

Checklist of Thai Birds

Revised January 2012

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with assistance from

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On behalf of

***Bird Conservation Society of Thailand
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INTRODUCTION:

The last revision of the Thai bird checklist, also published online, was in November 2008. The most significant aspect in the present listing is that we have now dispensed with the Sibley & Monroe (1990) sequence. The sequence used here is based on that of IOC v. 2.10 (Gill & Donsker 2011). But hardly a month goes by without some new addition to our understanding of avian phylogeny being revealed by molecular work. That buttonquails are part of the shorebird assemblage; that flycatcher-shrikes do not belong with cuckooshrikes, but are related to philentomas and to the African vangids; and that shrike-babblers are really vireos, a New World group, is now “old hat”. But the process of revision is constant and ongoing. The greatest difference from IOC listing in this present listing of Thai birds concerns the major revision of the chat and flycatcher assemblage, Muscicapidae, that follows from the work of Sangster *et al.* (2010) and Zuccon & Ericson (2010 a).

Many Thai bird listers will be excited to learn that the avifaunal listing for the country now exceeds 1000 species (1012 species, based on present reckoning). It is fruitless to ask, however “What was Thailand’s 1000th species?” Many of the additions found herein arise solely as a result of taxonomic revision, and no two authorities will agree precisely on species limits, nor the order in which they were added to the faunal list alongside new country records. Notwithstanding the above comment, it is noteworthy that new species and subspecies continue to be added through discoveries in the field. Additionally even the identity of a few species listed here is uncertain, and on present knowledge can perhaps only be resolved through DNA assay.

English Common names

Besides the choice of English common names, even their format is something that divides the ornithological community: to hyphenate or not to hyphenate? Upper case or lower case? Compound names have been used for birds for a long time, and use of hyphens in these has generally increased (in contrast to use of English language more generally, in which the use of hyphens is declining).

Application of strict grammatical rules, that the second part of a hyphenated compound name should not be capitalized, has led to such unfortunate names as Eurasian Tree-sparrow for *Passer montanus*, alongside more conventional usage such as Plain-backed Sparrow *P. flaveolus*. This could lead the reader to assume that tree-sparrows were a different group from regular sparrows. The nomenclature in Robson (2008) is full of similar examples: Hawk-cuckoo, Hawk-eagle, are used alongside Eastern Jungle Crow and Eastern Cattle Egret (both unhyphenated). Why should some compound names warrant a hyphen while others do not? In all the cases mentioned, the first part of the compound name is essentially adjectival. Eurasian Tree Sparrow or (Eurasian Tree-sparrow) denotes a sparrow species which, in at least some part of its range, shows greater association with trees than does its congener, the House Sparrow *P. domesticus*. The hyphen is totally unnecessary in this and similar cases. Some of the considerations governing use of hyphens were described in Gill *et al.* (2009) but we believe we have gone further in abandoning unnecessary use of the hyphen in compound names.

For example, in this updated Thai checklist we are content to refer to Hawk Cuckoos (unhyphenated), on the understanding that this indicates a “hawk-like cuckoo, but a true cuckoo, nonetheless.

We have adopted Rockthrush for the members of the genus *Monticola* and Blue Whistlingthrush for *Myophonus caeruleus*. Neither (e.g.) Blue Rock Thrush for *Monticola solitarius* nor Blue Whistling Thrush for *Myophonus caeruleus* will stand since, though both are thrush-like, they are actually chats. The hyphen may be avoided by using rockthrush and whistlingthrush as group names. Some users may dislike the somewhat ungainly “whistlingthrush”. Indeed, there was discomfort when “laughingthrush” was first widely adopted for *Garrulax* and allied genera, but it has now become so familiar to us that we scarcely even notice the conjunction.

Avoiding use of unnecessary hyphens greatly reduces confusion and eases the process of indexing. In order to show how in general common names are gradually converging, yet nonetheless exposing users to widely differing usage of capitals and hyphens, in the present listing we have shown the common names in current use by BirdLife International (2011), IOC v. 2.10 and Robson (2008), in addition to any differences in scientific nomenclature adopted by those authorities.

We refer readers to the frequent nomenclatural and taxonomic reviews in *BirdingASIA* (Inskipp *et al.* 2010, 2011; Pilgrim *et al.* 2009). The taxonomic notes (below) will also help those who wish to delve deeper. This draft list is produced so as to solicit discussion, further improvement and more frequent updating, and we greatly welcome input. Comments and questions should be directed to bcst@bcst.or.th and labeled “Attn. Records Committee Chairman”.

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TAXONOMIC AND NOMENCLATURAL NOTES:

1. Chestnut-headed Partridge *Arborophila cambodiana*

Our treatment differs from that of IOC which treats *A. diversa* of S E Thailand as specifically distinct under the common name Siamese Partridge. However, Eames *et al.* (2002) found a rather variable population of birds in the western Cardamoms (*A. c. chandamonyi*) that were apparently intermediate between chestnut-headed *cambodiana* and whitish-headed *diversa*. This suggests that the most plausible treatment for the three taxa (from east to west *cambodiana*, *chandamonyi* and *diversa*) is as three subspecies of Chestnut-headed Partridge, *A. cambodiana*, rather than treating *diversa* as specifically distinct.

2. Malaysian Partridge *Aborophila campbelli*.

Malayan Partridge *A. campbelli* is sometimes treated as conspecific with Javan Partridge *A. orientalis* under that name.

3. Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelanos*

Contradicting McGowan and Panchen (1994) who placed the western Thailand/Tenasserim taxa *lineata* and *crawfordii* with Silver Pheasant *L. nycthemera*, Moulin *et al.* (2003) showed convincingly that these taxa belong in the Kalij Pheasant *L. leucomelanos* clade.

4. Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* of Africa and Asia is treated as distinct from the (South American) Comb Duck *S. sylvicola*.

5. Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

Treated as distinct from Western Cattle Egret *B. ibis*. The two taxa differ in proportions, breeding plumage and bare parts coloration.

6. Eastern Great Egret The South and East Asian taxon *modesta* is here treated as full species *A. modesta*, distinct from extreme N. Asian and N. American *A. alba*.

Detailed relationships of egrets appear not to be fully resolved (Sheldon *et al.* 2000). Great Egret is sometimes placed in the genus *Casmerodius* and Intermediate Egret in *Mesophoyx*.

7. Little Cormorant *Microcarbo niger*

Little Cormorant is tentatively placed in *Microcarbo* following Kennedy *et al.* (2000). The “micro-cormorants” apparently form a basal clade within the family, although many members of the micro-cormorant clade have not been sampled and further revision may be necessary.

8. Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

The migratory taxon *orientalis* is sometimes treated as distinct from resident Indomalayan birds (races *ruficollis* and *torquatus*). Molecular data (Gamauf and Haring 2004) provided support for migratory *orientalis* together with the resident Indian/SE Asian *ruficollis* and Philippine *philippensis*, forming one clade; *torquatus* (peninsular Thailand and Greater Sundas), nominate *ptilorhynchus* (Java) and *palawanensis* another. They suggested that splitting these six taxa as two species was premature because morphological characteristics do not easily correspond with these groupings.

9. Black Kite *Milvus migrans* and Black-eared Kite *M. lineatus*

Migratory *M. lineatus* is treated as specifically distinct from Indian/E Asian resident *M. migrans govinda*.

10. Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

The taxa *B. (b). japonicus*, and *B. (b). burmanicus* (junior synonym *refectus*) are probably both specifically distinct, while *B. b. vulpinus* is close to European/West Eurasian *B. b. buteo* (Riesing *et al.*, 2003; Kruckenhauser *et al.* 2004). There are records of all three taxa (*japonicus*, *burmanicus* and *vulpinus*) in Thailand (Chaiyan

Kasorndorkua/Thai Raptor Group). The most common of the three, *B. japonicus*, was not listed by Robson (2008) who followed Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) in restricting *japonicus* to Japan, considering that N Chinese and NE Asian mainland breeders are *burmanicus*.

11. “Booted eagles” Genera *Aquila*, *Hieraaetus*, *Ictinaetus*

The generic limits suggested by Helbig *et al.* (2005), Griffiths *et al.* (2007) and Lerner and Mindell (2005) are followed. Neither *Aquila* nor *Hieraaetus* are monophyletic. Additionally Greater Spotted Eagle *A. clanga*, Lesser Spotted Eagle *A. pomarina*, Indian Spotted Eagle *A. hastata* and Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*, together with African Long-crested Eagle *Lophaelagus occipitalis*, constitute a sister clade to the other *Aquila* spp.

12. Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii*

Following Haring *et al.* (2007) this is placed in a monotypic genus.

13. Hawk eagles *Nisaetus* spp.

Helbig *et al.* (2005) and Haring *et al.* (2007) proved that Old World hawk eagles are in a different clade from New World *Spizaetus*. Additionally Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) split short-crested SE Asian *limnaeetus* from long crested *cirrhatius* of the Indian subcontinent.

14. Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Eastern populations, including that in Thailand, are now usually treated as a distinct species, Eastern Water Rail (alternative name Brown-cheeked Rail) *R. indicus* (*e.g.*, Rasmussen and Anderton 2005).

15. Purple Swampphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

The E Asian mainland taxon is sometimes given full species status as *Porphyrio poliocephalus*. Robson (2008) lists both *P. poliocephalus* and the Sundaic Black-backed Swampphen *P. indicus* as occurring, and extensively overlapping, in Thailand. There seems to be little evidence for this, though some birds in the Thai Peninsula may show features that are intermediate between *poliocephalus* and *indicus* suggesting that it is a zone of intergradation (Wells 1999).

16. Beach Thick-knee *Esacus neglectus*

The priority of the name *neglectus* over *magnirostris* is uncertain (Dickinson, 2003).

17. Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

A small number of birds showing characteristics of the White-headed Stilt (Australian Stilt) *H. leucocephalus* have been observed, but it remains unproven whether these are indeed *H. leucocephalus* or, as we believe, a rare plumage morph of *H. himantopus*.

18. Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*

In his cladistic analysis of charadriiform birds based on phenotypic characters, Livezey (2010) proposed treating the race *V. i. atronuchalis* of NE India, S China and SE Asia, including Thailand, as White-eared Lapwing *V. atronuchalis*, distinct from Red-wattled Lapwing *V. indicus* of the Middle East and South Asia. We prefer to await supporting molecular evidence before adopting any nomenclatural changes

19. Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrius*.

Notwithstanding its phenotypic differentiation from Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*, the White-faced Plover (Swinhoe's Plover) *C. (a.) dealbatus* (Kennerley *et al.*, 2008), which breeds in SE China, is here treated as a subspecies of Kentish Plover, following Rheindt *et al.* (2011). Although White-faced Plover is behaviourally and ecologically different from Kentish Plover in the non-breeding season, favouring sand beaches, rather than the mainly pond and mudflat habitat of the latter, the lack of differentiation in population genetic markers may indicate unimpeded gene-flow between White-faced and Kentish Plovers where their breeding ranges meet or approach each other in E and SE China. Rheindt *et al.* (2011) recommended further study to assess whether phenotypic intermediates between the two occur.

20. Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

In his analysis of charadriiform birds Livezey (2010) suggested splitting Central Asian races *pamirensis*, *atrifrons* and *schaeferi* of the Lesser Sand Plover *C. mongolus* (the “*atrifrons* group”, cf. Prater & Marchant 1977), from NE Asian-breeding races *mongolus* and *stegmanni* (“*mongolus* group”). Livezey coined the name Spot-fronted Sand Plover for his *C. atrifrons*, and Black-fronted Sand Plover for his *C. mongolus*. The two groups differ from each other in breeding plumage, the *mongolus* group being deeper orange on the breast and in addition having a white forecrown (see the photographs in Inskipp *et al.* 2011) and measurements, NE Asian birds being on average longer winged and shorter-billed.

Only birds of the *atrifrons* group (most or all apparently race *schaeferi*) are known with certainty from Thailand. A few birds of the *mongolus* group, which migrates along the East Asian seaboard to winter in Indonesia and Australia, might be expected to occur, but none have yet been identified among the many photographs of breeding plumage birds on northwards passage. We prefer to await supporting molecular evidence before adopting any nomenclatural changes.

21. Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala*

Though expected to be of regular occurrence, this species is still nominally a vagrant, with only two undoubted records, a specimen (Jorgensen 1949) and a photograph of an individual in the field showing the spread tail. Field records may be unreliable unless the details of the outer tail-feathers can be seen (Leader & Carey 2003).

22. Eastern Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa melanuroides*

Although the genetic distance between East Asian-breeding *melanuroides*, Icelandic *islandica* and European/west Asian *limosa* is small, the distribution of haplotypes shows a clear geographic structure, suggesting complete isolation among them (Höglund *et al.* 2009). It is possible that Western Black-tailed Godwit *L. limosa* may also occur in small numbers alongside *L. melanuroides*, but this remains unproven.

23. Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*.

Pereira and Baker (2005) showed that *Heteroscelus* (formerly applied to the tattlers) is embedded within *Tringa*.

24. Mongolian Gull *Larus mongolicus*

Mongolian Gull is here treated as a full species though Yesou (2002) treated it as conspecific with *L. vegae*.

