

Proposal Set 2019-E

Establish English names for species split, lumped, or reassigned in 2019

Although many of our 2019 proposals to split (or lump) species included discussion or at least mention of English names, some did not, and committee members often failed to comment on English names even when voting on proposals that did discuss English names. Therefore, English names for all splits and lumps, as well as name changes for two species transferred to a different genus, are formally considered or re-considered in this omnibus proposal.

2019-E-1. *Melanitta fusca/deglandi/stejnegeri* split. We voted to split White-winged Scoter *M. fusca* into three species. In the proposal (2019-A-16), Jon wrote the following:

Velvet Scoter is well-established for the European taxon (*fusca*), and White-winged Scoter has always been used for the North American taxon (*deglandi*). Stejneger's Scoter seems widely used for the Asian subspecies (*stejnegeri*). It acknowledges the many accomplishments of Leonhard Stejneger, the Norwegian-born American natural historian whose discoveries and writings provided seminal information on the ornithology of northeastern Asia. An alternative English name would be a direct translation of the Russian name, *Gorbonosii turpan* = Hook-nosed Scoter. This prominent field mark, especially well-developed on some adult males, is striking in the field and is arguably the best field mark in separating *stejnegeri*, especially at a distance, from *deglandi*.

Velvet Scoter and White-winged Scoter were previously used for *fusca* and *deglandi* when we considered them to be separate species (e.g., AOU 1957). Garner et al. (2004) used Stejneger's Scoter for *stejnegeri*. However, Clements and HBW have adopted the English name Siberian Scoter, although Jon points out that most of the breeding range of *stejnegeri* is in the Russian Far East, not Siberia.

Votes are required on: (a) adopting Velvet Scoter for *M. fusca*, (b) keeping the name White-winged Scoter but transferring it from *M. fusca* to *M. deglandi*, and (c) adopting either Stejneger's Scoter or Siberian Scoter for *M. stejnegeri*.

2019-E-2. *Amazilia saucerottei/hoffmanni* split. We voted to split Steely-vented Hummingbird *A. saucerottei* into two species. The proposal (2019-A-4) contained the following recommendation: "Stiles and Skutch (1989) recommended the English name Blue-vented Hummingbird for the split species and this has been used by Gill and Donsker (2018)." Ridgway (1911) and Cory (1918) used the name Sophia's Hummingbird for this taxon, but that was based on the scientific species name, *sophiae*, in use at the time. No recommendation was made in the proposal regarding the English name of the extralimital *A. saucerottei sensu stricto*, and I suggest that we leave this for SACC to consider.

Votes are required on: (a) adopting Blue-vented Hummingbird for *A. hoffmanni*, and (b)

retaining Steely-vented Hummingbird for the extralimital species *A. saucerottei*, pending action by SACC.

2019-E-3. *Megascops guatemalae/centralis/roraimae* split. We voted to follow SACC in splitting the Vermiculated Screech-Owl *M. guatemalae* into three species. As stated in the proposal (2019-D-1), SACC adopted the English names Choco Screech-Owl for *M. centralis* and Foothill Screech-Owl for *M. roraimae*. *Megascops guatemalae sensu stricto* does not occur in South America; therefore, an English name for this species was not considered. In 2019-D-1, English names were proposed for the daughter taxa of a further split of *guatemalae* into *vermiculatus* and *guatemalae* (Vermiculated Screech-Owl and Guatemalan Screech-Owl, respectively, after Ridgway 1914), but not for the taxon *guatemalae* including *vermiculatus* but not including *centralis* or *roraimae*.

Votes are required on: (a) adopting Choco Screech-Owl for *M. centralis*; (b) adopting Foothill Screech-Owl for the extralimital *M. roraimae* if we (AOU 1998) previously considered this taxon part of *guatemalae*, which it appears we did not; and (c) retaining Vermiculated Screech-Owl for *M. guatemalae* or adopting a new name. Clements is using the English name Middle American Screech-Owl for *M. guatemalae*, and this seems like a good choice if we decide to change.

2019-E-4. *Trogon collaris/aurantiiventris* lump. We voted to merge Orange-bellied Trogon *T. aurantiiventris* into Collared Trogon *T. collaris*. An English name for *T. collaris sensu lato* was not discussed in the proposal (2019-C-9). HBW has lumped these and uses Collared Trogon for the species. Also, Pam pointed out that one of the English names for groups within this species, Bar-tailed Trogon (for the *T. puella* group), is the same as the English name long in use for the African species *Apaloderma vittata*. We need to decide whether we want to change the English name for this group and, if so, to what.

Votes are required on: (a) retaining Collared Trogon as the English name for *T. collaris sensu lato*, and (b) changing the English group name of *T. puella* from Bar-tailed Trogon (suggestions requested if voting YES).

