

NEW BIRDS IN THE PHILATELIC AVIARY

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Ornithological Updates

The taxonomy used in this column and that of Randy Shore is based on *Birds of the World, A Checklist* Fifth Edition by James F. Clements. One reason for using this taxonomy is that the author periodically issues updates that reflect recent studies.

When species are "split" (one species is determined to actually consist of more than one species) or "lumped" (two or more species are found to be the same species), this column will (attempt to) sort out the affected birds on stamps. The updates also affect scientific and/or common names, but so far we have not systematically covered these changes although some are pointed out (see Tropical Screech-Owl below). These changes can be found on line at <http://www.ibispub.com/updates.html>. Some changes follow:

The Herring Gull/Lesser Black-backed Gull Complex

The gulls referred to as Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus*, and Lesser Black-backed Gull, *Larus fuscus*, in Handbook 106 and supplements have become nine species, eight of which are shown on stamps. This article should help sort out stamps in your collections. Much of this information is taken from Kjell Sharning's web site.

EUROPEAN HERRING GULL, *Larus argentatus* (067.020.000)

This gull breeds from Iceland to western France and the Kola Peninsula and winters in northern and western Europe south to northern Iberia. It first appeared on Liechtentein 1939, C19, 20 rp. It also appears on Alderney 8312, Cambodia 1980, Finland 545, Isle of Man 231 and issues from 1991 (Manx Photography) and 1994 (Postman Pat), Jersey issues from 1998 (831 and 870) and 2003 (Poster Art), Liberia 1999, Netherlands B353 and the 2003 Dutch Shallows issue (bird on the right), Poland 2161, Sierra Leone Michel 3511, Sweden Michel 2230, Tanzania 1976c and 2046a and Tuvalu 652 and 652a.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL, *Larus fuscus* (067.022.100)

This gull breeds from Iceland to the White Sea and winters in Africa and southwestern Asia. It first appeared on Sweden 1090. It also appears on the Ghana Philanippon issue from 2001 (3000c), Isle of Man 226, Jersey Michel 897 and the 2003 Offshore Reefs issue, the Netherlands 2003 Dutch Shallows issue (bird on the left), Sierra Leone SS989 and the Sweden 2002 issue on Summer in Bohuslan.

HEUGLIN'S GULL, *Larus heuglini* (067.022.200)

This gull breeds in northern Siberia and winters in South Africa, the Middle East and northwestern India. It first appeared on Dubai SG 317 and also appears on Bahrein 407M.

EAST SIBERIAN GULL, *Larus vegae* (067.022.300)

This gull breeds in Siberia and winters in China and southern Asia. It appears on Mongolia 798 and 1025.

AMERICAN HERRING GULL, *Larus smithsonianus*

(067.022.400) This gull ranges throughout North America and winters to Central America. It first appeared on Cuba C139 and is also shown on Grenada 2762, Grenadines 2036d, Marshall Islands 822 and USA 1413 and 2559h.

CASPIAN GULL, *Larus cachinnans* (067.023)

This gull breeds from the Black Sea to Kazakstan and winters to southern Asia and northeastern Africa. It first appeared on a 1998 issue from Djibouti (Maskali Island) SG1186 and Bhutan 1374a.

ARMENIAN GULL, *Larus armenicus* (067.024) See below.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL, *Larus michahelis* (067.024.200)

This gull ranges from the Azores to the Mediterranean region. It first appeared on Monaco C6 and later on Bulgaria 3221, Gambia SG 3142, Gibraltar 484 and 873, Italy SG 2544, Malta 1055a, Senegal 280, Spanish Sahara 96, 99 and 102, UN Geneva 145 and Yugoslavia 1689.

Emerald Toucanet Complex

The Emerald Toucanet, *Aulacorhynchus prasinus*, has been split into seven species, three of which are on stamps;

EMERALD TOUCANET, *Aulacorhynchus prasinus* (102.001)

This species ranges from southern Mexico to Nicaragua. It was first shown on El Salvador Mk 1805, and is also on Belize 848, El Salvador SG2526, Honduras SG 1527, Mexico 1995e and Nicaragua SS2351.

