



Paul A. DeBenedictis (Chair), Jon L. Dunn, Kenn Kaufman, Greg Lasley, J. V. Remsen, Stu Tingley, and Thede Tobish

ABA Checklist Report, 1992

by Paul A. DeBenedictis*

New Species Accepted— Stejneger's Petrel (*Pterodroma longirostris*)

Where. Two, one photographed, 53 mi. WSW Southeast Farallon Island, California.

When. 17 November 1990.

Observers. Bruce Barrett, Keith Hansen, Stephen F. Bailey, Adrian Wander, Bob Richmond, Theodore H. Koundakjian, Christine H. Koundakjian, David Rice, Timothy Steurer, Michael J. Austin, Ed Greaves, Ann Dewart.

Published Details. *American Birds* 1991, 45: 145.

Documentation. Color photographs on file with California Bird Records Committee, one published in *American Birds* 1991, 45: 174.

Identification. Extensive field work by many workers, including several observers of this bird, has substantially refined identification of *Pterodroma* and "Cookilaria" petrels in the field. In particular, the two-part series by Don Roberson and Stephen F.

Bailey (*American Birds* 1992, 45: 399–402, 1067–1081) provides a current summary of field identification and distribution of these petrels.

Origin. Breeds in the South Pacific on the Juan Fernandez Islands off Chile, and migrates to the temperate North Pacific during its non-breeding season. Reports from off the Pacific Coast of North America, all far offshore, range from early July to late November.

Motion to add. DeBenedictis/Dunn.

Vote. 7/0.

Placement on the ABA Checklist. Insert between Cook's Petrel and Streaked Shearwater.

Status: A. **Birding code:** 5.

Note. The ABA Checklist Committee did not reconsider a 1979 report (McCaskie, G., and D. Roberson. 1992. First record of the Stejneger's Petrel in California. *Western Birds* 23: 145–152), which ultimately was not accepted by our committee (*Birding* 1991, 23: 194–195). We generally follow the decisions of state and provincial bird records committees, however, once a species is accepted for the *ABA Checklist*. The 1990 record is surprising only in the eleven-year interval between it and the first report. Stejneger's Petrels have been reported on several occasions (including five specimens collected early this century) from not far outside the 200-mile offshore limit.

Tufted Flycatcher (*Mitrephanes phaeocercus*), left, was added to the ABA Checklist on the basis of this bird, present at Big Bend National Park, Texas, from 3 November 1991 to 17 January 1992. Since then, an additional individual was photographed in west Texas in April 1993. This photograph was made by Mary Gustafson.

This supplement

to the fourth edition of the *ABA Checklist* reports all changes adopted since our last report (*Birding* 1992, 24: 280–286). With this report, the *ABA Checklist* contains 884 species, of which the origin of three is uncertain. For convenience, we refer to the AOU Committee on Nomenclature and Classification as the "AOU Checklist Committee" throughout. All observers who submitted documentation that was examined by our committee are listed in the accounts of species; those who discovered the bird are listed first.

New Species Accepted

Stejneger's Petrel
Pin-tailed Snipe
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Monk Parakeet
Tufted Flycatcher
Pine Bunting

New Species Not Accepted

Kermadec Petrel
Great Tit

Species Removed from List

Ringed Turtle-Dove

Species Retained on List

Mugimaki Flycatcher

Change in Status

Bridled Tern

New Species, Origin Uncertain

White-chinned Petrel
Band-tailed Gull
Black Catbird

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**New Species Accepted—
Pin-tailed Snipe
(*Gallinago stenura*)**

Where. Attu Island, Alaska.

When. 25 May 1991.

Observers. Multiple unnamed observers.

Published Details. D. D. Gibson and B. Kessel. *Condor* 1992, 94: 458.

Documentation. Specimen in the University of Alaska Museum (UAM 5820) identified by D. D. Gibson.

Identification. Identification is based on the collected specimen. The ABA Checklist Committee is not yet convinced that this species can be safely distin-

guished from all other species of Asiatic snipe, especially Swinhoe's Snipe (*Gallinago megala*), in the field.

Origin. Migratory, breeding in northern Asia and wintering in southeastern Asia.

Motion to add. Tobish/DeBenedictis.

Vote. 7/0.

