A new **Herpsilochmus** antwren from north-east Peru and south-east Ecuador

Bret Whitney and Jose Alvarez Alonso have described a new canopy-dwelling *Herpsilochmus* from the nutrient-poor, sandy soil forests of Amazonian Peru (many localities) and Kapawi Ecological Reserve, Loreto, Ecuador. *Herpsilochmus gentryi*, the Ancient Antwren, is closely related to *H. stictocephalus*, Todd's Antwren of the Guianan shield. It is, however, sympatric with *H. sticturus dugandi*, although the limited overlap with this taxon is a function of high habitat mosaicism in the general area. This may have implications for the species’ conservation, because, although common within its specialised habitat, the heterogeneity of the terra firme landscape is such that the species’ chosen habitat is nevertheless quite rare.


**Arremon semitorquatus** is a valid species

Marcos Raposo and Ricardo Parrini have expanded on previous work on the Pectoral Sparrow *Arremon taciturnus* complex taxonomy (see *Cotinga* 8: 14), and concluded that *A. t. semitorquatus*, the Half-collared Sparrow, found in Brazil from Rio de Janeiro south to Rio Grande do Sul, is a valid species. Not only are there significant morphological differences between *A. semitorquatus* and *A. taciturnus*, but the hitherto perceived area of intergradation between the two taxa does not exist.


A new subspecies of Yellow-headed Parrot from northern Honduras

Sebastian Lousada and Steve Howell have described *Amazona oratrix hondurensis* from the Sula Valley of Honduras. The AOU (1983) *Check-list of North American birds* considered the Sula Valley birds to be Yellow-crowned Parrots *A. ochrocephala*, but the authors contend that it is probably more appropriate to assign them to *A. oratrix*, although other taxonomic arrangements for this complex should be considered.


A new subspecies of leaftossers from north-east Bolivia

Andrew Kratter has described a new subspecies of Grey-throated Leaftosser. *Sclerurus albigularis kempffi* is known from the Serrania Huanchaca, which straddles the border between north-east Santa Cruz, Bolivia and west Mato Grosso, Brazil. The newly described subspecies is distinctly paler and occurs at lower elevations than other subspecies of *S. albigularis*.


A new hummingbird subspecies from the Peruvian Andes

Karl Schuchmann and Thomas Züchner have described a new subspecies of Violet-throated Starfrontlet *Coeligena violifer*. *C. v. albicaudata* is restricted to the mountains on both sides of the Apurímac river in the departments of Cuzco, Apurímac and Ayacucho. The new subspecies is principally distinguished by its whitish rectrices.


Reappraisal of the taxonomy of Brazilian populations of *Pyrrhura leucotis*

As an adjunct to an ecological study of Pirimer’s Conure *Pyrrhura (leucotis) pfrimeri*, Olmos et al. consider the taxonomic status of the Brazilian populations of White-eared Conure *P. leucotis*. All three allopatric taxa— *P. leucotis* from southern Bahia to Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais, *P. griseitecta* from three montane isolates in Ceará south to Fernambuco, and *P. pfrimeri* from the Serra Geral, Goiás—are considered by the authors to be worthy of specific status based on the differing morphological characters and habitat requirements of the three taxa.


More studies on Stripe-headed Tanager taxonomy

Complementing the study by Nedra Klein cited in *Cotinga* 8: 14, O. Garrido et al. have reappraised the taxonomy of *Spindalis zena*. They conclude that the complex comprises a superspecies with four allopecies: *S. nigricephala* of Jamaica; *S. portoricensis* of Puerto Rico; *S. dominicensis* of Hispaniola and Gonâve Island; and a polyporphic *S. zena* represented by five subspecies: *S. z. zena* in some islands of the northern and central Bahamas, *S. z. townsendi* confined to Grand Bahama, the Abacos, and Green Turtle Cay, *S. z. pretrei* in Cuban territory, *S. z. salvini* confined to the island of Grand Cayman, and *S. z. benedicti* confined to Cozumel island, east of the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico.


Revised taxonomic treatment for the Palm Crow
Orlando Garrido et al. have reappraised the relationships between the various taxa comprising the Palm Crow Corvus palmarum and conclude that it should again be considered as two species: Corvus palmarum, the Hispaniolan Palm Crow and C. minutus, the Cuban Palm Crow.


**New taxonomic treatment for Masked Booby populations in the eastern Pacific Ocean**

Robert Pitman and Joseph Jehl have examined the various forms of *Sula dactylatra* which occur in the eastern Pacific, and consider that the the orange-billed form *S. (d) granti* which nests almost exclusively on the islands of the Galápagos and on Malpelo island, Colombia should be recognised as a separate species, the Nazca Booby.


**Lophornis melaniae is not a valid taxon**

Michael Walters has discovered that *Lophornis melaniae* probably represents aberrant or faded specimens of Rufous-crested Coquette *L. delattrei*.


**Is Tachira Emerald a species?**

André Weller and Karl Schuchmann have critically examined the holotype of *Amazilia distans*, the Tachira Emerald, and hypothesise that it is a hybrid between White-chinned Sapphire *Hylocharis cyanus* and Glittering-throated Emerald *Amazilia fimbriata*.


**Several hybrid hummingbirds unmasked**

Gary Graves has undertaken analyses of various hummingbird taxa and recently published some of his findings as below.


[E. soderstromi represents an intrageneric hybrid between Black-breasted Puffleg *E. nigriventris* and Sapphire-vented Puffleg *E. luciani*.]

[Lesbia ortoni represents a hybrid between Black-tailed Trainbearer *L. victoriae* and Purple-backed Thornbill Ramphomicron microrhynchum.]