Santander, T. Donegan/ Proyecto EBA Colombia, 2003.



**Figure 8.** White-cheeked Antbird *G. leucaspis*, El Dorado lodge, Vaupés, Colombia. ©John S. Dunning / VIREO.

**Three-striped Warbler *Basileuterus tristriatus*  
Tacarcuna Warbler *B. tacarcunae***

We follow Gutiérrez-Pinto *et al.* (2012) and Donegan (2014) in splitting Central American populations of *B. tristriatus*, resulting in Tacarcuna Warbler constituting an

additional species for the Colombian list. Tacarcuna Warbler is known from both specimens and photographs in Colombia, so can be added as a confirmed species. The two species occurring in Colombia and their vocalizations are illustrated in Donegan (2014).

#### **Other species**

Del Hoyo *et al.* (2014) have recently split a number of species occurring in Colombia, including Golden-bellied Starfrontlet *Coeligena bonapartei*, Crimon-bellied Woodpecker *Campephlius haematogaster* and Painted Parakeet *Pyrhura picta*. These authors also lumped Carribean Coot *Fulica caribaea* with American Coot *F. americana*. We pend a decision on these and other treatments until a future update.

We recognise the new taxon Yariguies Tapaculo *Scytalopus (rodriguezii) yariguiorum*, described from the east slope of the East Andes (Donegan *et al.* 2013b). This paper is a borderline species/subspecies. We considered the discussion in the paper concerning rank and are pending a decision on its treatment until a future edition of this series of papers.

#### **Lump**

##### **Great-billed Seed-Finch *Oryzoborus maximiliani***

Ridgely & Greenfield (2001) considered that the taxon *occidentalis* of the southern Chocó, previously assigned to this species, is better considered part of Large-billed Seed-Finch *O. crassirostris*. This was followed by Rising *et al.* (2011). We adopt this same approach, resulting in loss of a dubious species from the Colombian checklist. However, a detailed taxonomic review is called for.

#### **Changes of status**

##### **Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris***

We previously reviewed the status of various supposed records of this species in mainland Colombia, concluding that only San Andrés records are genuine (Donegan *et al.* 2009). However, in light of assessment of *P. ciris* (above) we reviewed McNish *et al.* (2003)'s other records illustrated with VIREO database photography. The photograph of *A. colubris* is of professional quality, taken by D. True, whose photographs of this species are from Texas, USA. McNish (2003)'s records are not supported by a published photograph taken on San Andrés island in this case, so the species is treated as unconfirmed on the island.

#### **Notes on other species**

##### **Petrel sp.**

Layne Olson (*in litt.* January 2014) reports a storm petrel off the Caribbean coast, 30-60km north of the Guajira Peninsula. It was a small white-rumped petrel, so either a

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* or a Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*. However, it was not possible to tell which due to low light and there is no photograph available. Either Wilson's Petrel or one of the white-rumped Atlantic subspecies of Leach's Petrel would be a new taxon for Colombia. Dark-rumped Pacific subspecies *chapmani* of Leach's Petrel is previously confirmed in Colombia (Donegan *et al.* 2009b).

##### **Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemasticta***

Kirwan *et al.* (2014) recently reported the "first confirmed record" of this species for Colombia by Bryan Watts, Jennie Rausch and Francisco Sornosa, who monitored a satellite-tagged bird which spent c.24 days at Los Flamencos, Guajirá during September to October 2013. Whilst this is a very interesting and important record for Colombia, Donegan *et al.* (2010) discussed a previous specimen record.

##### **Cave Swallow *Petrochelidon fulva***

The supposed Colombian specimen discussed by Yojanan Lobo-y-HenriquesJC (2014) is not treated as an acceptable record for the reasons discussed therein.

#### **Changes to and moratorium on subspecies**

A major revision of the occurrence, spelling and distribution of bird subspecies in Colombia took place in conjunction with the publication of Donegan & McMullan (2014), to reflect treatments in the *Handbook of the Birds of the World* series and Dickinson & Remsen (2013). The Colombian checklist is being updated accordingly. Although we have discussed subspecies changes, particularly for new taxa or detailed revisions, in previous checklist update papers, we do not propose to detail the many hundreds of changes here; such changes can be seen by comparing Salaman *et al.* (2010)'s subspecies and range statements with the names and maps in Donegan & McMullan (2014).