Placement on the ABA Checklist. Insert after Common Snipe. *Status:* A. *Birding code:* 5.

**New Species Accepted—
Eurasian Collared-Dove
(*Streptopelia decaocto*)**

Where. Was introduced into the Bahamas and subsequently

colonized Florida, where now resident nearly throughout the state, with reports as far away as Georgia, Louisiana, and Arkansas. Further range expansion is to be expected.

Published Details. P. W. Smith. *American Birds* 1987, 41: 1370–1379.

Documentation. Specimens reported by P. W. Smith and H. W. Kale, II (*Florida Field Naturalist* 1986, 14: 104–107). Photographs reproduced in *American Birds* (*op. cit.*).

Identification. This species closely resembles and sometimes hybridizes with Ringed Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia "risoria"*). Its



WAYNE HOFFMAN

Eurasian Collared-Doves (Streptopelia decaocto) have increased rapidly since their initial colonization of south Florida, and they are now found north to Georgia and west to Louisiana. These birds were photographed in Kendall, Florida, in December 1993.

field marks, including its distinctive vocalizations, are discussed in the *American Birds* reference and in *Birding* 1988, 20: 311–312.

Origin. Native to Eurasia. The American populations apparently have spread naturally from an inadvertent introduction of the species into the Bahamas. This species was considered by an earlier committee, which tabled the motion until evidence of its nesting in the ABA Checklist Area became available. Field work for the Florida breeding bird atlas reported by W. B. Robertson and G. E. Woolfenden (1993. *Florida Bird Species*. Florida Ornithological Society Special Publication No. 6) finally has provided the data required to add this species to the ABA Checklist.

Motion to add. Gill/Kaufman.
Vote. 7/0.

Placement on the ABA Checklist. Replaces Ringed Turtle-Dove, *q.v.* **Status:** I. **Birding code:** 2.

New Species Accepted— Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*)

Where. Introduced to Florida and Texas, perhaps elsewhere.

Published Details. W. J. Neidemyer and J. J. Hickey (1977. The Monk Parakeet in the U.S., 1970–75. *American Birds* 1977, 32: 273–278); W. B. Robertson and G. E. Woolfenden (*op. cit.*).

Documentation. Robertson and Woolfenden (*op. cit.*) report two Florida specimens.



JAY QUINTERO

Monk Parakeets (Myiopsitta monachus) are a highly adaptable species with groups found in a wide variety of regions in North America—in spite of local attempts to eliminate them as agricultural pests. The ABA Checklist Committee voted to accept this introduced species based on populations established in Florida and Texas. Photographed October 1990 in Kendall, Florida.

Identification. A green-backed, gray-bellied parakeet.

Origin. Resident in southern South America. This species began to appear frequently in the wild bird trade during the 1960s and was widely reported in the wild in North America after the early 1970s. Since then, small groups have persisted along the Atlantic coast from

southern New England south to the Carolinas and perhaps elsewhere, but most of these populations appear to depend on feeders to survive winters; additionally, some populations are actively persecuted as potential agricultural pests, as in New York state. In contrast, Robertson and Woolfenden (*op. cit.*) reported large, apparently growing populations in southeastern Florida, with additional smaller populations scattered elsewhere in that state. The species also is accepted on the Texas list by the Texas Bird Records Committee. It is locally common in Austin and there are known populations in Houston. It has been found in many other areas of the state, where its numbers seem to be increasing slowly. The ABA Checklist Committee would not have admitted this species to the ABA Checklist had not the Florida and Texas populations been reported. The dissenting vote reflected a belief that such a decision was premature. The entire committee feels a certain unease when dealing with introductions of parrots, discussed in greater detail below. Because our policy is to accept decisions of local bird record committees once a species is admitted to the ABA Checklist, birders should check with local bird records committees when deciding whether Monk Parakeets seen away from Florida and

Texas may be counted when reporting list totals.

Motion to add. DeBenedictis/Dunn.

Vote. 6/1.

Placement on the ABA Checklist. Insert between Budgerigar and Carolina Parakeet. *Status:* I. *Birding code:* 2.

New Species Accepted— Tufted Flycatcher

(*Mitrephanes phaeocercus*)

Where. Rio Grande Village, Big Bend National Park, Brewster County, Texas.