The taxonomy of the “large-white-headed gulls” is highly complex. In particular, members of the Arctic-Pacific grouping of the “Aralo-Caspian clade” that includes *mongolicus*, *vegae* and Slaty-backed Gull *L. schistisagus* are said to be poorly differentiated with shared some haplotypes. A brief review of evidence is presented in Sangster *et al.* (2007), who treat both *mongolicus* and *vegae* as subspecies of *L. smithsonianus*, American Herring Gull. We have chosen to list *mongolicus* as a full species in the hope that this may encourage submission of evidence that will help further knowledge of occurrence patterns of the taxa in Thailand. There are, at present, no known records of *vegae*, which may perhaps also be expected to occur.

25. Heuglin’s Gull *Larus heuglini* and Lesser Black-backed Gull *L. fuscus*

Both AERC TAC (2003) and Sangster *et al.* (2007) recommended treating *L. heuglini* and *L. fuscus* as members of a polytypic species that also includes Steppe Gull *L. barabensis*, on the grounds that there is some gene flow among them. The taxon of *L. heuglini* recorded in Thailand, *L. h. taimyrensis*, is thought to be an intergrade between *L. heuglini* and *L. vegae*. Because adult *taimyrensis* are usually distinguishable from *L. f. fuscus*, for which there is a single Thai record, we prefer to treat the two separately in order to encourage submission of records that may further our knowledge of occurrence patterns.

26. Ashy-headed Green Pigeon *Treron phayrei*.

The former Pompadour Pigeon [Pompadour Green Pigeon] *T. pompadora* is best treated as a species complex, with Sri Lankan *pompadora* and peninsular Indian *affinis* constituting either one or two species. *T. phayrei* occurs from NE India to Indochina. There are additional taxa in the Pompadour Green Pigeon species complex in the Andaman Islands and the Philippines (Rasmussen and Anderton 2005).

27. Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis sepulcralis*

Payne (1997) and Payne (2005) lumped Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis sepulcralis* of the Thai-Malay Peninsula, Greater and Lesser Sundas, and Philippines, with Brush Cuckoo *C. variolosus* of eastern Wallacea and Australasia on the basis of similarity of songs, and the existence of apparent plumage intergrades in the Moluccas.

28. Asian Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris*

The taxa of drongo cuckoos recorded in Thailand were considered by Payne (2005) to constitute two among a complex of four *Surniculus* species: the Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoo *S. lugubris* which is resident in peninsular Thailand (north at least as far as Chiang Mai), and Fork-tailed Drongo Cuckoo *S. dicruroides* which breeds from India, eastwards along the Himalayas to N Indochina (including northern Thailand?) and occurs also as a winter visitor. However, the ranges (both in Thailand and the wider Asian ranges) of these taxa appear to be imperfectly understood, with notable lack of concordance among different authors’ treatments. The morphological discontinuity between fork-tailed birds and square tailed birds is concordant with the northern limit of the range of *brachyurus*, around the Isthmus of Kra, and not further north, where other authors have placed it. However, the songs of continental SE Asian *dicruroides* and Thai-Malay Peninsula-breeding *brachyurus* appear indistinguishable. For the moment, therefore, we prefer to consider them as conspecific, until existing confusion is resolved.

29. Common Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx varius*

The sole Thai record is an untraced specimen that was collected at Hua Hin on 14 April 1914 by C. J. Aagaard (Robinson and Kloss 1922). The identification of this specimen may be questionable and its present location has not been traced.

30. Malaysian Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx fugax*

This species and Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo *H. nisicolor* are treated as distinct species by both King (2002a) and Payne (2005). There are consistent differences between them in both voice and adult plumages.

31. Himalayan Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*

Himalayan Cuckoo *C. saturatus* was treated as distinct from Oriental Cuckoo *C. horsfieldi* on the basis of differences in morphology and vocalizations by King (2004). *C. (s.) lepidus* is also sometimes distinguished as a third species in the complex, Sunda Cuckoo.

32. Barn Owls *Tyto* spp.

Wink et al. (2009) considered that Eastern Barn Owl *T. delicatula* and allied taxa constituted a distinct lineage from Eurasian Barn Owl *T. alba*.

33. Collared Scops Owl *Otus lettia*

Some authors (e.g., König & Weick 2009) unite the population of the Thai-Malay Peninsula with that in Malaya and the Greater Sundas as Sunda Scops Owl *O. lempiji*. However, there is no obvious discontinuity in vocalizations between Indochinese birds and peninsular birds along a N-S transect in Thailand extending as far as the Malaysian border. If the difference in vocalizations between *lempiji* and *lettia* described by König & Weick (2009) really exists then the break lies well south of the Thai-Malay border. But, frankly, we are sceptical. Additionally, molecular evidence concerning the relationships of the taxa *lettia* and *lempiji* with the Indian Scops Owl *O. bakkamoena* presented by Wink et al. (2009) is ambivalent and confusing.

34. Northern Boobook *Ninox japonica*

The northern taxa of the Brown Boobook *Ninox scutulata* are treated as a distinct species, Northern Boobook *N. japonica* (King 2002b). Both *N. j. japonica* (Japan and mainland Asia south, apparently to Fujian) and *N. j. totogo* (from Ryukyu islands and Taiwan) have a call of two *whoop* notes, uttered 0.25-0.5 sec apart, which differs in only minor details between the two. This is very distinct from the widely spaced, upward-inflected *who-up* given by the eight subspecies of Brown Hawk Owls (King's "southern group") that are distributed from the Indian Subcontinent eastwards through SE Asia to the Greater Sundas and Palawan, and that include the widespread race breeding in Thailand, *N. s. burmanica*. Northern Boobooks are markedly longer-winged, with scarcely any overlap in wing:tail ratio with Brown Boobooks. King was apparently not aware of any plumage differences, and considered the two to be "probably indistinguishable" in the field. However, an apparently consistent difference in underparts patterning between Brown and Northern Boobooks was tentatively described by Round (2011). Northern Boobook is a winter visitor to Thailand, known from a specimen of *N. s. florensis* (a synonym of *N. japonica*) from Trang, a Chiang Mai-taken specimen (CTNRC Collection) and at least three

photographs of presumed wintering or passage individuals from localities in or around Bangkok.

35. Blyth's Frogmouth *Batrachostomus affinis*

The taxonomy of Javan Frogmouth *B. javensis* and Blyth's Frogmouth *B. affinis* is imperfectly understood. Sibley & Monroe (1990) treated all mainland SE Asian populations as *B. affinis*, reserving *B. javensis* only for the Javanese birds. Birds throughout most of the country are of the race *B. a. continentalis* and those from the extreme south (Yala and Narathiwat) are *B. a. affinis*. However, Marshall (1978) treated eastern Thai birds, including those in Khao Yai, together with those in the extreme south and in Malaysia as *B. j. affinis*, while treating birds from north, west and the remainder of peninsular Thailand as *B. j. continentalis*.

36. Eared nightjars *Lyncornis* spp.

We follow Han *et al.* (2010) in resurrecting the name *Lyncornis* for the eared nightjars.

37. Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus jotaka*

Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) treated both resident *hazarae* and migrant *jotaka* as races of Grey Nightjar, *C. jotaka*. Jungle Nightjar *C. indicus* is restricted to the Indian Subcontinent.

38. Himalayan Swiftlet *Aerodramus brevirostris*

The taxon resident in N and W Thailand, *A. [b.] rogersi*, distinguished from other Himalayan Swiftlet taxa by its shorter wing and unfeathered tarsi (Deignan 1955) is sometimes treated as a distinct species, Indochinese Swiftlet *A. rogersi*.

39. Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus* and Cook's Swift *A. cooki*

Pacific Swift (*sens. lat.*) was treated as a complex of four species based on differences in morphology and breeding ecology by Leader (2011). The two taxa occurring in Thailand, migrant/wintering *A. pacificus* and resident *A. cooki*, are readily distinguishable based on the amount of white on the rump.

40. Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx erithaca*

We treat Black-backed Kingfisher *C. e. erithaca* and Rufous-backed Kingfisher *C. e. rufidorsa* as geographical forms of a single wide-ranging species on the basis that a significant proportion of rufous-backed birds are intermediate in plumage. Mixed black-backed and rufous-backed pairs are frequent in S. Thailand.

41. Rusty-cheeked Hornbill *Anorrhinus tickelli* and Brown Hornbill *A. austeni*

P. Poonswad (Hornbill Project Thailand; unpubl. data) has suggested that the genetic distance between these two taxa is at least as great as that between Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis* and Rhinoceros Hornbill *B. rhinoceros*, and on this basis we tentatively treat them as distinct species following some earlier authors (*e.g.*, Kemp 1988). It should be noted, however, that the vocalisations of the two "brown hornbill" taxa are very similar. In addition, although the females are highly distinctive, *A. tickelli* being dark-billed and *A. austeni* being pale billed, occasional whitish-throated male *A. tickelli* that appear inseparable from typical male *austeni* have been observed in *tickelli* groups (Anak Pattanavibool, *in litt.*).

42. Freckle-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos analis*

Following Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) *Dendrocopos analis* of S Burma, Thailand, to Indochina, Andaman Is., Java and Bali, is treated as specifically distinct from Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker *D. macei* which occurs in the Indian subcontinent to N Burma. We have adopted a new common name, Freckle-breasted Woodpecker, for *D. analis* so as to avoid having to insert Pied in the alternative name Spot-breasted Pied Woodpecker (used by IOC v. 2.10 to distinguish *D. analis* from the [Neotropical] Spot-breasted Woodpecker *Colaptes punctigula*).

43. Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus*

The former Greater Flameback *C. lucidus* complex was considered to constitute a complex of seven species by Collar (2011). Under this treatment, the most widespread taxon is *C. guttacristatus*, with four subspecies distributed from SW India to coastal NE Borneo.

44. Pittas (Pittidae).

Irestadt *et al.* (2006) recognized three major radiations of pittas and recommended separating these as genera *Pitta*, *Erythropitta* and *Hydrornis*. Eared Pitta, sometimes placed in its own genus, *Anthocinclia*, due to structural and behavioural differences from other pittas (*e.g.*, Erritzoe 2003, Round 2002) is nested within the *Hydrornis* clade. We have therefore preferred to revert to the generic name *Pitta* for all species since Pittidae constitute a monophyletic family.

45. Malayan Banded Pitta *Pitta irena*

Rheindt & Eaton (2010) recommended splitting the Banded Pitta into three species, Malayan Banded Pitta *P. guajana*, Bornean Banded Pitta *P. schwaneri* and Javan Banded Pitta *P. guajana* based on plumage differences and (probably) ecological and vocal differences.

46. Black-winged Cuckooshrike *Coracina melaschistos*

Coracina m. intermedia of S and C China, which is a winter visitor to Thailand, sings a different song from Thai residents (*C. m. avensis*) suggesting that, pending future research, the two might be better treated as distinct species. Fragmentary DNA evidence (Fuchs *et al.* 2007) also appears to suggest that *C. melaschistos* as presently constituted is polyphyletic.

47. Blyth's Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius aeralatus*

Reddy (2008) considered the former White-browed Shrike-babbler *P. flaviscapris* complex to constitute 9 species. A revision by Rheindt & Eaton (2009), which took account of vocalizations, more conservatively considered there were four, of which one occurs in Thailand.

48. Clicking Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius intermedius*

Reddy (2008) considered the former Chestnut-fronted Shrike-babbler *P. aenobarbus* to constitute three species. Rheindt & Eaton (2009) accepted at least two, *P. intermedius* from the SE Asian mainland and *P. aenobarbus* from Java. The two are highly divergent, based on DNA, and additionally have somewhat different songs. A third taxon, *P. aenobarbulus*, from west Assam, NE India, was not considered by Rheindt & Eaton as it is only known from a single specimen.

49. Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

May constitute more than one species in view of pronounced morphological and plumage variation among the various taxa. In particular, the Himalayan taxon *hopwoodi* differs in plumage and biometrics from resident SE Asian birds

50. House Crow *Corvus splendens*

The “Burmese House Crow” *C. s. insolens*, the taxon formerly resident in Thailand, and known only from Phetchaburi and nearby Prachuap Khiri Khan Provinces (Deignan 1963), is presumed extinct in the country. The House Crows presently found at Phuket and other sites in southern Thailand (occasional records elsewhere) are thought to be Indian House Crows *C. s. protegatus* which have presumably colonized from the introduced population in Malaysia.

51. The Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos* complex

Almost certainly constitutes at least three species in its global range (*e.g.*, Martens and Eck 1995; Dickinson 2003; Rasmussen and Anderton 2005; Wells 2007). Eastern Jungle Crow *C. (m.) levaillantii* is the taxon that is widespread in Thailand, with Large-billed Crow *C. (m.) macrorhynchos* in the peninsula. The two differ in voice and morphology. The boundaries between these two taxa are tentative, however, since bird lice characteristic of *levaillantii* have been found among Malayan birds, in the range of *macrorhynchos*, and those characteristic of *macrorhynchos* have been found on crows in the continental Thai range of *levaillantii* (Klockenhoff 1969, cited in Martens *et al.* 2000).

52. Grey Tit *Parus cinereus* and Japanese Tit *P. minor*

The wide-ranging and highly variable Great Tit is now treated as a complex of three species, Great Tit, *P. major*, Grey Tit *P. cinereus* and Japanese Tit *P. minor*. Harrap and Quinn (1996) place the taxon *templorum* of NE Thailand with *ambiguus* of the peninsula as races of *P. cinereus*; and *nubicolus* (which occurs in N Thailand) as a race of *P. minor*. However since Packert *et al.* (2007) showed that *minor* and *cinereus* are each others’ closest relatives, an alternative arrangement might treat these two as conspecific under the older name, *P. cinereus*, pending further study.

