

# AERC TAC's TAXONOMIC RECOMMENDATIONS 2011 report



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## Introduction

This document constitutes the official 2011 AERC TAC recommendations for species-level systematics and nomenclature of Western Palearctic birds. For full information on the TAC and its history, please refer to the documents on the AERC web page [www.aerc.eu](http://www.aerc.eu), including the minutes of the AERC meetings ([www.aerc.eu/Minutes.htm](http://www.aerc.eu/Minutes.htm)) and the TAC pages ([www.aerc.eu/tac.html](http://www.aerc.eu/tac.html)).

**The format of this document follows the previous TAC recommendations (Crochet et al. 2010), which see for details.**

The TAC has five members: Taxonomic Sub-committee of the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (BOURC-TSC, UK), Commission de l'Avifaune Française (CAF, France), Swedish Taxonomic Committee (STC, Sweden), Commissie Systematiek Nederlandse Avifauna (CSNA, Netherlands) and Kommission Artenliste der Vögel Deutschlands der Deutschen Ornithologen-Gesellschaft (German TC, Germany). As decided previously (see introduction to AERC TAC 2003), systematic changes are based on decisions published by, or directly passed to the TAC chairman, by these taxonomic committees (TCs).

In this document, the **support** for each case is given as **yes / no / not addressed**.

Note that several TAC members sent some of their votes directly to the TAC chairman, either without publishing a decision on the case (when this did not affect their national list) or prior to the publication of their own decisions in order not to delay the publication of the TAC recommendations. **There might thus be some discrepancy between the support indicated here and the “relevant taxonomic committee publications” section;** this is not necessarily a mistake.

**The species sequence** (the higher-level systematics i.e. the family and order names and the order of the species in the species list) has still largely not been addressed by the AERC TAC. This document and the corresponding list of birds of the Western Palearctic thus still follow the sequence in Voous (1973; 1977a; b) except for a few decisions adopted by the AERC here or in the previous report. This species sequence and the corresponding higher-level systematics are now known to grossly misrepresent avian species relationships in many cases and updating them remains a major task for the TAC.

**Systematics below the species rank** is not part of the TAC remit. Subspecies lists that are given for some cases are based on the “Handbook of the Birds of the World” series (Lynx Edicions, Barcelona) and are purely indicative. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the TAC members.

**Authorship** follows the same convention as in Crochet et al. (2010): in addition to the two chairmen of the TAC, members of the national taxonomic committees who were responsible for the decisions that fed into the report are listed in alphabetic order. This should not be interpreted as suggesting that they support every individual conclusion contained here. Authors acknowledge here the contributions of C. J. Hazevoet.

This document is certainly not free from mistakes. One of the advantages of posting it on the web is that mistakes can easily be corrected, so please **send any comments, suggestions or corrections** to Pierre-André Crochet ([pierre-andre.crochet@cefe.cnrs.fr](mailto:pierre-andre.crochet@cefe.cnrs.fr)).

## AERC TAC 2011 new recommendations

### **Hazel Grouse *Tetrastes bonasia*** (was *Bonasa bonasia*)

Support: 4/0/1. This treatment is supported by four TAC members; the BOURC-TSC did not address it.

Relevant taxonomic committee publications: Helbig (2005; in Bauer et al. 2005, Germany), Jirle et al. (2010, on behalf of the STC).

### **Tropical Shearwater *Puffinus bailloni*** (split from extralimital *P. lherminieri*; polytypic: *bailloni*, *persicus* and several extralimital subspecies)

Support: 4/0/1. The split of *persicus* and *bailloni* from *P. lherminieri* is supported by four TAC members; the BOURC-TSC did not address it. In addition, several TCs treat *persicus* as specifically distinct from *bailloni*, but this treatment is not endorsed by all TAC members. Jirle et al. (2010) provisionally left *bailloni* in *P. lherminieri*, a treatment that will be amended in the next STC report.

Relevant taxonomic committee publications: Jirle et al. (2010, on behalf of the STC).

### **Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer*** (was *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*)

Notice the correct spelling: the species was described as *Ciconia crumenifera*, in which *crumenifera* is adjectival; *crumenifer* is the usual masculine form (David & Gosselin 2011).

### **Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinicus*** (was *Porphyrio martinica*)

Notice the correct spelling: the species was described as *Fulica martinica*; according to David & Gosselin (2011), *martinica* is adjectival and must thus agree in gender with the masculine generic name *Porphyrio*.

### **Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*** (was *Heteroscelus brevipes*)

### **Willet *Tringa semipalmata*** (was *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*)

Support: 5/0/0. These treatments are favoured by all five TAC members.