#### **Genus names, linear order, spellings, English names and pended proposals**

The following additional changes to names and orders, which are either under consideration or have been accepted by Remsen *et al.* (2014), are relevant to Colombia and adopted here. Proposal numbers and, where appropriate, key references supporting these changes are cited below:

584. Recognize Cracidae subfamilies (II) (Donegan 2012).
- 600C. Treat *Xiphorhynchus pardalotus* as basal to *X. ocellatus* complex (S. Dantas & A. Aleixo) (Sousa-Neves *et al.* 2013).
601. Revise classification of *Automolus* and relatives (J.V. Remsen) (Claramunt *et al.* 2013).

602. Revise linear sequence of species in *Thripadectes* (J.V. Remsen) (Claramunt *et al.* 2013).
604. Merge *Oryzoborus* and *Dolospingus* into *Sporophila* (N. A. Mason) (Mason & Burns 2013).
605. Change linear sequence of species in *Sporophila* (N. A. Mason & J.V. Remsen) (Mason & Burns 2013).
608. Modify linear sequence of species in *Knipolegus* (J.V. Remsen) (Hosner & Moyle 2012).
611. Merge *Ocyalus* and *Clypicerus* with *Cacicus* (J. Penhallurick).
612. Change the sequence of species in *Sturnella* (J. Penhallurick) (Alexis *et al.* 2014).
614. Change English name of *Scytalopus rodriguezii* (T. Donegan & J. Avendaño) (Donegan *et al.* 2013).
622. Recognize newly described *Hylopezus whittakeri* and split *Hylopezus macularius* into two species (results in no change to names or splits of Colombian populations) (L. Carneiro & A. Aleixo) (Carneiro *et al.* 2012).
625. Modify English name of *Pheucticus chrysogaster* (D. Lane).
628. Reassign species currently placed in *Myrmeciza* into 12 genera (M. Isler, G. Bravo & R. Brumfield) (Isler *et al.* 2013) (except part G).
633. Modify linear sequence of genera and species in Emberizidae (J.V. Remsen & J. Klicka) (Klicka *et al.* 2014).
638. Recognize the genus *Cercomacroides* (Thamnophilidae) (J.G. Tello) (Tello *et al.* 2014).
639. Split extralimital *R. l. crepitans* group from *Rallus longirostris* (Maley & Brumfield 2013) (results only in an English name change for Colombian populations to "Mangrove Rail").
640. Adopt a new classification for the quail-doves (Columbidae) (R. Banks) (Banks *et al.* 2013).
647. Split *Ardenna* from *Puffinus* (J.V. Remsen) (Penhallurick & Wink 2004).

The following proposal was accepted in part in Donegan *et al.* (2013) for the Colombian list but a broader split was rejected by AOU-SACC; we maintain our existing treatment:

623. Recognize newly described *Campylorhamphus gyldenstolpei* and *Campylorhamphus cardosoi* and split *Campylorhamphus procurvoides* into four species (C.E.B. Portes & A. Aleixo) (Portes *et al.* 2013).

The following AOU-SACC proposals were already dealt with prior to this publication for the Colombian list:

609. Split *Oxygogon* into four species (T. Donegan) (Collar & Salaman 2013).
610. Split *Sirystes* into two (A) or four (B) species (Donegan 2013).
620. Recognize newly described *Lepidocolaptes fatimalimae* and split *Lepidocolaptes albolineatus* into four species (E. Batista Rodrigues & A. Aleixo) (Batista Rodrigues *et al.* 2013)

**Table 1:** Summary of changes resulting in changes of numbers of species in particular categories and new species total.