When. 3 November 1991–17 January 1992.

Observers. Barbara Duplisea, James S. Phelps, Barry Zimmer, Chuck Sexton, Greg Lasley, Michael J. Austin, Tony and Phyllis Frank, Jon Dunn, Carl B. Haynie, Jack and Elaine Morman, Eric VanderWerf, Bruce Hallett, Mel and Arlie Cooksey, Kelly Bryan, Mary Gustafson, and many others.

Published Details. B. Zimmer and K. Bryan. *American Birds* 1993, 47: 48–50.

Documentation. Photographs published in above reference and in *American Birds* 1992, 46: 167, and deposited in VIREO (L07/12/007–009); tape recording of calls deposited at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas.

Identification. This crested, *Empidonax*-like flycatcher with cinnamon underparts is readily distinguished from other flycatchers when seen well. The

paler Buff-breasted Flycatcher (*E. fulvifrons*) lacks the distinct titmouse-like crest of this species. Of two crested flycatchers from southern Mexico, the Pileated Flycatcher (*Aechmolphus mexicanus*) looks essentially gray in the field, and the Belted Flycatcher (*Xenotriccus callizonus*) has a pale chin, throat, and belly contrasting with its cinnamon chest.

Origin. Resident or short-distance migrant at higher elevations from northern Mexico south to the northern Andes of South America, replaced by a close relative (sometimes treated as conspecific), the Olive Flycatcher (*M. olivaceus*), in the central Andes of South America.

Motion to add. Lasley/DeBenedictis.

Vote. 7/0.

Placement on the ABA Checklist. Insert between Caribbean Elaenia and Olive-sided Flycatcher. *Status:* A. *Birding code:* 5.

New Species Accepted— Pine Bunting

(*Emberiza leucocephala*)

Where. Attu Island, Alaska.

When. 19 November 1985.

Observer. George F. Wagner.

Published Details. G. F. Wagner. *American Birds* 1990, 44: 1089–1091.

Documentation. Photograph by Wagner in VIREO.

Identification. Males are readily identified by their dark supercilium and throat, white crown (sometimes obscured in



SANFORD KOMITO

the winter) and auricular patch, and orangish breast and sides, but females are easily confused with other *Emberiza* species. This record initially was circulated with a single photograph obtained from VIREO, unsuitable for publication, depicting a male apparently in winter plumage but not showing the crown clearly. During the second round, two additional photographs by Wagner, of similar quality, were supplied by Dunn. The three photographs in aggregate show all the markings diagnostic of this species. The dissenting vote in the final round reflected the view that, although the photographs were suggestive of this species, their quality was insufficient to admit a new



The first North American Pine Bunting (*Emberiza leucocephala*) was seen and photographed by a single observer on Attu Island, Alaska, 19 November 1985. The second—shown here—was seen and photographed by many observers on Attu, 6 October 1993.

species to the ABA Checklist. The AOU Check-list Committee also has accepted this record.

Origin. Migratory, breeding in northern Asia and wintering in central Asia.

Motion to add. Tobish/DeBenedictis.

Votes. 5/2, 6/1.

Placement on the ABA Checklist. Insert between Chestnut-collared Longspur and Little Bunting. *Status:* A. *Birding code:* 5.

New Species Not Accepted—Kermadec Petrel (*Pterodroma neglecta*)

Where. Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Pennsylvania.

When. 3 October 1959.

Observers. Donald S. Heintzelman, many others.

Published Details. D. S. Heintzelman. *Wilson Bulletin* 1961, 73: 262–267.

Documentation. Photographs in above article and in the *Linnaean Society Newsletter* 1960, 8(7): 1–3.

Identification. This controversial report of a species normally confined to the Pacific Ocean was brought to a vote because several recent publications have advocated accepting it as the first North American record of a Kermadec Petrel, which otherwise is reported from the Atlantic only by a now generally discredited specimen from Great Britain. Although its contending identification as a Herald Petrel (*P. arminjoniana*) is more likely on geographic grounds, a record

of Buller's Shearwater (*Puffinus bulleri*) off New Jersey demonstrates that geographic consideration should not preclude any possibility in such wide-ranging species as petrels and shearwaters. Considerable new data on field identification of dark *Pterodroma* petrels has become available, but none of the markings visible on the various published photographs, of which we have been unable to examine the originals, are diagnostic of either species. Based on the available information, our Committee concluded that this bird probably cannot be conclusively identified to species. Kermadec Petrel currently is included on the AOU Check-list on the basis of records from Hawaii and Middle America, and the species may yet appear off the Pacific coast of the continental U.S.