Relevant taxonomic committee publications: Helbig (2005; in Bauer et al. 2005, Germany), Sangster et al. (2007, on behalf of the BOURC-TSC), Sangster et al. (2009, on behalf of the CSNA), Jirle et al. (2010, on behalf of the STC).

### **Species sequence of *Tringa* and related genera**

Phylogenetic relationships of *Tringa* and related genera based on mitochondrial and nuclear sequence data have been examined by Pereira and Baker (2005) and Gibson (2010). These studies offer a tentative arrangement of the species on the WP list as follows:

- Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*
- Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
- Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*
- Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*
- Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*
- Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*
- Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*
- Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*
- Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
- Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*
- Willet *Tringa semipalmata*
- Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*
- Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
- Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

**Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*** (monotypic)

**Brown Skua *Stercorarius antarcticus*** (split from *S. skua*; extralimital, polytypic: *hamiltoni*, *lonnbergi* and *antarcticus*)

**South Polar Skua *Stercorarius maccormicki*** (monotypic)

**Chilean Skua *Stercorarius chilensis*** (extralimital, monotypic)

Support: 5/0/0. This treatment is favoured by all five TAC members.

Relevant taxonomic committee publications: Kjellen & Olsson (1995) and Anderson et al. (2007) for STC; Sangster et al. (2011, on behalf of the BOURC-TSC).

**Tufted Puffin *Fratercula cirrhata*** (was *Lunda cirrhata*)

Support: 4/0/1. This treatment is favoured by four TAC members; the CSNA did not address it.

Relevant taxonomic committee publications: Sangster et al. (2011, on behalf of BOURC-TSC).

**African Collared Dove *Streptopelia risoria*** (was *S. roseogrisea*)

A purely nomenclatural change. *Streptopelia risoria* (Linnaeus, 1758), based on the domesticated form, has priority over *Streptopelia roseogrisea* (Sundevall, 1857). The International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature (2008, Opinion 2215) rejected a proposal to conserve the junior synonym (Donegan 2007).

**Nanday Parakeet *Aratinga nenday*** (was *Nandayus nenday*)

Ribas and Miyaki (2004) have clearly showed that Nanday Parakeet is closely related to the *solstitialis* species group of the genus *Aratinga*, and that recognising a monotypic genus *Nandayus* for Nanday Parakeet renders *Aratinga* paraphyletic. They therefore suggest treating Nanday Parakeet as a member of the genus *Aratinga*, a proposal formally accepted here.

Support: this case has not been addressed by any TC yet but has been discussed within the TAC and this treatment is accepted by all TC members.

**Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*** (polytypic: *riparia*, *shelleyi*, *eilata* and extralimital *innominata* and *ijimae*)

**Pale Martin *Riparia diluta*** (split from *R. riparia*; extralimital, polytypic: *diluta*, *gavrilovi*, *transbaykalica*, *indica*, *fohkienensis* and *tibetana*).

Support: 5/0/0. This treatment is favoured by all five TAC members.

Relevant taxonomic committee publications: Sangster et al. (2011, on behalf of the BOURC-TSC).

**Banded Martin *Neophedina cincta*** (was *Riparia cincta*)

Based on Sheldon et al. (2005), Banded Martin is clearly not a *Riparia*, but forms a clade with Mascarene Martin *Phedina borbonica* and Brazza's Martin *Phedina brazzae*. This *cincta* + *Phedina* clade is the sister group of all other 'core martins', including Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* and Brown-throated Martin *R. paludicola*. Two nomenclatural options are possible to accommodate this result: move Banded Martin to the genus *Phedina* or use the monotypic genus *Neophedina* for *cincta*. The second option (*Neophedina cincta*) is preferred here as *borbonica* and *cincta* are genetically more divergent (by 12.8 %) than many Hirundinidae genus and *cincta* has several morphological characters (large size, distinct bill and nostril shape, sharp loreal bristles) and behavioural characters (lack of coloniality) that separates it from *Phedina* martins.

Support: this case has not been addressed by any TC yet but has been discussed within the TAC and this treatment is accepted by all TC members.

**Streak-throated Swallow *Petrochelidon fluvicola*** (was *Hirundo fluvicola*)

Support: 5/0/0. This treatment is favoured by all five TAC members.

Relevant taxonomic committee publications: Jirle et al. (2010, on behalf of the STC).

This species has been added to the Western Palearctic list after the genera of swallows and martins have been addressed by the TAC, hence its exclusion from previous TAC recommendations.