53. Cinereous Bulbul *Hemixos cinerea*

Formerly regarded as a race of Ashy Bulbul *H. flavala*, peninsular populations differ greatly in plumage (and seemingly vocalizations) and are better treated as a distinct species. Dickinson and Dekker (2002) have suggested that, if *H. cinerea* is treated as a full species, some other geographically limited taxa presently lumped with *H. flavala* should also be similarly separated and recommended a detailed review.

54. Common Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

The only records of sand martins substantiated by specimens do, indeed appear to be Common Sand Martin (*R. r. ijimae*, though subspecific identity may require further confirmation). However Pale Sand Martin *R. diluta* is also suspected to occur. The race *R. d. fohkienensis*, which winters in Hong Kong (P.J. Leader *in litt.*), is difficult to separate in the field from Common Sand Martin.

55. Rufous-bellied Swallow *Cecropis badia*

Dickinson (2003) elevated the taxon *badia* to a full species, having argued (Dickinson and Dekker 2001) that its markedly larger size compared to the various races of *C.*

striolata was at variance with Bergmann's Rule, and tended to support treating it as distinct.

56. Pygmy Cupwing *Pnoepyga pusilla*

The genus *Pnoepyga* lies outside the timaliid (true babbler) assemblage, although its affinities are not known with certainty (Gelang *et al.* 2009). We have used cupwing, one of the group names for the four species of *Pnoepyga* suggested by Inskipp *et al.* (2010), and now already in use for *Pnoepyga* in at least one internet-posted checklist Continuing with wren-babbler (hyphenated) for *Pnoepyga* alongside wren babbler (unhyphenated) for the true babblers in the genus *Napothera* would be confusing.

57. Sunda Bush Warbler *Cettia vulcania*

Taxonomy follows Olsson *et al.* (2006) who argued that molecular evidence indicated that the East Asian taxa *oblita* and *intricata* were closer to *C. vulcania* of the Greater and Lesser Sundas and Palawan than to Aberrant Bush Warbler *Cettia flavolivacea* of the Himalayas. This arrangement may still be tentative and was not followed by Kennerley & Pearson (2010) who continued to treat continental SE Asian and Chinese birds as *C. flavolivacea*.

58. Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*

The Arctic Warbler *sens. lat.* has been shown to constitute three distinct clades that diverged c.2.6 m.y.a., and which are diagnosably different on both morphometrics and behaviour. (Saitoh *et al.* 2008, 2010; Alström *et al.* 2011). Individuals of all three clades are thought to have occurred in Thailand, but this still needs confirmation. The commonest and most widespread taxon, both wintering and on passage, is the widespread *P. borealis*. Some older Thai-collected specimens were identified on measurements as *P. b. xanthodryas* (now *P. xanthodryas*, Japanese Warbler or Japanese Leaf Warbler) by Wells (2007), while birds trapped and ringed (P. D. Round, own observations) were tentatively identified as Kamchatka Leaf Warbler *P. examinandus*.

59. Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* and Two-barred Warbler *P. plumbeitarsus*

Irwin *et al.* (2001, 2005) have shown that the Greenish Warbler complex is a ring species, within which taxa intergrade, one into the other (anti-clockwise, from west to east, *viridanus*, *ludlowi*, nominate *trochiloides*, *obscuratus* and *plumbeitarsus*). Where the two termini of the ring (the western-distributed *P. t. viridanus* and the eastern *P. t. plumbeitarsus*) meet, in C. Siberia, they behave as good species, singing distinct songs and not interbreeding. This makes the decision whether to treat them as one or two species arbitrary (AEC TAC 2003). Since the two commonest Thai wintering taxa, *plumbeitarsus* and nominate *trochiloides*, are more or less readily diagnosable on plumage, and usually occupy slightly different habitats, many authors (*e.g.*, Rasmussen & Anderton 2005; Robson 2008) have continued to treat them as good species. However it should be noted that *P. t. obscuratus*, which also has two wing bars, also occurs in Thailand (Deignan, 1963) and is difficult to distinguish from *P. t. plumbeitarsus*.

60. Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides* and Claudia's Leaf Warbler *P. claudiae*

The former subspecies of Blyth's Leaf Warbler, though forming a monophyletic clade, are sufficiently distinct to warrant treatment as three distinct species: Blyth's Leaf Warbler *P. reguloides*; Claudia's Leaf Warbler *P. claudiae* and Hartert's Leaf Warbler *P. goodsoni* (Olsson *et al.* 2005).

The Blyth's Leaf Warbler *sensu stricto* (*P. reguloides ticehursti*) breeds above 2000 m, on the summit of Doi Inthanon (Alström and Olsson 1993), in the likely winter range of *P. claudiae*, south to Doi Kajela, Tak Province (P. D. Round, own observations.)

Wintering "Blyth's Leaf Warblers" from many localities and habitats in Continental Thailand, including in Khao Yai, NE Thailand (Khao Yai Avian Diversity Project) are tentatively listed as Claudia's Leaf Warbler *P. claudiae*. Song, heard in late winter/early spring, is recognisably different from that of the NW Thai breeders, but their identity has not been resolved by DNA assay. Although Deignan (1945, 1963) listed only *claudiae* as occurring, and moreover as a winter visitor, Hartert's Leaf Warbler *P. goodsoni* was not at that time recognised as a sibling species within the *P. reguloides* (*sens. lat.*) clade. However, it has been recorded in N Laos (Fuchs *et al.* 2007) and could also conceivably occur in Thailand.

61. Davison's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus davisoni* and Kloss's Leaf Warbler *P. ogilviegranti*

Olsson *et al.* (2005) demonstrated deep divergence between *P. davisoni*, which ranges from Myanmar and Yunnan to northern Vietnam, and the three other races of the former White-tailed Leaf Warbler, *disturbans*, *klossi* and *ogilviegranti* (which are closely related to each other and which collectively range from SW and SE China to S Indochina). Accordingly two species are recognised as occurring in Thailand: Davison's Leaf Warbler *P. davisoni* in NW and N Thailand, and Kloss's Leaf Warbler *P. ogilviegranti* in SE Thailand. Individuals from the population on high mountaintops in Khao Yai National Park have not been closely examined though are presumed to be *P. ogilviegranti*.

62. Sichuan Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus forresti*

Martens *et al.* (2004) split Lemon-rumped Leaf Warbler into a Himalayan or western population, *P. chloronotus* that extends eastwards into Nepal, and a West Chinese (eastern) population), *P. forresti*, which differs both in song and in mitochondrial DNA. Thai wintering birds are tentatively assigned to the eastern population *P. forresti* though this requires confirmation.