Motion to add. DeBenedictis/Tingley.

Vote. 3–3, 0–7.

New Species Not Accepted—Great Tit (*Parus major*)

Where. Little Diomed Island, Alaska.

When. 2 September 1988.

Documentation. Details for this report have never been published.

Identification. Documentation for this report consists of three observers' notes describing a bird seen briefly under trying conditions. Two sets of notes are sufficient only to

verify that all observers apparently saw the same bird. The remaining notes suggest that some form of Great Tit was seen, but its identity even to sub-specific group could not be clearly established from the description provided. After two rounds, the majority of the committee felt that this documentation was too weak to admit this species to the *ABA Checklist*. Alaska authorities and the AOU Checklist Committee require some form of tangible evidence before admitting a species to the Alaska and North American lists, respectively, and also exclude this species from these lists.

Origin. Widespread in the Palearctic region. Northern populations are partially migratory or irruptive..

Motion to add. Tobish/DeBenedictis.

Vote. 3/4, 1/6.

Species Removed from List— Ringed Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia "risoria"*)

Reasons for removal. There appear to be no self-sustaining populations of this "species," which is currently believed to be a domestic strain of African Collared-Dove (*S. roseogrisea*), anywhere in North America (or in the world, for that matter). The "species" was removed from the California list by the California Bird Records Committee as being not established (although long persistent) in that state, as

it has disappeared from many former localities and is declining everywhere. Robertson and Woolfenden (*op. cit.*) report Florida populations everywhere to be dependent on feeding by humans and to be decreasing due to competition from expanding populations of Eurasian Collared-Doves and hybridization with them. That species replaces this one on the *ABA Checklist*. Ephemeral populations and escapes from captivity appear widely but seldom persist long.

Motion (to delete). Dunn/DeBenedictis.

Votes. 7/0.

Species Retained on List— Mugimaki Flycatcher (*Ficedula mugimaki*)

Motion to delete. (Gibson/Remsen). This motion failed after three circulations (3/4, 2/4, 2/5). Normally, a motion of this nature would be treated as an internal Committee matter as, in this case, its outcome had no effect on the *ABA Checklist*. A full history of this record has never been published, however, and a more detailed account is deemed desirable. The initial motion to add the species by Daniel Gibson and Frank Gill in 1985 was based on a bird seen and photographed by D. W. Sonneborn at Shemya Island, Alaska, on 24 May 1985. The photographs and description are of a "female"-plumaged bird. Two of the three photographs show the bird face on and no di-

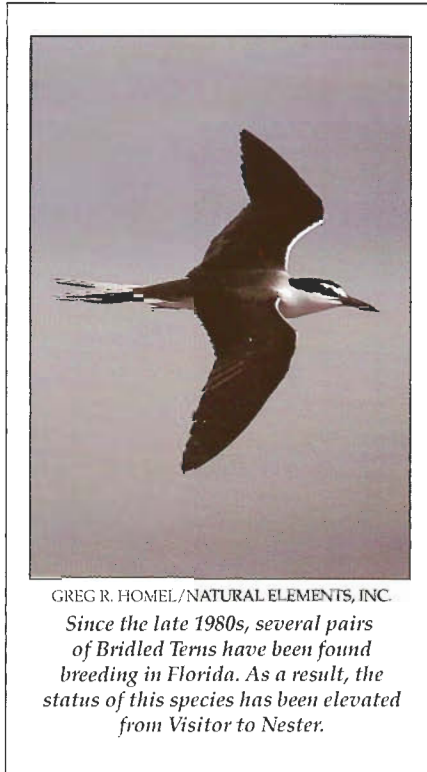
agnostic marks are visible in them. The third photograph is a distant, slightly out-of-focus side-view that was substantially more useful. Expert opinion by Kaufman, Steve Hilty, and Joe T. Marshall all agreed that the photographs depicted a bird consistent with a female or first-year male Mugimaki Flycatcher, a species that nests in northeast Asia and winters in southeast Asia. A presumably non-migratory species, Rufous-chested (or Orange-breasted) Flycatcher (*Ficedula dumetoria*), from lowland evergreen forests of southeast Asia also matched the features visible in the photographs. Mugimaki Flycatcher was added to the *ABA Checklist* by a 6/1 vote, and appears without details in the 1986 *ABA Checklist* supplement. In 1988, Gibson and Remsen moved to remove this species from the *ABA Checklist* on the grounds that the photographs were inconclusive. A non-decisive vote was followed by a tabling of the motion, until DeBenedictis, prompted by a desire to resolve the question before publication of the Fourth Edition of the *ABA Checklist*, re-examined the file and was able to digitize and enhance the slide showing the bird from the side. This enlargement established that the gender of this bird is indeterminate (because it lacks small white postocular spots sometimes seen in young males) and suggested that the color