Change	Species	Conf.	Int &				SA	SA(Obs)	Int?	Total	
			Bog.	Obs	Obs.*	Esc					
<b>2013 Checklist totals</b>		<b>1,831</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>[16]</b>	<b>1903</b> <b>[1,919]</b>
<b>Species added</b>	Pacific Parrotlet <i>Forpus coelestis</i>				+1						
	Foothill Elaenia <i>Myiopagis olallai</i>	+1									
	Couch's Kingbird <i>Tyrannus couchii</i>						+1				
	Painted Bunting <i>Passerina ciris</i>					+1					
<b>Splits</b>	Dusky Leaf-tosser <i>Sclerurus obscurior</i>	+1									
	Amazonian Leaf-tosser <i>S. peruvianus</i>	+1									
	Tacarcuna Warbler <i>B. tacarcunae</i>	+1									
	Bicolored Antbird <i>Gymnopithys bicolor</i>	+1									
<b>Lump</b>	Great-billed Seed-Finch <i>Oryzoborus maximiliani</i>	-1									
<b>Changes of status</b>	Ruby-throated Hummingbird <i>Archilochus colubris</i>					-1	+1				
<b>Overall Change since 2013 Checklist</b>		<b>+4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>+1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>+2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>+8</b>
<b>New totals per category 2014</b>		<b>1,835</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>[16]</b>	<b>1,927</b>
<b>Less escaped species</b>											<b>[-16]</b>
<b>TOTAL BIRD SPECIES FOR COLOMBIA</b>											<b>1,911</b>

We pend a decision on the following matters that are subject to ongoing AOU-SACC discussions, until next year:

569. Revise the generic classification of the Mountain-Tanagers (Sedano & Burns 2010) (T. Donegan).
607. Recognize a new species-level taxonomy of trumpeters (Psophiidae) (Ribas *et al.* 2012) (T. Pegan & J. Hruska).
619. Recognize newly described *Polioptila attenboroughi* and split *Polioptila guianensis* into three species (Whittaker *et al.* 2013) (L. Carneiro & A. Aleixo).
628. Reassign species currently placed in *Myrmeciza* into 12 genera (see above; part G only).
631. Modify English names in *Knipolegus* (J.V. Remsen).
641. Change English names in certain Icteridae: (A) Bay-winged Cowbird, (b) Red-breasted Blackbird and White-browed Blackbird, and (C) Band-tailed Oropendola and Casqued Oropendola (J.V. Remsen).

We have decided against adopting proposal 579 (Change the English names of *Chlorospingus* species from "Bush-Tanager" to "Chlorospingus" (J.V. Remsen), which was adopted by AOU-SACC and AOU-NACC. We instead propose using the novel name "Bush-Finch" for the *Chlorospingus* (see McMullan & Donegan 2014). This is an English (not Latin) name reflecting the habitats of many members of the genus, its phylogenetic relationships and gives continuity with the old name "Bush-Tanager". Other proposals rejected by AOU-SACC since the last checklist update were not adopted here.

We also reverse our previous split of Cabot's Term *Thalasseus acuflavides* from Sandwich Term *T. sandwichensis*, following Chesser *et al.* (2013). This does not affect the number of species recognised in Colombia.

### Threat Categories

Updates to the threat status of a single species occurring in Colombia follow a further review process by BirdLife International that concluded during mid-2014. Several of these changes stem from taxonomic changes recommended or supported by papers in this journal (e.g. Donegan *et al.* 2010, Donegan & Salaman 2012, Collar & Salaman 2013), a further example of the importance of taxonomy to conservation priority setting.

Black-mandibled Toucan *R. ambiguus*: NT for lumped species.

Purple Quail-Dove *Geotrygon purpurata*: NR to EN.

Sapphire Quail-Dove *Geotrygon saphirina*: VU to LC.

Plumbeous Hawk *Leucopternis plumbeus*: NT to VU.

Black-and-chestnut Eagle *Spizaetus isidori*: VU to EN.

Snowy Plover *Charadrius nivosus*: LR to NT.

Blue-bearded Helmetcrest *Oxygogon cyanolaemus*: NR to CR.

Buffy Helmetcrest *Oxygogon stuebelii*: NR to VU.

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