63. Thick-billed Warbler *Phragamaticola aedon*

Apparently sister to another six species of African and Eurasian warblers now united in genus *Iduna* (Fregin *et al.* 2009). We have preferred to retain it in the monotypic genus *Phragamaticola* since its precise taxonomic position is not yet well-corroborated.

64. Grassbirds and allies, Fam. Locustellidae

Alström *et al.* (2011) showed that the Asian warblers formerly placed in the genus *Bradypterus* formed a monophyletic grouping with *Locustella*. African *Bradypterus* spp. constituted a separate clade. The precise taxonomic affinities of Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris* need to be investigated further.

65. Hill Prinia *Prinia superciliaris*

The taxon *superciliaris*, ranging from NE India eastwards to S. China and south to Indonesia, is treated as distinct from the Black-throated Prinia *P. atrogularis* of the Indian subcontinent, Tibet and W. Myanmar (Rasmussen and Anderton 2005).

66. Babblers, laughingthrushes and parrotbills.

Except where stated below, the species limits and scientific nomenclature follow that in Collar (2006) and Collar and Robson (2007).

67. Deignan's Babbler *Stachyridopsis rodolphei*

Both Robson (2000, 2008) and Collar (2006) subsumed *S. rodolphei* under *S. rufifrons* ("provisionally" so in Collar's painstakingly argued case). Collar (2006) stressed that Deignan never clarified his reasoning for treating *rodolphei* as a full species. However, *rodolphei* differs (albeit slightly) on both plumage and biometrics from *rufifrons* according to Collar and (*contra* the assertion in Collar, 2006) *rufifrons* of typical appearance occurs on Doi Chiang Dao, the only known locality for *S. rodolphei* (P. D. Round, unpubl. data). We therefore prefer to retain *rodolphei* as a species until it can be proved without doubt that its features are encompassed by the range of variation in *S. rufifrons*, and that all *Stachyridopsis* on Doi Chiang Dao behave as one interbreeding population.

68. Rufous-fronted Babbler *Stachyridopsis rufifrons*

The taxon *adjuncta*, found in the Mekong drainage of northern Chiang Mai Province into NE Thailand, is sometimes placed in a separate species, Buff-chested Babbler *S. ambigua*, which extends from the Himalayas to S Laos. *S. ambigua* and *S. rufifrons* are very similar in morphology and vocalizations and we prefer to treat them as conspecific pending further investigation.

69. Grey-cheeked Fulvetta *Alcippe fratercula*

Zhou *et al.* (2007) considered that the Grey-cheeked Fulvetta *A. morrisonia* could be divided into three clades representing at least four species based on plumage features and the high degree of genetic divergence. The "western" group including *A. (m.) fratercula* of Thailand should be called *A. fratercula* for which the common name Yunnan Fulvetta was used by IOC.

70. Limestone Wren Babbler *Napothera crispifrons*

The generic name, *Gypsophila*, was resurrected by Collar (2006) and Collar and Robson (2007) for this species on the grounds of its complex song (compared with the simple plaintive whistles of most other *Napothera*). However, at least one other *Napothera*, Eyebrowed Wren Babbler *N. epilepidota*, has complex chattering vocalizations, involving a duet, in addition to a plaintive whistling song. We therefore prefer to await a finer resolution of wren babbler taxonomy that is based upon DNA.

71. Chinese Grass Babbler *Graminicola striatus*

Alström *et al.* (2006) showed that *Graminicola* is not related to grassbirds *Megalurus* spp. but was nested within the babbler assemblage. The former Rufous-rumped Grassbird *G. bengalensis* was considered to constitute two species by Leader *et al.* (2010). The (possibly nationally extirpated) taxon in Thailand, *G. striatus*, extends from Burma to Indochina and Hainan, and is thought to be conspecific with *G. s.*

sinicus of SE China. *G. bengalensis* is restricted to India, Bangladesh and Nepal. *G. striatus* and *G. bengalensis* differ in morphology and on song (based on a comparison of the song of *G. s. sinicus* with *G. bengalensis*).

72. Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argentea*

Placed in its own genus, *Mesia*, by Collar and Robson (2007) on uncertain grounds. Cibois (2003) showed that *L. argentea* and *L. lutea* constitute a closely related monophyletic grouping.

73. Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

This taxon has sometime been treated as conspecific with Hume's Lesser Whitethroat *S. althaea* and Desert Lesser Whitethroat *S. minula*, which are more usually treated as distinct species. Even within *S. curruca* (*sens. stricto*), however, there are 5–6 subspecies recognised (*e.g.*, Vaurie 1959; Dickinson 2003) some of which may constitute distinct species (Shirihai *et al.* 2001). Which taxon of Lesser Whitethroat (*sens. lat.*) occurs in Thailand is not yet known with certainty, though it is assumed to be *S. c. blythi*.

74. Grey-breasted Parrotbill *Suthora poliotis* and Black-eared Parrotbill *S. beaulieu*

Based on plumage features, Penhallurick and Robson (2009) suggested splitting the former Black-throated Parrotbill *S. nipalensis* into five species. This is vindicated by molecular studies indicating that *S. nipalensis* is paraphyletic, incorporating probably multiple unrecognized species Yeung *et al.* (2011).

75. Striated Yuhina *Staphida castaniceps*

Collar (2006) and Collar and Robson (2007) treat the taxon *torqueola* of SE China and N Indochina (which extends into Nan Province, eastwards to Loei Province, Thailand) as specifically distinct. However, there seems little justification for this. The plumage differences between *S. c. torqueola* and *S. c. striata* of NW and western Thailand are relatively minor (less than the differences between *S. c. striata* and some Himalayan races), and vocalizations are similar.

76. Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus*

Oriental White-eye almost certainly encompasses a polyphyletic grouping across its wide Asian range (Moyle *et al.* 2011). The two taxa that occur in Thailand include at least one mangrove-inhabiting taxon, *Z. p. williamsoni*, and an inland forest taxon *Z. p. siamensis*, and may represent two distinct species. The two are diagnosable on plumage. Moreover, *Z. p. siamensis* possesses a complex song that has not been recorded among mangrove-inhabiting Oriental White-eyes (P. D. Round, own observations).

77. Plains Nuthatch *Sitta neglecta* and Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *S. cinnamoventris*

The former *S. castanea* is now regarded as a complex of three species in which two deep chestnut taxa, Indian Nuthatch *S. castanea* from Peninsular India, and Indochinese *tonkinensis* (now placed as a race of Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *S. cinnamoventris*) are separated by intervening paler taxa: *S. c. cinnamoventris*, *S. c. almora* and *S. c. koelzi* in the Himalayan foothills, with Plains Nuthatch *S. neglecta* in Burma, Thailand and Indochina.