pattern agrees better (but inconclusively) with that of a Mugimaki Flycatcher. Further, the slide shows a wing/bill ratio substantially beyond the range expected for *F. dumetoria* and, thus, the photographs are conclusive. Although not all committee members who voted against this motion necessarily agreed with DeBenedictis's analysis, after two additional circulations the Committee stood by its original decision to admit the species on the *ABA Checklist*. Several Alaskan authorities and the AOU Checklist Committee, as is their prerogative, continue to regard this report as insufficiently well documented for inclusion on their checklists, although our proceedings have been resubmitted to the AOU.

Change in Status— Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus*)

Status. Change V to N.

Reason for change. This species is well established as a migrant in warm waters of the Gulf Stream, with small numbers also seen well offshore in the Gulf of Mexico. Breeding in the ABA Checklist Area now has been confirmed in Monroe County, Florida, during at least three different years (Robertson and Woolfenden, *op. cit.*; *American Birds* 1993, 47: 379–381). Correspondingly, the status of this species has been elevated from Visitor to Nester; its Birding Code is unchanged.



GREG R. HOMEL/NATURAL ELEMENTS, INC.

Since the late 1980s, several pairs of Bridled Terns have been found breeding in Florida. As a result, the status of this species has been elevated from Visitor to Nester.

Motion. Remsen/
DeBenedictis.

Vote. 6/0.

New Status Category—

Origin Uncertain. A bane of bird records committees are reports of birds whose natural occurrence within a checklist area is uncertain. Usually, such records spend long periods under debate, with little expectation that the controversy can be resolved unless additional records that establish a pattern of occurrence are obtained. Unfortunately, failure to publicize records also may discourage

observers from submitting the information needed to determine the true status of these species. Several such records are before the ABA Checklist Committee, but rather than await future records, our Committee has decided to create an additional status category—“Origin Uncertain”—for such species. For admission to this category, identity of the species must be accepted unanimously and a majority of the committee must be willing to accept the species as a naturally occurring member of the avifauna of the ABA Area. These requirements allow us to continue to reject a species for inclusion on the *ABA Checklist* on the basis of its probable assisted origin, while we also may continue to add a species as a full member of the *ABA Checklist* when it receives only a single vote questioning its natural origin. We intend to list species accepted as “Origin Uncertain” in a separate Appendix to the next edition of the *ABA Checklist*, and we leave it to the Rules Committee to decide whether such species may be counted when reporting list totals. We have not completely determined all of the mechanics of placing species in this status, except that it will be done on a case-by-case basis and that new evidence shall be required before a species once placed in this category can be reconsidered for the main list. Species



MARTIN REID



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Band-tailed Gulls (Larus belcheri) are denizens of the Pacific coast of South America. Several documented records from Florida have put this species in the new category of "Origin Uncertain" on the ABA Checklist. These Band-tailed Gulls, in a variety of plumages, were photographed in Arica, Chile, in February 1990.

added to the *ABA Checklist* under this new status category in this and future reports will be reported as "New Species, Origin Uncertain."

**New Species, Origin Uncertain—
White-chinned Petrel
(*Procellaria aequinoctialis*)**

Where. 2 mi. N Rollover Pass, Galveston County, Texas.

When. 27 April 1986.

Observer. Lynn Forster.

Published Details. *American Birds* 1986, 40: 495.

Documentation. Photographs by Allan Mueller in VIREO.

