

Association of European Rarities Committee (AERC)
and
British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (BOURC)

Press Release

16 August 2000

Taxonomic Changes

Since AERC and BOURC meetings in 1999, their respective Taxonomic Advisory Committee (TAC) and Taxonomic Sub-Committee (TSC) have been working closely together to produce advice on avian taxonomy in Europe.

The following decisions were made by the AERC TAC and the BOURC TSC.

Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis* to be treated as three species:

Soft-plumaged Petrel *P. mollis*

Fea's Petrel *P. feae*

Zino's Petrel *P. madeira*

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* to be treated as three species:

Manx Shearwater *P. puffinus*

Balearic Shearwater *P. mauretanicus*

Yelkouan Shearwater *P. yelkouan*

Common Teal *Anas crecca* to be treated as two species

Eurasian Teal *A. crecca*

Green-winged Teal *A. carolinensis*

Imperial Eagle *Aquila helica* to be treated as two species:

Imperial Eagle *A. heliaca*

Spanish Imperial Eagle *A. adalberti*

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* to be treated as two species:

Tawny Eagle *A. rapax*

Steppe Eagle *A. nipalensis*

Lesser Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* to be treated as two species:

American Golden Plover *P. dominica*

Pacific Golden Plover *P. fulva*

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* to be treated as three species:

Rock Pipit *A. petrosus*

Water Pipit *A. spinoletta*

Buff-bellied Pipit *A. rubescens*

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* to be treated as two species:

Yellow-browed Warbler *P. inornatus*

Hume's Leaf Warbler *P. humei*

Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*

Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *P. orientalis*

Western Bonelli's Warbler *P. bonelli*

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* to be treated as four species:

Common Chiffchaff *P. collybita*

Iberian Chiffchaff *P. brehmii*

Canary Island Chiffchaff *P. canariensis*

Mountain Chiffchaff *P. sindianus*

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* to be treated as two species:

Great Grey Shrike *L. excubitor*

Southern Grey Shrike *L. meridionalis*

Citril Finch *Serinus citrinella* to be treated as two species:

Citril Finch *S. citrinella*

Corsican Finch *S. corsicana*

Common Redpoll *Carduelis flammea* to be treated as two species

Lesser Redpoll *C. cabaret* (monotypic)

Common Redpoll *C. flammea* (includes Mealy Redpoll *C. f. flammea*, Greater Redpoll *C. f. rostrata* and Icelandic Redpoll *C. f. islandica*)

The basis of taxonomic recommendations

The TAC and TSC have been developing general principles on which these and future recommendations are being made. Further details of the general principles and reasons for the taxonomic recommendations will be published in due course.

The TAC and TSC are considering the remaining species listed on the AERC's website (<http://aerc.mypage.org>) for priority consideration. These species are **Bewick's Swan** *Cygnus columbianus*, **Bean Goose** *Anser fabalis*,

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*, **Great White Egret** *Egretta alba* (generic affinities), **Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*, **Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*, **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*, **Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*, **Grey-cheeked Thrush** *Catharus minimus* and **Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*. Further recommendations are expected to follow in about six months time.

Notes:

- 1 The AERC's TAC consists of Dr Andreas Helbig (Germany), Dr Alan Knox (Scotland), Prof David Parkin (England) and George Sangster (Netherlands)
- 2 The BOURC's TSC includes the above plus Dr Martin Collinson (Scotland) and Dr Tony Prater (Wales)
- 3 **For further information relating to the BOURC decisions please contact**
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