S. cinnamoventris (including *tonkinensis*) inhabits mainly evergreen forests of moderate (foothills to 1800 m) elevation while *S. neglecta* inhabits lowland dry dipterocarp woodland (Harrap and Quinn 1996; Dickinson 2006; Rasmussen and Anderton 2005). In Thailand *tonkinensis* was previously known from only a single record on Doi Hua Mot, in the mountains of the northern part of the Khun Tan range (Riley 1938, Deignan 1945) though it has since been found in montane forest in at least one other site. The formerly accepted explanation was that the absence of a montane competitor (in this case, Chestnut-vented Nuthatch *S. nagaensis*, which, in Thailand, is absent east of the Khun Tan range) had allowed lowland *S. castanea* to expand its elevational range up-slope where it gave rise to a distinctive subspecies (*tonkinensis*). The existence of two ostensible subspecies of a former all-encompassing *S. castanea*, with one (*tonkinensis*) nested within the range of the other (*neglecta*), from which it was segregated by habitat, was obviously problematical, as recognized by Harrap & Quinn (1996) who advised “further study”.

78. Hume’s Treecreeper *Certhia manipurensis*

Tietze *et al.* (2006) separated Brown-throated Treecreeper *C. discolor* of the Himalayas from *C. manipurensis* of NE India, Myanmar, N Thailand and Indochina, citing both molecular and behavioral differences.

79. Starlings and Mynas, Fam. Sturnidae

Order and generic limits are based on Lovette *et al.* (2008) and Zuccon *et al.* (2007).

80. Ground thrushes, genera *Geokichla*, *Zoothera*

Klicka *et al.* (2005) , Voelker & Klicka Voelker & Outlaw (2008) show that *Zoothera* is polyphyletic and comprises at least three distinct clades, with a group of Afro-Asiatic *Zoothera* spp. placed in the genus *Geokichla*.

81. Chinese Blackbird *Turdus mandarinus*

The occasional Thai winterers are presumed to be this taxon which sings a very different song from European Common Blackbird *T. merula*. The blackbirds are treated as a complex of four separate species by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005).

82. Red-throated Thrush *Turdus rufogularis* and Black-throated Thrush *T. atrogularis*
Notwithstanding a wide zone of contact, successful hybridization or mixed pairing has not been confirmed (Knox *et al.*, 2008) and these two are best treated as full species.

83. Naumann’s Thrush *T. naumanni*, and Dusky Thrush *T. eunomus*

Knox *et al.* (2008) treat these two taxa as distinct species. Although hybrids between *T. naumanni* and *T. eunomus* certainly occur, they are said to be relatively infrequent.

84. Muscicapidae

Sangster *et al.* 2010 and Zuccon & Ericson (2010 a) independently undertook multi-locus phylogenetic analyses to examine the detailed relationships of Muscicapidae. These showed that some genera were polyphyletic and that many groupings were inappropriate. The listing adopted here therefore differs from that in IOC v. 2.10 in an attempt to interpret the results from the above analyses. However, further revision will almost certainly be necessary as support for the positions of some taxa is inadequate. Detailed comments follow opposite some species entries.

85. Rufous-tailed Shama *Copsychus pyrropygus*

The Rufous-tailed Shama is nested in *Copsychus*, and sister to the White-rumped Shama *C. malabaricus*. *Copsychus* also includes the Indian Robin *C.* (formerly *Saxicoloides*) *fulicatus*, sister to Oriental Magpie Robin *C. saularis*.

86. Brown-streaked Flycatcher *Muscicapa williamsoni* and Asian Brown Flycatcher *M. dauurica*

Some authors (*e.g.*, Dickinson 2003; Wells 2007) treat *williamsoni* as a tropical representative of the Asian Brown Flycatcher and, indeed, Brown-streaked Flycatchers is not listed by IOC. The taxon *M. dauurica siamensis* appears somewhat intermediate between migratory *M. (d.) dauurica* and *M. (d.) williamsoni*, tending to provide support for such a treatment. An alternative would be to treat *siamensis* and *williamsoni* as conspecific under the older name, *siamensis*, while maintaining long-distance migrant *dauurica* as a separate species.

We have chosen for the time being to continue to treat *williamsoni* as a full species, while retaining *siamensis* as a subspecies of *M. dauurica* until molecular or other evidence relating to these and the related taxon *M. (d.) umbrosa* of NE Borneo permits a definitive interpretation.

87. White-gorgeted Flycatcher *Anthipes monileger* and Rufous-browed Flycatcher *A. solitarius*

In spite of their similarity in behaviour and proportions to some understorey *Ficedula*, these two species lie within the blue flycatcher clade that includes *Niltava* and *Cyornis* (Sangster *et al.* 2010; Zuccon & Ericson 2010 a).

88. Former *Rhinomyias* spp. (Brown-chested Jungle Flycatcher *Cyornis brunneatus*, Fulvous-chested Jungle Flycatcher *C. olivacea* and Grey-chested Jungle Flycatcher *C. umbratilis*)

Sangster *et al.* (2010) found that *Rhinomyias olivacea* and *R. umbratilis* lie within the same clade as *Cyornis*. (A close taxonomic affinity between these genera was long suspected, because of similarity in proportions and behaviour, including song-type.) While *Rhinomyias* itself is polyphyletic, the third species in that genus occurring in Thailand, *R. brunneatus* (not examined by either Sangster *et al.* 2010 or Zuccon & Ericson 2010 a), is here tentatively assumed to cluster with *Cyornis*, as seems likely, but this needs confirmation.

89. Large Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis magnirostris*

Treated as a distinct species by Rasmussen and Anderton (2005) an arrangement also followed by Robson (2008), *C. magnirostris* was formerly regarded as a Himalayan-breeding race of Hill Blue Flycatcher *C. banyumas*. Renner *et al.* (2009) documented the occurrence of *C. magnirostris* in NE Burma, where its breeding range is thought to overlap with *whitei* race Hill Blue Flycatcher. They also performed a detailed morphological comparison with the various Hill Blue Flycatcher races from which *C. magnirostris* differs principally in its longer wing and longer, much stronger bill. Large Blue Flycatcher is a moderate distance migrant that winters in the Thai-Malay Peninsula.

90. White-tailed Flycatcher *Cyornis concretus*

Sangster *et al.* (2010) stated that *concretus* was basal in the blue flycatcher clade though its precise affinities could not be resolved. This species clearly differs from *Cyornis* in its structure and vocalizations.

91. White-bellied Redstart *Luscinia phaenicuroides*

Sangster *et al.* (2010) and & Ericson (2010 a) found that the previous *Luscinia* was polyphyletic. Perhaps surprisingly White-bellied Redstart (formerly *Hodgsonius phaenicuroides*) was sister to Bluethroat *L. svecica*. These two formed a weakly corroborated clade with the nightingales *Luscinia luscinia* and *L. megarhynchos*. This requires further confirmation.

