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A replacement name for *Charadrius leschenaultii crassirostris* (Severtzov, 1873), a subspecies of Greater Sand Plover

by Caio J. Carlos, C. S. (Kees) Roselaar & Jean-François Voisin

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Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* has a large breeding distribution extending from Turkey east to Central Asia. Three subspecies are currently recognised: *C. l. leschenaultii* Lesson, 1826, which breeds in the northern Gobi Desert in Mongolia and in north-west China, and winters in Australasia, South-East Asia and the Indian subcontinent; *C. l. columbinus* Wagler, 1829, which breeds in the Middle East, southern Afghanistan and Azerbaijan, and winters in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and the south-east Mediterranean regions; and *C. l. crassirostris* (Severtzov, 1873), which breeds in Turkmenistan to southern Kazakhstan, and winters on coasts of eastern and south-east Africa (C. S. Roselaar in Cramp & Simmons 1983, Marchant & Higgins 1993, Piersma & Wiersma 1996, Hirschfeld *et al.* 2000). Hereafter, the last-named is referred to as the Transcaspian Greater Sand Plover.

Severtzov (1873: 146) originally described the Transcaspian Greater Sand Plover as a species named *Eudromias crassirostris*. He listed three type specimens, said by him to have been sent to the Russian Academy of Science in St. Petersburg: the first was collected at Perovsk fort (modern-day Kyzylorda in Kazakhstan; c.44°51'N, 65°30'E) on 30 June 1858, the second was taken at Lake Chatir-Kul at c.3,500 m (modern-day Chatyrkel in south-central Kyrgyzstan; c.40°37'N, 75°17'E) on 26 July 1867, and the third on the eastern shore of the Caspian Sea, in Krasnovodsk Bay near Pel'tsamom in western Turkmenistan, in August 1867. We were unable to locate Pel'tsamom, but the shape of Krasnovodsk Bay varies

greatly due to water-level fluctuations and the sites of many former villages are either inundated or are deserted due to drought. All of the above-mentioned dates are presumably Julian calendar dates, used by Russia until the early 20th century, and thus 13 days should be added to identify the Gregorian date.

Eudromias crassirostris, when included in the genus *Charadrius*, as it is by most authors (e.g. Bock 1958, C. S. Roselaar in Cramp & Simmons 1983, Marchant & Higgins 1993, Piersma & Wiersma 1996), becomes a junior homonym of *Charadrius crassirostris* Spix, 1825, which is now treated as a subspecies of Wilson's Plover *C. wilsonia* of northern and north-east Brazil (Carlos & Voisin 2011). Therefore, according to Arts. 23.1 and 60.3 of the *International code of zoological nomenclature* (ICZN 1999) *E. crassirostris* Severtzov must either be replaced by a pre-existing name or by proposing a new one.

Of all taxa related to Greater Sand Plover, both valid and synonyms, only *E. crassirostris* was partially based on breeding birds, the others being described from migrants / wintering individuals (Hirschfeld *et al.* 2000). At least two localities from which the Transcaspiian Great Sand Plover was described, Perovsk fort and 'east shore of the Caspian', lie within its breeding range, while the other is not known to possess breeding Greater Sand Plovers. However, the bird from Lake Chatir-Kul probably belongs to the Transcaspiian breeding population, because nominate *leschenaultii* and *columbinus* are unlikely to occur there (Hirschfeld *et al.* 2000). A review of the literature (e.g., Sharpe 1896, Hartert 1920, Peters 1934, Hirschfeld *et al.* 2000) indicated that Severtzov's (1873) name has no available junior synonym, because it has been a stable taxon since its original description. In accordance with the ICZN (1999) we therefore propose for it:

***Charadrius leschenaultii scythicus* nom. nov.**

Etymology.—The adjective *scythicus* (feminine *scythica*, neuter *scythicum*) commemorates the Scyths, an ancient horse-riding nomadic people who lived, from the 8th century BC to the 2nd century AD, in a vast area, known at the time as Scythia, which covers present-day Central Asia, Russia and Ukraine. This region also includes all of this plover's breeding range.

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The nest, eggs and nestlings of Fulvous Antshrike *Frederickena fulva* from north-east Ecuador

by Harold F. Greeney, Rudy A. Gelis, Thierry Garcia & Xavier Amigo

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Originally described as a subspecies of Undulated Antshrike *Frederickena unduligera* by Zimmer (1944), Fulvous Antshrike *F. fulva* was recently elevated to species rank, based largely on vocalisations (Isler *et al.* 2009, Remsen *et al.* 2011). Thus, in all but the most modern treatments, the taxon discussed here was referred to as Undulated Antshrike (e.g., Hilty & Brown 1986, Ridgely & Greenfield 2001, Zimmer & Isler 2003). Fulvous Antshrike, as currently defined, is monotypic and occurs in the lowlands of westernmost Amazonia from southern Colombia to northern Peru (Zimmer & Isler 2003). Here we provide the first data on the reproductive biology of this poorly known species based on a nest in the foothills of eastern Ecuador.

Methods and Results

We found a nest of Fulvous Antshrike on 16 June 2011 at the reserve administered by the Proyecto de Conservación del Río Bigal, Fundación Ecológica Sumac Muyu (600 m), near Loreto (00°38'S, 77°19'W), prov. Napo. The nest contained two eggs when discovered, but we took no further data at this time. When we returned on 30 June, at 16.00 h, one egg had hatched. The nestling inside the second egg was partially visible through a large hole it had opened in the shell, and had fully hatched c.15 minutes later. The hatching egg was still sufficiently intact to accurately measure as being 30.5 × 22.8 mm and 7.9 g. The egg was slightly off-white with copious cinnamon and lavender flecks and narrow scrawls, concentrated at the larger end. The nestling was completely devoid of natal down, with flesh-coloured skin, slightly dusker dorsally. The bill was dark orange, yellower near the tip except for the dorsal portion of the mandible, which was dusky and bore a bright white egg tooth. The rictal flanges were bright yellow and the mouth lining was bright yellow-orange. The nestling weighed 6.5 g and the right tarsus measured 11 mm.

The nest was a large, thin-walled cup, and its contents were partially visible from below. It was attached by the rim, via two sparse 'wings' extending up on opposite sides to two narrow, parallel, horizontal branches (6 and 8 mm diameter). These attachment points extended c.3 cm above the rim and consisted of no more than 15–20 rootlets each. The nest fairly uniformly comprised thin, slightly branched rootlets, crisscrossed and interwoven, with only those circling the slightly thickened rim being coiled. The inner portion had a sparse, poorly defined lining of smooth, un-branched flexible fibres of unknown origin, as well as 4–5 black fungal rhizomorphs. The cup was 10 cm in diameter inside by 7.5 cm deep. Externally the nest was 14 cm wide by 9 cm tall. Photographs of the nest, eggs



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