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## **British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (BOURC): 52nd Report (January 2021)**

This report covers the period January 2020 to October 2020. The 51st Report appeared in *Ibis* 162: 600-603.

### **CHANGES TO THE BRITISH LIST**

The following changes have been made to the British List.

#### **'Mandt's' Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle mandtii* (M.H.K. Lichtenstein)**

*Add subspecies* *Cepphus grylle mandtii*<sup>†</sup> (M.H.K. Lichtenstein) to the British List  
One, second-calendar-year or older, Cut End, Witham Mouth, Lincolnshire, 7-10 December 2017.

Published material indicates that *C. g. mandtii* can be distinguished from other subspecies of Black Guillemot. In non-breeding plumage the taxon is generally very pale, having a largely white head, lacking both a dark loreal spot and dark ear-coverts, and having an all white rump, scapulars, wing coverts and more white in the primary feathers. A paper describing these features and their analysis in the Cut End bird is being published in *British Birds* (McInerney & McGowan, In Press).

The probability of this individual being an escape from captivity was judged to be minimal. Individuals resembling this taxon have been observed in Iceland, the Faroe Islands and the Netherlands.

Black Guillemot is polytypic, breeding in the North Atlantic, Baltic and Arctic regions to eastern Russia and west to Alaska. Though sedentary in much of its range, birds nesting in higher Arctic latitudes including *C. g. mandtii* move to ice-free seas further south in winter.

### **IN ADDITION**

#### **New British first records:**

Following the review and rejection of British first records of White-winged Lark *Alauda leucoptera* and Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii* from East Sussex during the latter half of the nineteenth century, both associated with the taxidermist Mr. G. Swaysland & Son (*Ibis* 160: 936-942, *Br. Birds* 112: 89-98), five other British first records from the same source, area and period have been reviewed.

These include:

#### **Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis***

One, male, 23 December 1868, near Lewes, East Sussex, specimen at Booth Museum, Brighton (accession number BoMNH 000102).

**Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes***

One, male, nominate subspecies *C. g. galactotes*, 16 September 1854, Plumpton Bostall, near Brighton, East Sussex, specimen at Natural History Museum, Tring (accession number NHMUK 1859.8.12.1).

**Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus***

One, caught late September 1869 near Brighton, East Sussex, held in an aviary until June 1876.

**Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla***

One, 2 November 1864, Roedean School, Brighton, East Sussex, specimen at Booth Museum (accession number BoMNH 207569).

**Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica***

One, 23 October 1867, Roedean School, East Sussex, specimen at Booth Museum (accession number BoMNH 189248, previously listed as 204074).

The review resulted in all five records being rejected and the following records accepted instead as British firsts:

**Black-throated Thrush**

One, immature male, February 1879 Perth & Kinross, near Perth, Perth and Kinross, specimen at Perth Museum and Art Gallery, Perth (accession number PERGM 1977:778) (*Ibis* 1889: 579; *Transactions of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science* 1: 135-138).

**Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin**

One, 25 September 1859, near Start Point, Devon, nominate subspecies *C. g. galactotes*, specimen at Natural History Museum, Tring (accession number NHMUK 1859.8.12.1) (*Annals & Magazine of Natural History* 1859 Series 3 Volume 4: 399-400; *Ibis* 2: 103).

**Common Rosefinch**

One, immature, 3 October 1906, Fair Isle, Shetland, specimen at National Museums Scotland, Edinburgh (accession number NMSZ 1907.4.55) (*Annals of Scottish Natural History* 1906: 236-237; *Annals of Scottish Natural History* 1907: 70).

**Little Bunting**

One, female, 11 October 1902, Teesmouth, County Durham (*Bulletin British Ornithologist's Club* 13: 14).

**Rustic Bunting**

One, female, immature, 17 September 1881, Easington, East Yorkshire, specimen deposited at Yorkshire Museum, York, but longer traceable (*The Naturalist* 1881: 57-58; *Zoologist* 1881: 465-466; *Ibis* 1882: 181; *The Naturalist* 1885 (10): 364; *Zoologist* 1884: 176; *Zoologist* 1891: 363).

**CHANGES TO THE BRITISH LIST AFTER THE ADOPTION OF VERSION 10.2 OF THE IOC WORLD BIRD LIST**

The release of version 10.2 of the *IOC World Bird List* (<https://www.worldbirdnames.org>) resulted in numerous changes to the British List.