92. Blackthroat *Calliope obscura*

The little-known Blackthroat (formerly *Luscinia obscura*) was not sampled by Sangster *et al.* (2010) who tentatively placed it in *Calliope* on the basis of its similarity in pattern of markings to Firethroat *C. pectardens*.

93. White-tailed Rubythroat *Calliope pectoralis*

This may constitute a complex of two distinct species. The taxon wintering in Thailand, *C. p. tschebaiewi*, differs on plumage (and perhaps also song) from the Himalayan-breeding *C. p. pectoralis*. If this is confirmed it might be separated as *C. tschebaiewi*. Two other central Asian taxa, *C. p. bailloni* and *C. p. confusa* might be presumed to cluster with *tschebaiewi*, but this needs to be investigated.

94. White-tailed Robin *Myiomela leucura*

The race of White-tailed Robin inhabiting the Cardamom Mountains of SW Cambodia, and Khao Soi Dao, SE Thailand, *M. l. cambodiana*, was suggested by Eames *et al* (2002) to be a possible candidate for upgrading to a full species based on minor differences in plumage.

95. Northern White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus sinensis* and Southern White-crowned Forktail *E. leschenaulti*

Two taxa of the former White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti*, lowland *frontalis* and upland *borneensis*, occur in close proximity in Borneo, and are segregated on habitat. Based on mitochondrial DNA, montane birds were more than 4.3% different from all lowland samples (Moyle *et al.* 2005).

Lowland *frontalis* in the Thai-Malay peninsula also differs greatly in size and has strikingly different alarm and contact calls from continental Thai *sinensis* (P. D. Round, own observations). The songs may be expected to differ also, but are strikingly complex and detailed analysis is required. According to Wells (2007) the similarity of juvenile plumages of the lowland Sundaic taxa on the one hand, and of montane *borneensis* with continental *sinensis* on the other, suggests that *E. sinensis* and *E. leschenaulti* are best treated as allospecies.

96. Blue-fronted Robin *Cinclidium frontale*

Although White-tailed Robin *Myiomela leucura* and Blue-fronted Robin *Cinclidium leucurum* are similar, and often grouped together in genus *Cinclidium*, Zuccon & Ericson (2010 a) found that *Myiomela* was sister to *Tarsiger* whereas *Cinclidium* was sister to whistlingthrushes, *Myophonus*.

97. Blue Whistlingthrush *Myophonus caeruleus*

Both Sangster *et al.* (2010) and Zuccon & Ericson (2010 a) show that *Myophonus* are not true thrushes, but are chats, and constitute a sister-group of the forktails, *Enicurus* spp., in the Saxicolinae subfamily of Fam. Muscicapidae.

Migrant, black-billed Blue Whistlingthrushes *M. c. caeruleus* have a consistently different call-note from yellow-billed birds (both the resident *M. c. eugenei* and migrant *M. c. temminckii*) leading to speculation that the black-billed and yellow-billed birds could constitute two separate species.

98. Slaty-backed Flycatcher *Ficedula sordida*

As pointed out by Zuccon (2011) with the transfer of former *Muscicapella hodgsoni* to the genus *Ficedula*, the name *F. hodgsonii* for Slaty-backed Flycatcher becomes preoccupied. The next available name is *Ficedula sordida* (Godwin-Austen 1874).

99. Pygmy Flycatcher *Ficedula hodgsoni*

Formerly Pygmy Blue Flycatcher *Muscicapella hodgsoni*, this species was found to lie in the *Ficedula* clade by Outlaw & Voelker (2006).

100. Green-backed Flycatcher *Ficedula elisae*

We continue to treat this as distinct from Narcissus Flycatcher *F. narcissina*. While recognizing that the plumage characters and songs of *elisae* and nominate *narcissina* are very different, Topfer (2006) recommended retaining *elisae* as a race of Narcissus Flycatcher pending evaluation of the vocalisations of Owston's Flycatcher *F. [n.] owstoni*. This seems an unduly conservative standpoint, since *owstoni*, while green backed, like *elisae*, otherwise resembles *narcissina* much more closely than it does the former. Additionally many observers suspect that the variation among the island forms *shonis*, *jakushima* and *owstoni* of Owston's Flycatcher reveals a hitherto unsuspected diversity, and that Owston's Flycatcher may itself constitute a distinct species complex.

101. Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla*

Treated as distinct from the Red-breasted Flycatcher *F. parva* following AERC TAC (2003). There are no records of Red-breasted Flycatcher *F. parva* for Thailand, nor perhaps elsewhere in SE Asia. *F. parva* winters chiefly in the Indian subcontinent, though it has occurred in Hong Kong.

102. White-capped Redstart *Phoenicurus leucocephalus*, Plumbeous Redstart, *P. fuliginosus*

Both the White-capped Redstart (River Chat) and the Plumbeous Redstart are nested within the *Phoenicurus* clade with the redstarts (Sangster *et al.*, 2010; Zuccon & Ericson 2010 a).

103. Blue Rockthrush *Monticola solitarius*

Zuccon & Ericson (2010 b) found that the East Asian taxa *M. s. pandoo* (blue-breast to vent) and *M. s. philippensis* (chestnut-breast to vent), both of which winter in Thailand, together with resident *M. s. madoci* of the Thai-Malay Peninsula and Sumatra, form a clade distinct from western Eurasian races *M. s. solitarius* and *M. s. longirostris* and they recommended treating the E Asian taxa as a distinct species.

104. Eastern Stonechat *Saxicola stejnegeri*

Zink *et al.* (2009) showed that the Eurasian continental populations of the former *Saxicola torquatus* constitute at least three species, corresponding to a western (*S. rubicolus*), central (*S. maurus*) and an eastern (*S. stejnegeri*) taxon. *S. stejnegeri* is the basal clade. We have long preferred the common name Eastern Stonechat to the more widely used Siberian Stonechat in recognition of the existence of the resident or short-distance migrant, non-Siberian taxon *S. m. przewalskii* which breeds in northern SE Asia including Thailand. *S. m. przewalskii* has not been sampled, though its affinities might well be with *S. maurus* rather than with *S. stejnegeri*.

105. White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Includes the taxa *lugens* and *alboides*, both of which are sometimes split as full species.

106. Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis*

The American Ornithologists' Union (Banks *et al.* 2004) separates "Eastern" Yellow Wagtail (*M. tschutschensis*) from "Western" Yellow Wagtail *M. flava*. Alström and Mild (2003) maintain that there are records of *M. f. thunbergi* for Thailand so that Thailand may support both Eastern and Western Yellow Wagtails. However the identity and taxonomic affinity of the supposed *thunbergi* wagtails wintering in SE Asia is not fully resolved, while there are apparently contradictions in the phylogenetic trees obtained from use of mitochondrial and nuclear DNA (AERC TAC 2003). For the time being, therefore, we do not unequivocally accept that there are records of Western Yellow Wagtail for Thailand.

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