BLUE-THROATED TOUCANET, *Aulacorhynchus caeruleogularis* (102.001.100)

This species occurs in the mountains of Costa Rica and Panama. It has appeared on Tanzania 1561e and 2014b and Guyana 3224c.

VIOLET-THROATED TOUCANET *Aulacorhynchus cognatus* (102.001.200)

This species is limited to the mountains of eastern Panama and neighboring Colombia. It is shown on Antigua & Barbuda 2395c.

The Little Egret Complex

In ATA Handbook 106, page 27, three species were recognized: Western Reef-Heron, *Egretta gularis*, Dimorphic Egret, *Egretta dimorpha* and Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta*. In *Birds of the World*, all three were lumped under Little Egret. Now, the Western Reef-Heron has been raised to species status as *Egretta gularis*. Dimorphic Egret remains a subspecies *Egretta garzetta dimorpha*. The following should help sort out which species is on which stamp. I hope that I didn't make too many mistakes on the catalog numbers.

LITTLE EGRET, *Egretta garzetta*

Ajman Tr 1391 and Tr 1393, 1971 (ATA Handbook 106 gives 1972)
Albania 594, 1961
Bhutan, 2003 Japanese bird paintings
Bulgaria 1709, 1968
Cape Verde 436, 1981 and 2003, Herons and Egrets
China (Taiwan) 2306e, 1991 and SG 2624, 2000
Comoro Islands Mk 384, 1978
France 1420, 1975
Gambia 1925, 1997 and SG 4012, 4013 and 4017, 2001
Greece 1993, 2001
Guernsey 734, 2001
Guinea-Bissau Yvert 689 and Yvert BF 87, 2001
Hungary 1234, 1958
Japan, 7-yen prestamped postcard, 1967
Jersey 864a and 867, 1999
Macedonia 195, 2000
Maldiv Islands 1870k, 1993
Micronesia Michel 1290, 2002
Morocco 819, 1996
Portugal 1655, 1985
Romania 2943, 1980; 3645, 1991
Ryukyu Islands 74, 1960
Senegal C133, 1974; 745, 1987

DIMORPHIC EGRET, *Egretta garzetta dimorpha*

British Indian Ocean Territories 42, 1971
Seychelles 794, 1997
Zil Elwanyan (or Elwagne) Sesel 58, 1983; 100, 1985

WESTERN REEF-HERON, *Egretta gularis*

Djibouti 675, 1991
Fujeira Michel 369, 1969
Guinea-Bissau Yvert 187 and Yvert BF 87, 2001

Liberia 275, 1937; C7-C8, 1938; C20-C21, 1941; C30-C31, 1942; 293 and C48, 1944; C46, 1945.
Mauritania Michel 1026, 1994
Saudi Arabia 1171e and 1172e, 1992; 1171Jo, 1993; 1179Bg, 1994
Senegal 852, 1989; 976, 1992; 1131, 1995
Uganda 857c, 1991
Yemen Arab Republic, Minkus 365, 1965; Minkus 468, 1966.

Corrections

The correct taxonomic number for the Jamaican Spindalis is 201.117 (see BP 52:4, page176).

The correct spelling for the genus of the Stout-legged Moa is *Euryaptery* (see BP 52:3, page 137).

Also in this issue, the validity of the Benin stamps wa questioned. I now have found out that the UPU has issued a 30-page tirade on illegal issues from Benin that includes all the 2002 and 2003 bird stamps.

New Birds

This article includes two birds on Australian postal stationery reported by Lois Hermann. Although not actually on the postage, the stationery was issued by postal authorities.

CRESTED GOSHAWK, *Accipiter trivirgatus* Accipitridae (030.095)
Sri Lanka, 2003, not yet cataloged, 4.50 rupees

Length: 30 to 38 inches, sexes similar but the female is larger, resident.

Habitat: evergreen and moist deciduous forest.

Range: Nepal to Bali, the Philippines and Taiwan; India and Sri Lanka.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott and J. Sargital. Handbook of Birds of the World, Volume 2.