Identification. Originally identified as those of a Sooty Shearwater, the photographs

show the heavy pale bill and pale chin diagnostic of this species. Unfortunately, the specimen was not preserved.

Origin. Southern oceans. The report of this bird, found moribund in the surf and taken to a rehabilitation center, is the only one north of the Equator of a species largely confined to cool Antarctic waters. This species was added to the Texas list unanimously by the Texas Bird Records Committee and accepted by a majority of the ABA Checklist Committee. The dissenting votes stressed the proximity of this record to one of the major sea ports in the United States, where the possibility of

ship-assisted transport seems especially high and in waters especially unsuitable for a species that prefers colder waters, and provided anecdotal evidence (e.g., Murphy, R. C. 1936. *Oceanic Birds of South America*. v. II. New York: Macmillan. pp. 641–647) as to the ease with which one of these petrels might be captured. The date is slightly early for northward migrating shearwaters on the Atlantic coast at this latitude. If additional records are forthcoming, this quandary probably will be resolved.

Motion to add. Lasley/DeBenedictis.

Vote. 5/2.

**New Species, Origin
Uncertain—
Band-tailed Gull
(*Larus belcheri*)**

Where. Near Pensacola, Florida; and near Marco Island, Collier County, Florida (two or three reports).

When. September 1968; 6 June 1970, 11 November 1974–26 January 1975, and 5 January–early March 1976.

Observer. Unidentified observers (Pensacola record); Clark S. Olson, Brian J. Catley, multiple other observers (Marco Island records).

Published Details. C. S. Olson. *Auk* 1976, 93: 176–177; H. M. Stevenson. *Florida Field Naturalist* 1980, 8: 21–22; *American Birds* 1975, 29: 680–683; and 1976, 30: 709.

Documentation. Specimen in Tall Timbers Research Station (No. 3757); photographs in above articles.

Identification. A dark-mantled gull with a black-tipped tail in adult plumage. It closely resembles Olog's Gull (*Larus atlanticus*) from the Atlantic coast of southern South America, with which it was considered conspecific until recently.

Origin. Pacific coast of South America. None of these birds showed obvious signs of being held captive prior to their discovery, nor could a source for escaped captives be located. The specimen and all photographs clearly are of Band-tailed, not Olog's, Gulls. The Band-tailed Gull inhabits Humboldt Current waters, where it is subject to the effects of El Niño conditions that promote sporadic dispersal from its normal range. Under these conditions it has strayed north to the Bay of Panama. To reach Florida, however, this species must cross the Isthmus of Panama, a feat one can easily

imagine facilitated by ship-assisted transport. As there is no clear seasonal pattern to the reports, our Committee ultimately decided to treat the species as "Origin Uncertain." Undoubted records of this species crossing Panama or from Caribbean waters probably will be required to resolve the status of Band-tailed Gull in the ABA Area. This species currently is included on the Florida list by Robertson and Woolfenden (*op. cit.*) and is accepted on the *AOU Checklist* based on the Panama and, tentatively, Florida records.

Motion to add. Lasley/DeBenedictis.
Vote. 5/2.

**New Species, Origin
Uncertain—
Black Catbird
(*Melanoptila glabrirostris*)**

Where. Brownsville, Texas.

When. 21 June 1892.

Observer. Frank Armstrong.

Published Details. H. S. Oberholser. 1974. *The Bird Life of Texas*. p. 648.

Documentation. Specimen in Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (No. 42944).

Identification. This entirely glossy-black catbird is treated in various Mexican field guides.

Origin. Resident on the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico, in Belize, and in Guatemala. This record generally has been dismissed as a specimen that has been mislabeled, even though Armstrong appears not to have collected birds in Mexico until about 1895. Further, this species is thought to be sedentary and is unknown from the east coast of Mexico north of the Yucatan. The recent appearance of a Yucatan Vireo (*Vireo magister*) in Texas prompted the Texas Bird Records Committee to reconsider this report, which was

accepted as a valid record by that body. A minority of the ABA Checklist Committee found this record too unbelievable on distributional grounds to accept, and as there are no original field notes accompanying this report, it is unlikely that its true status ever will be resolved. Hence, the Committee agreed to accept the species as "Origin Uncertain" pending additional data that might someday resolve this question.