### **Species sequence of Hirundinidae**

Based on current published phylogenies of Hirundinidae (Sheldon et al. 2005, Pavlova et al. 2008, Dor et al. 2010), the species of swallows and martins currently on the WP list should be listed as follows:

Banded Martin *Neophedina cincta*  
Brown-throated Martin *Riparia paludicola*  
Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*  
Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*  
Purple Martin *Progne subis*  
Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*  
Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*  
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*  
Ethiopian Swallow *Hirundo aethiopica*  
Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum*  
Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*  
Streak-throated Swallow *Petrochelidon fluvicola*  
American Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*

**Siberian Stonechat** *Saxicola maurus* (split from extralimital *S. torquatus*; polytypic: *armenicus*, *maurus*, *stejnegeri*, *variegatus* and extralimital *indicus* and *przewalskii*)

**European Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola* (split from extralimital *S. torquatus*; polytypic: *hibernans* and *rubicola*)

Support: 5/0/0. This treatment is favoured by all five TAC members.

Relevant taxonomic committee publications: Helbig (2005; in Bauer et al. 2005, Germany), Sangster et al. (1999, on behalf of the CSNA), Sangster et al. (2011, on behalf of the BOURC-TSC).

### **Species sequence of Saxicola**

Based on current published mitochondrial phylogenies of the genus *Saxicola* (Illera et al. 2008; Zink et al. 2009), the species of *Saxicola* currently on the WP list should be listed as follows:

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*  
Pied Bush Chat *Saxicola caprata*  
Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*  
Canary Islands Stonechat *Saxicola dacotiae*  
European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

**Siberian Thrush** *Geokichla sibirica* (was *Zoothera sibirica*)

Support: 5/0/0. This treatment is favoured by all five TAC members.

Relevant taxonomic committee publications: Sangster et al. (2009, on behalf of the CSNA), Jirle et al. (2010, on behalf of the STC), Sangster et al. (2011, on behalf of the BOURC-TSC).

**Varied Thrush** *Ixoreus naevius* (was *Zoothera naevia*)

Support: 4/0/1. This treatment is favoured by four TAC members; the CSNA did not address it.

Relevant taxonomic committee publications: Jirle et al. (2010, on behalf of the STC), Sangster et al. (2007, on behalf of the BOURC-TSC).

### **Generic sequence of Turdinae**

Based on published mitochondrial phylogenies (Klicka et al. 2005; Voelker and Klicka 2008), the genera of Turdinae (“true thrushes”) currently on the WP list should be listed as follows:

*Zoothera*  
*Ixoreus*  
*Hylocichla*  
*Catharus*  
*Geothlypis*  
*Turdus*

**Thick-billed Warbler *Iduna aedon*** (was *Acrocephalus aedon*)

**Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida*** (was *Hippolais pallida*)

**Western Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna opaca*** (was *Hippolais opaca*)

**Booted Warbler *Iduna caligata*** (was *Hippolais caligata*)

**Sykes’s Warbler *Iduna rama*** (was *Hippolais rama*)

Support: 5/0/0. This treatment is favoured by all five TAC members.

Relevant taxonomic committee publications: Sangster et al. (2011, on behalf of the BOURC-TSC).

### **Species sequence of *Iduna***

Based on current phylogenetics hypotheses (Fregin et al. 2009), the WP species in the genus *Iduna* should be listed as follows:

Thick-billed Warbler *Iduna aedon*  
Booted Warbler *Iduna caligata*  
Sykes’s Warbler *Iduna rama*  
Western Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna opaca*  
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida*

### **Generic sequence of *Acrocephalus*, *Hippolais* and *Iduna***

Fregin et al. (2009) also allow listing these genera as follows:

*Iduna*  
*Hippolais*  
*Acrocephalus*

**Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus*** (was *Sturnus roseus*)

**Daurian Starling *Agropsar sturninus*** (was *Sturnus sturninus*)

Support: 5/0/0. This treatment is favoured by all five TAC members.

Relevant taxonomic committee publications: Knox et al. (2008, on behalf of the BOURC-TSC), Sangster et al. (2009, on behalf of the CSNA).

### **Species sequence of starlings and mynas**

Using nuclear and mitochondrial genes, Lovette et al. (2008) and Zuccon et al. (2008) offered independent, well-supported and largely congruent phylogenies of the starlings and mynas formerly included in the genera *Sturnus* and *Acridotheres*. Based on these results, those species that are on the WP list should be listed as follows:

Spotless Starling *Sturnus unicolor*  
Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*  
Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus*  
Daurian Starling *Agropsar sturninus*  
Bank Myna *Acridotheres ginginianus*  
Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*  
Vinous-breasted Starling *Acridotheres burmannicus*  
Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus*

**Blue-winged Warbler *Vermivora cyanoptera* (was *Vermivora pinus*)**

A purely nomenclatural change made necessary by adherence to the rules of zoological nomenclature (ICZN 1999), as explained in Olson and Reveal (2009).

Relevant taxonomic committee publications: Jirle et al. (2010, on behalf of the STC), Sangster et al. (2011, on behalf of the BOURC-TSC).

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