RUFOUS-BELLIED EAGLE, *Aquila kienerii* Accipitridae (030.221)
Sri Lanka, 2003, not yet cataloged, 4.50 rupees

Length: 17 to 24 inches, sexes alike but the female is larger, resident.

Blackish above and rufous below with a white throat.

Habitat: evergreen and moist deciduous forest.

Range: Nepal to Bali, the Philippines and Taiwan; southern India and Sri Lanka.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott and J. Sargital. Handbook of Birds of the World, Volume 2.

PAINTED FRANCOLIN, *Francolinus pictus* Phasianidae (038.019)
Sri Lanka, 2003, not yet cataloged, 4.50 rupees

Length: 12 inches, resident. The male (shown on the stamp) is black with spotted underparts and a chestnut face; the female is brownish with a white throat.

Habitat: grasslands and scrub.

Range: India and Sri Lanka.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott and J. Sargital. Handbook of Birds of the World, Volume 2.

GRAY-WINGED TRUMPETER, *Psophia crepitans* Psophiidae (045.001)

Ecuador, 2003, not yet cataloged, 25 cents

Length: 18 to 21 inches, sexes alike, resident. Black with gray wings and pale greenish-gray legs.

Habitat: moist, dese tropical forest.

Range: Northeastern Peru to the Guianas and the mouth of the Amazon.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott and J. Sargital. Handbook of Birds of the World, Volume 3.

ARMENIAN GULL, *Larus armenicus* Laridae (067.024)

Armenia, 2003, not yet cataloged, 220 drams

Length: 23 to 24 inches, sexes alike, migratory. White head with gray mantle and upperwings and a dark yellow bill with a narrow subterminal black band and a red spot.

Habitat: breeds at mountain lakes, winters at inland and coastal waters.

Range: Breeds in the Caucasus; winters on the southeastern Black Sea, eastern Mediterranean and northern Red Sea.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott and J. Sargital. Handbook of Birds of the World, Volume 3.

POMPADOUR GREEN-PIGEON, *Treron pompadora* Columbidae (072.193)

Sri Lanka, 2003, not yet cataloged, 4.50 rupees

Length; 11 inches, resident. The male (upper bird on the stamp) is greenish yellow with purplish-chestnut wings and bluish-gray crown to mantle; the female (lower bird) has olive-green wings.

Habitat: forests.

Range: Himalayan foothills to the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott and J. Sargital. Handbook of Birds of the World, Volume 4.

JOSEPHINE'S LORIKEET, *Charmosyna josefinae* Psittacidae (074.048)

Somalia, 1999, Michel 749, 3300s (The bird on the postage).

Length: 10 inches, resident. The male (shown on the stamp) is red with a black hindcrown, belly and thighs and orange bill and legs; the female is similar but with a yellow rump patch.

Habitat: forest, forest edges and partly cultivated land.

Range: Western and central New Guinea.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott and J. Sargital. Handbook of Birds of the World, Volume 4.

WHITE-EYED PARAKEET, *Aratinga leucophthalmus* Psittacidae (074.211)

Paraguay, 2003, not yet cataloged, 4000 guaranis

Length: 13 to 14 inches, sexes alike, resident. Green, paler below with red flacks on the head and neck and a bare grayish-white orbital ring.

Habitat: forests, forest edges, gallery woodland and savanna.

Range: Guianas to northern Argentina.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott and J. Sargital. Handbook of Birds of the World, Volume 4.

BLUE-FACED MALKOHA, *Phaenicophaeus viridirostris* Cuculidae (076.056)

Sri Lanka, 2003, not yet cataloged, 4.50 rupees

Length: 16 inches, sexes alike, resident. Greenish gray above and paler below with a pale blue eyepatch.

Habitat: secondary woodland, thorn scrub and bush,

Range: Peninsular India and Sri Lanka.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott and J. Sargital. Handbook of Birds of the World, Volume 4.

TROPICAL SCREECH-OWL, *Megascops choliba* Strigidae (078.047) *Megascops* is now the recognized genus for all American screech-owls; thus Eastern Screech-Owl becomes *Megascops asio*. Madagascar, 2001, Michel 2543A, 500 francs

Length: 8 to 10 inches, sexes alike, resident. Heavily streaked above and thinly vermiculated below with black-bordered light-gray facial disks.