Motion to add. Lasley/DeBenedictis.

Vote. 5/2, 4/3.

Introductions

The ABA Checklist Committee has found it extraordinarily difficult to obtain information on the status of introduced species. Thus, the summary of Florida's "outdoor avian menagerie" provided by Robertson and Woolfenden (*op. cit.*) has been especially helpful. Black Francolin, Blue-gray Tanager, Red-crested Cardinal, and Java Sparrow are identified as clearly not established in Florida (or elsewhere in the ABA Checklist Area). Marginal populations of Common Peafowl, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Black-hooded Parakeet, Blue-crowned Parakeet, Red-masked Parakeet, Dusky-headed Parakeet, Chestnut-fronted Macaw, Red-crowned Parrot, Orange-winged Parrot, Common Myna, and Hill Myna mostly are confined to southeastern Florida, and feral Muscovy Duck populations are considered to be established in the same area. Populations of most of these species, especially the parrots, appear to be dependent in varying degrees on direct support by humans, and their numbers may reflect their availability in the wild-bird trade more than changes in the size

of naturalized populations. Black-hooded Parakeet and Common Myna appear to be the most likely candidates to become established members of our avifauna. The growth (and decline) of such populations provides the opportunity to study a variety of interesting ecological questions and deserves better study by professionals and amateurs alike than it has received (see Smith, P.W., and S. Smith. 1993. An exotic dilemma for birders: The Canary-winged Parakeet. *Birding* 25: 426-430).

Reporting New ABA Area Birds

The process by which additions make their way onto the *ABA Checklist* has never been clearly elucidated. This section briefly summarizes what you should do when you find that insanely great new bird. First and foremost, it is important to document the record as completely as you are capable. We highly recommend Donna L. Dittmann and Greg W. Lasley's article "How to Document Rare Birds" (*Birding* 1992, 24: 145-160) as a starting point, and cannot over-emphasize that proficiency in this task comes with practice (on commoner birds). Do not assume that other observers will submit documentation for a bird you observed. Do it yourself. Photographs and tape recordings should be submitted to a permanent repository such as VIREO (and by law specimens must be so deposited). Documentation initially should be submitted to the state or provincial bird records committee that treats the geographical area from which the record was obtained; if no such committee exists, then we encourage you to advocate the formation of one in that area. A compilation of North American bird records committees has been published by D. Roberson (*Birding* 1990, 22: 276-284); updated addresses for committee secretaries can be found in the Fall 1993 ABA Sales catalog. Once documentation is obtained, our Committee will accept reports directly from observers but we always attempt to work with a local bird records committee to obtain a preliminary review of the record. After a review is completed by a local committee, the ABA Checklist Committee requests copies of the materials submitted to that

local committee, and may solicit additional expert opinion and supporting evidence. Well-documented reports generally move through our committee quickly. You can expedite the process by informing your local committee of our potential interest in your record(s). Reports may be submitted to any current member of the ABA Checklist Committee.

Members of the ABA Checklist Committee now serve six-year non-renewable terms. With this report, Kenn Kaufman ends his much-appreciated service to the committee. We thank him for his many years of hard work and will miss his incisive commentary on reviews of difficult and easy records alike. Donna L. Dittmann has agreed to serve on the ABA Checklist Committee effective in 1993.

Work in Progress

The committee is currently considering or preparing for deliberation the following motions: to delete Scarlet Ibis, and to add Soft-plumaged Petrel, Himalayan Snowcock, Collared Plover, Yellow-legged Gull, European Turtle-Dove, and Worthen's Sparrow. We have recommended to the AOU Check-list Committee that the English name of *Parula americana* revert to its historical name of Parula Warbler but will not act formally unless both committees agree to that change. A preliminary vote by the International Ornithological Congress' Working Group to Standardize the English Names of Birds of the World has been taken, but its results are not yet available; no action in this area will be taken by our Committee until recommendations are made by the former group.



When You Want To Know More

IFO 1994 Season

WARBLERS

Jon Dunn

June 26 - July 2



SEABIRDS

Charles Duncan & Richard Eakin

July 30 - August 6



SHOREBIRDS

Wayne Petersen

August 7 - 13



RAPTORS AT CAPE MAY POINT

Clay Sutton

October 23 - 29

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