

Avian Systematics

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Instructions for Authors

Avian Systematics is a peer-reviewed journal that welcomes submissions for publication that address avian systematics of both modern and fossil birds. It welcomes original research, short notes, and reviews that address any aspect of systematics, taxonomy, and nomenclature of birds with the aim of an improved understanding of their diversity, relationships and classification. A submission based on original research must be accompanied by an affirmation to the effect that it is not under consideration for publishing elsewhere.

This is an e-journal. The content will be published on-line on the website of the Trust for Avian Systematics (www.aviansystematics.org) and they will be archived by the British Library.

All contributions will be published individually when ready and dated accordingly. They will, when a volume is finalised, be organised in a volume for the creation of a cover with a list of contents, in three sections. First the front matter, usually including a Preface, with page numbers in small Roman characters (e.g. i, iv, xii etc); second the articles, typically original research, with page numbers in Arabic characters (e.g. 1, 7, 13 etc.); and third 'Notices' (an abbreviation for "Nomenclatural Notices", will provide a published basis for information that will be freshly used in the Update Series of the *Howard & Moore Checklist of Birds of the World*), with page numbers in Arabic characters preceded by a capital N. Each section will be paginated sequentially.

Descriptions of taxa that are being newly proposed are welcome. Nomenclature and taxon ranking follows the guidelines of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*. But for ranks not provided by the Code follow the table in Appendix I of the 1st (2013) volume of the *Howard & Moore Checklist of Birds of the World* by R. Schodde.

Volumes will have a minimum length of 160 pages. Articles will carry a unique ZooBank registration number and any new names will be registered by TAS in ZooBank in the name of the lead author and this registration number will be mentioned (acceptance of this by the author(s) is a condition for publishing in *Avian Systematics*).

Authors wishing to publish in this journal are welcome to e-mail the Editor to seek advice on the appropriateness of an intended submission.

Submission: the initial submission should consist of an electronic document for review, ideally prepared in Microsoft Word. After the Editor's initial acceptance of the paper, all plates, tables and figures should be provided as individual items numbered in relation to the order in which they are to be inserted. They should not be embedded. A list of the captions for the numbered tables and/or figures must be supplied. All publications begin with the Copyright Statement, Abstract and Keywords. SI preferred units of measurement should be used.

The main text should be spaced at 1.5x, but figure and table captions and tables should be single line spaced. All papers and notices must include an abstract (max. 250 words). Abstracts (not to be called summaries) are required in English and optionally a second language of the author's choice. Papers should include listed keywords (max. 12) after which the structured text will, as appropriate, include Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgements and References. Please provide the word count; acceptance of a count over 10,000 will be exceptional and, if agreed, may be held for publication at the start of the next volume. Use automatic footnote numbering page by page.

After acceptance, publishable quality (sharp, unpixellated) images should be provided as separate files; these would normally be TIF, JPEG or PNG files >300 dpi for the published size (width 150 mm), or appropriate other formats like PDF, or EPS etc. The journal uses different type styles for 3 levels of subtitle heading, here are examples of such subtitles (1) **INTRODUCTION**; (2) **Abbreviations**; and (3) *Institutions*. In 1 and 2 the text starts one line down, in 3 the text begins on the same line as the heading.

Optional Subjects and Titles: e.g. Funding sources, Author contributions, Data availability, and Conflicts of Interest if any; these should be inserted prior to Acknowledgements. Data accessibility: Where appropriate, the supporting data base, analysis files and supplementary results should be stored in online repositories and links to them placed in the manuscript, e.g., morphobank, morphosource, genebank, and github.

References: for each reference all authors should be listed, except when there are more than a dozen authors, then restrict the listing to just 6 authors and add “*et al.*”. Where authors of a publication all derive from Mainland China, they should be listed with their full binomial name (Group name first). Authors of all other publications should be arranged with family, group or surname first followed by initials of other names. Neither the title and nor the publication name should be abbreviated. Pagination should be given in expanded form (e.g., not x, 500 but i–x, 1–500). Italics should be used for book titles, but not volume numbers. When citing periodicals use italics for the journal name, not for the article title. DOIs should be provided where available. See examples below for detailed formatting:

ICZN [International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature], 1999. *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*. 4th edition. i–xxix, 1–306. – International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, London.

Salvin O., 1892. *Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum*. XVI. *Catalogue of the Picariæ in the collection of the British Museum* (part). Upupæ and Trochili: i–xiii, 1–433. – Trustees of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), London.

Ruan Luzhang, Wang Yushi, Hu Jinrun & Yi Ouyang, 2012. Polyphyletic origin of the genus *Amaurornis* inferred from molecular phylogenetic analysis of rails. – *Biochemical Genetics*, 50: 959–966.

Schuchmann K.L., 1999. *Damophila julie* (p. 587). In: del Hoyo J., Elliott A. & Sargatal J., eds. *Handbook of the birds of the world*. Vol. 5. Barn-owls to Hummingbirds. – Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.

Zimmer J.T., 1953. Studies of Peruvian Birds. No. 63. The hummingbird genera *Oreonympha*, *Schistes*, *Heliodytes*, *Loddigesia*, *Heliomaster*, *Rhodopsis*, *Thaumastura*, *Calliphlox*, *Myrtis*, *Acestrura*. – *American Museum Novitates*, 1604: 1–26.

Mather E.K., Lee M.S.Y., Camens A.B., Worthy T.H., 2021 [2022]. An exceptional partial skeleton of a new basal raptor (Aves: Accipitridae) from the late Oligocene Namba Formation, South Australia. *Historical Biology*, 34 (7): 1175–1207. doi.org/10.1080/08912963.2021.1966777 [Note, this format reflects that the article was published online on 27 Sept 2021 with ZooBank registration, so is dated 2021, although it was published in a volume for 2022].

Sherborn C.D. & Woodward B.B., 1906. On the dates of publication of the Natural History Portions of the ‘Encyclopedie Méthodique’. – *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, 17: 577–582.

Scientific names: Taxonomic nomenclature should follow a cited named Checklist or equivalent authority. Dates associated with taxon names must reflect nomenclatural availability of the name. Nomenclatural acts in ‘online early’ or other advance publication versions of an article later published in print form are not available unless the article was published with evidence of ZooBank registration of the article. Similarly, all on-line only publications must have been published with evidence of ZooBank registration to make nomenclatural acts within them available. See ICZN (2012) *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 69 (3): 161–169.

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