

regions since 1907, and in all works on the species since 1929, including the descriptions of three subspecies.

I strongly recommend approval of the proposals to prevent the unnecessary confusion that would result from the resurrection of the long unused specific name of *Coluber phyllophis* Boulenger, 1891.

### Comments on the proposed conservation of *Aptornis* Owen, [1848] (Aves)

(Case 2879; see BZN 52: 170–174)

(1) B.J. Gill

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On behalf of the Checklist Committee of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand I wish to support the proposal of Drs Weber and Krell to conserve the name *Aptornis* for the large rail-like extinct New Zealand birds commonly known as adzebills. This action will promote the stability of New Zealand bird names, given that *Apterornis* was not used for these birds between 1849 and 1984.

We can confirm Weber & Krell's contention that the vast majority of authors have used the spelling *Aptornis*, and to the examples they cited for the usage of the name (para. 4) we can add Oliver (1930, p. 352) and the following selection of more modern works: Scarlett (1972, p. 12), Martin & Klein (1984, p. 743), Cox (1991, p. 33), Gill & Martinson (1991, p. 63), Worthy & Holdaway (1994, p. 339). The last three publications persisted in using *Aptornis* after the priority of *Apterornis* had been noted in 1985.

We therefore ask the Commission to rule in favour of all four proposals in para. 8 of the application.

### Additional references

- Cox, G.J. 1991. *Prehistoric animals of New Zealand*. Collins, Auckland.  
Gill, B. & Martinson, P. 1991. *New Zealand's extinct birds*. Random Century, Auckland.  
Martin, P. & Klein, R. (Eds.). 1984. *Quaternary extinctions*. University of Arizona Press, Arizona.  
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Scarlett, R.J. 1972. Bones for the New Zealand archaeologist. *Canterbury Museum Bulletin*, 4: 1–33.  
Worthy, T.H. & Holdaway, R.N. 1994. Quaternary fossil faunas from caves in Takaka Valley and on Takaka Hill, northwest Nelson, South Island, New Zealand. *Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand*, 24: 297–391.

(2) Walter J. Bock

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I strongly support the application and proposals made by Weber & Krell on the basis that Owen was not responsible for the publication of the name *Apterornis* and that this name was forgotten for 140 years before it was used again. It is time that names published in reports of lectures presented at scientific meetings which appeared prior to names appearing in the published papers are no longer used to upset well-established usage, as in this case.



Gill, Brian James and Bock, Walter Joseph. 1995. "On the proposed conservation of Aptornis Owen,[1848] (Aves)." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 52, 346–346. <https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.6821>.

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