Habitat: forest, clearings and semi-open areas,

Range: Costa Rica to northeastern Argentina.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott and J. Sargital. Handbook of Birds of the World, Volume 5.

ROCK EAGLE-OWL, *Bubo bengalensis* Strigidae (078.072)

Congo (Kinshasa), 2002. not yet cataloged, 410 francs

Length: 22 inches, sexes alike, resident. Dark brown above and creamy or rufous below with ear tufts and streaky breast.

Habitat: rocky hills and wooded country.

Range: India and western Myanmar.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott and J. Sargital. Handbook of Birds of the World, Volume 5.

JUNGLE OWLET, *Glaucidium radiatum* Strigidae (078.145)

Sri Lanka, 2003, not yet cataloged, 4.50 rupees

Length: 8 inches, sexes alike, resident. Barred brown above and barred white below with white brows and no ear tufts.

Habitat: dense forests.

Range: India and Sri Lanka.

Reference: Harrison, J. A Field Guide to the Birds of Sri Lanka.

SOUTHERN BOOBOOK, *Ninox boobook* Strigidae (078.166)

Australia, 1985, lettercard, 33 cents

Length: 10 to 14 inches, sexes alike but female is larger, resident. Pale to dark brown above and streaked or mottled buff below with pale brows and blue-gray bill, legs and feet.

Habitat: wet tropics to semi-deserts.

Range: Australia, southern New Guinea and the Lesser Sundas.

Reference: Slater, P. A Field Guide to Australian Birds, Volume One.

BRONZY HERMIT, *Glaucis aenea* Trochilidae (086.006) (bird is right of center)
Colombia, 2003, not yet cataloged, 1600 pesos

Length: 4 inches, sexes similar, resident. Bronzy above and orangy-yellow below with dusky crown and cheeks and a white-tipped tail.

Habitat: forests, forest borders, thickets and shrubbery.

Range: Eastern Honduras to western Ecuador.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott and J. Sargital. Handbook of Birds of the World, Volume 5.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD, *Archilochus alexandri* Trochilidae (086.316)

Guinea, 2002, not yet cataloged, 1000 francs

Length: 4 inches, migrant. The male (shown on the stamp) is iridescent green above and white below with greenish sides and an iridescent violet throat; the female is similar with a dusky or speckled throat.

Habitat: woodlands.

Range: Breeds from British Columbia to Baja California and Texas; winters in western Mexico.

Reference: del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott and J. Sargital. Handbook of Birds of the World, Volume 5.

COMMON TODY-FLYCATCHER, *Todirostrum cinereum* Tyrannidae (116.175)

Grenada, 2003, not yet cataloged, \$2

Length: 3.6 inches, sexes alike, resident. Gray above and yellow below and wing edgings, a pale iris and black face and black tail with white tips.

Habitat: shrubs and bushes.

Range: Mexico to Peru and eastern Brazil.

Reference: Ridgely, R. S. and G. Tudor. The Birds of South America, Volume II.

FINSCH'S WHEATEAR, *Oenanthe finschii*, Muscicapidae (142.240)

Cyprus (Turkish), 2003, not yet cataloged, 100 lira (and other values)

Length: 5 inches, migratory. The male (shown on the stamp) is white with a black face, throat, wings and on the tail; the female is much duller and gray above.

Habitat: desert and nearby cultivated areas.

Range: Breeds from Turkey to western Pakistan; winters in the southern part of its range, Egypt and Cyprus.

Reference: Heinzel, H., R. Fitter and J. Parslow. The Birds of Britain and Europe.

INDIAN SCIMITAR-BABBLER, *Pomatorhinus horsefieldii* Timaliidae (149.092)

Sri Lanka, 2003, not yet cataloged, 4.50 rupees

Length: 9 inches, sexes alike, resident. Brown above and white below with rufous flanks, white brow and long yellow downcurved bill.

Habitat: forests, bamboo and dense scrub.