2019-E-5. *Psittacara holochlorus/brevipes* split. We voted to split Green Parakeet *P. holochlorus* into two species. Pam used the widely used English name Socorro Parakeet in the proposal (2019-B-6) to refer to *P. brevipes*. This name was previously used by Ridgway (1916, as Socorro Paroquet), Cory (1918, ditto), Davis (1972), and Howell and Webb (1995), among others, and the new species is endemic to Socorro Island, making the name highly appropriate. It also seems appropriate to continue to use the English name Green Parakeet for the much more widely distributed *P. holochlorus*.

Votes are required on: (a) adopting Socorro Parakeet for *P. brevipes*, and (b) retaining Green Parakeet for *P. holochlorus*.

2019-E-6. *Polioptila albiloris/albiventris* split. We voted to split White-lored Gnatcatcher *P. albiloris* into two species. In the title of her proposal (2019-C-7), Pam used the English name Yucatan Gnatcatcher for *P. albiventris*. This name was previously used for this species by Ridgway (1904), Hellmayr (1934, as a subspecies name), Davis (1972), and presumably others, and the species is endemic to the Yucatan Peninsula, so this name also seems highly appropriate. It also seems appropriate to continue to use the English name White-lored Gnatcatcher, also used by Ridgway and Davis although perhaps not the best English name, for the more widely distributed and familiar *P. albiloris*.

Votes are required on: (a) adopting Yucatan Gnatcatcher for *P. albiventris*, and (b) retaining White-lored Gnatcatcher for *P. albiloris*.

2019-E-7. *Cyanoloxia cyanooides/rothschildi* split. We voted to split the Blue-black Grosbeak *C. cyanooides* into two species, following SACC. In the proposal (2019-C-2), it was recommended that we adopt SACC's English name Amazonian Grosbeak for the widespread Amazonian species *C. rothschildi*. SACC retained the English name Blue-black Grosbeak for *C. cyanooides sensu stricto*, noting that this name had previously been restricted to Middle American forms of *C. cyanooides*. For example, Blue-black Grosbeak was used by Ridgway (1901) for *Cyanocompsa c. concreta* (= *C. cyanooides*), distributed from Mexico south to Costa Rica.

Votes are required on: (a) adopting Amazonian Grosbeak for *C. rothschildi*, and (b) retaining Blue-black Grosbeak for *C. cyanooides*.

2019-E-8. Merger of *Pselliophorus* into *Atlapetes*. With passage of Proposal 2019-B-10a and the merger of *Pselliophorus* into *Atlapetes*, it is worth considering changing the English group names of *A. tibialis* and *A. luteoviridis* from Finch to Brushfinch to match the English group names of all other species in *Atlapetes*. Although I usually favor stability over improvement, in this case I see the following reasons to make this change:

1. To leave them as Finch while all congeners are called Something Brushfinch implies that they somehow differ from their congeners, whereas the point of Klicka et al. (2014) was that they are embedded in the *Atlapetes* and thus is no way "special". If they were sister to all other *Atlapetes*, then that might justify maintaining a separate group name, but they are not.

2. The change from Yellow-thighed Finch and Yellow-green Finch to Yellow-thighed Brushfinch and Yellow-green Brushfinch is a minor change with minimal disturbance to stability. I don't foresee a proclamation of a day of mourning for the loss of the beloved name Yellow-thighed Finch.

3. Just plain "Finch" is basically a useless name, applied mainly to species in the Fringillidae but also rather haphazardly elsewhere, notably in South American Thraupidae. If we make these changes, then that would leave only two species in the Passerellidae called Finch (Large-footed Finch, *Pezopetes capitalis*; Sooty-faced Finch, *Arremon crassirostris*), thus only two steps away from purging the name from the family (and thus closer to being able to sleep through the night knowing that we have made progress for ornithology).

Reasons to vote NO would include the appeal to stability combined with the points that (a) everyone knows that “Finch” conveys no phylogenetic information anyway, (b) the related genus *Arremon* has species called “Brushfinch” (species formerly in *Atlapetes* and *Buarremon*), “Finch”, and “Sparrow” --- so it’s not worth trying to purify *Atlapetes*.

The main reason for the proposal is just for us to go on record one way or another because if we don’t give this some consideration concurrently with the merger of *Pselliophorus* into *Atlapetes*, I guarantee that this will create angst in certain quarters. I recommend a YES on this for reasons 1, 2, and 3 above --- it seems like a relatively painless change to emphasize the larger, more important finding that there is nothing special about these two species that merits retaining a separate last name from their congeners.

Votes required on: changing Yellow-thighed Finch and Yellow-green Finch to Yellow-thighed Brushfinch and Yellow-green Brushfinch, respectively.

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