Range: India and Sri Lanka.

Reference: Harrison, J. A Field Guide to the Birds of Sri Lanka.

BELL MINER, *Manorina melanophrys* Meliphagidae (173.164)

Australia, 1989, airletter, 39 cents

Length: 7 inches, sexes alike, resident. Yellow-green above and light greenish-yellow below with yellow lores, bill and legs.

Habitat: dry sclerophyll forest.

Range: Coastal southeastern Australia.

Reference: Slater, P. A Field Guide to Australian Birds, Volume Two.

SLATY-CAPPED SHRIKE-VIREO, *Vireolanus leucotis* Vireonidae (195.050)

Grenada, 2003, not yet cataloged, \$2

Length: 5.5 inches, sexes alike, resident. Olive green above and yellow below with a slaty cap, bold gray and yellow patterned face and heavy bill.

Habitat: humid forest canopy.

Range: Western Colombia and southern Venezuela to Bolivia and northern Brazil.

Reference: Ridgely, R. S. and G. Tudor. The Birds of South America, Volume I.

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SAGE THRASHER, *Oreoscoptes montanus* Mimidae (136.016)

Mozambique, 2002, not yet cataloged, 33000 m

Length: 7 inches, sexes alike, migratory. Brown above and streaked white below with two white wingbars and a yellow eye.

Habitat: sagebrush.

Range Breeds in British Columbia and western U. S; winters in southwestern U.S. and Mexico.

Reference: Robbins, C. S., B. Bruun and H.S. Zim. A Guide to Field Identification, Birds of North America.

YELLOW-BELLIED TIT, *Pardaliparus venustulus* Paridae (160.020)

China, 2004, not yet cataloged, 5 yuan

Length: 4 inches, migrant. The male (shown on the stamp) is gray-blue above and yellow below with a black cap and throat and white cheeks, nape and wingbars; The female has a pale throat and blue cap.

Habitat: open forest.

Range: Breeds in the mountains of China; winters in eastern and central China.

Reference: Harrap, S, and D. Quinn. Chickadees, Tits, Nuthatches & Treecreepers.

YUNNAN NUTHATCH, *Sitta yunnanensis* Sittidae (161.013)

China, 2004, not yet cataloged, 6 yuan

Length: 4.8 inches, sexes alike, resident. Gray-blue above and pale pinkish-buff below with a narrow white supercilium and black eyestripe.

Habitat: open mature pine forest.

Range: Southwestern China.

Reference: Harrap, S, and D. Quinn. Chickadees, Tits, Nuthatches & Treecreepers.

COMMON BUSH-TANAGER, *Chlorospingus ophthalmicus* Thraupidae (201.025)

Mongolia, 2003, not yet cataloged, 800 tugriks

Length: 5.5 inches; sexes alike, resident. Olive above and whitish below with a gray or brown head, white throat, pale iris and yellowish pectoral band.

Habitat: humid montaine forest and forest borders.

Range: Southern Mexico to northwestern Argentina.

Reference: Ridgely, R. S. and G. Tudor. The Birds of South America, Volume I.

BLACK-HEADED HEMISPINGUS, *Hemispingus verticalis* Thraupidae (201.044)

Mongolia, 2003, not yet cataloged, 800 tugriks

Length: 6 inches, sexes alike, resident. Gray, paler below, with a black head, whitish iris and a long clay-colored median crown stripe.

Habitat: dense wet temperate-zone forest just below the timberline.

Range: Colombia to extreme northwestern Peru.

Reference: Ridgely, R. S. and G. Tudor. The Birds of South America, Volume I.

BAND-TAILED SEEDEATER, *Catamenia analis* Embirizidae (202.140)

Mongolia, 2003, not yet cataloged, 800 tugriks

Length: 5 inches, resident. The male (shown on the stamp) is plain gray, paler below, with a white band across the center of a blackish tail and a buff crissum; the female is streaked light grayish brown above and streaked whitish below with a white belly.

Habitat: semiopen areas.

Range: Colombia to northwestern Argentina.

Reference: Ridgely, R. S. and G. Tudor. The Birds of South America, Volume I.