Western Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia iberiae* is given full specific status being split from Eastern Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*, with both species moving to the genus *Curruca*.

The new annotation being:

After Sardinian Warbler *Curruca melanocephala*

**Western Subalpine Warbler<sup>†</sup> A**

*Curruca iberiae* (Svensson)

V monotypic.

After Moltoni's Subalpine Warbler *Curruca subalpina*

**Eastern Subalpine Warbler<sup>†</sup> A**

*Curruca cantillans* (Pallas)

V *cantillans* (Pallas)

V *albistriata* C.L. Brehm.

The sequence of Sylviidae is revised with, for most species, a change in genus from *Sylvia* to *Curruca*:

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*  
Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*  
Barred Warbler *Curruca nisoria*  
Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca*  
Western Orphean Warbler *Curruca hortensis*  
Eastern Orphean Warbler *Curruca crassirostris*  
Asian Desert Warbler *Curruca nana*  
Rüppell's Warbler *Curruca ruppeli*  
Sardinian Warbler *Curruca melanocephala*  
Western Subalpine Warbler *Curruca iberiae*  
Moltoni's Subalpine Warbler *Curruca subalpina*  
Eastern Subalpine Warbler *Curruca cantillans*  
Whitethroat *Curruca communis*  
Spectacled Warbler *Curruca conspicillata*  
Marmora's Warbler *Curruca sarda*  
Dartford Warbler *Curruca undata*

The sequence of Rallidae is revised, with two species changing genus name from *Porzana* to *Zapornia*:

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*  
Corncrake *Crex crex*  
Sora Rail *Porzana carolina*  
Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*  
Coot *Fulica atra*  
American Coot *Fulica americana*  
Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni*  
American Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica*  
Western Swamphean *Porphyrio porphyrio*  
Baillon's Crake *Zapornia pusilla*  
Little Crake *Zapornia parva*

The sequence of Phalacrocoracidae is revised to:

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*  
Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*  
Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*

The sequence of *Helopsaltes* and *Locustella* is revised to:

Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Helopsaltes certhiola*  
Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata*  
River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis*  
Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*  
Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

The sequence of Sittidae is revised to:

Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis*  
Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

The sequence of *Ficedula* is revised to:

Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla*  
Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*  
Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*  
Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis*

The sequence of Passerellidae is revised to:

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus*  
Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*  
White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*  
White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis*  
Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis*  
Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia*  
Eastern Towhee *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*

Change in authority names:

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus mongolicus* J.F. von Brandt to J.F. Brandt  
American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* (P.L. Statius Müller) to (P.L.S. Müller)  
Hawk Owl *Surnia ulula caparoch* (P.L. Statius Müller) to (P.L.S. Müller)

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus borealis* de Selys-Longchamps to Selys-Longchamps  
 Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca blythi* Ticehurst & Whistler to (Ticehurst & Whistler)  
 Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca halimodendri* Sushkin to (Sushkin)  
 Eastern Orphean Warbler *Curruca crassirostris* Cretzschmar to (Cretzschmar)  
 Asian Desert Warbler *Curruca nana* (Hemprich & Ehrenberg) to Hemprich & Ehrenberg  
 Rüppell's Warbler *Curruca ruppeli* Temminck to (Temminck)  
 Western Subalpine Warbler *Curruca iberiae* Svensson to (Svensson)  
 Moltoni's Subalpine Warbler *Curruca subalpina* Temminck to (Temminck)  
 Whitethroat *Curruca communis* Latham to (Latham)  
 Whitethroat *Curruca communis communis* Latham to (Latham)  
 Spectacled Warbler *Curruca conspicillata* Temminck to (Temminck)  
 Marmora's Warbler *Curruca sarda* Temminck to (Temminck)  
 Dartford Warbler *Curruca undata dartfordiensis* Latham to (Latham)  
 Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni yunnanensis* Uchida & Kuroda to Uchida & Kuroda, Nagamichi  
 Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps* J.F. von Brandt to J.F. Brandt  
 Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret* (P.L. Stenius Müller) to (P.L.S. Müller)  
 Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca* (P.L. Stenius Müller) to (P.L.S. Müller)

## BRITISH LIST TOTALS

Following the split of Western Subalpine Warbler from Eastern Subalpine Warbler the British List increases to 622 species.

Category	Total
A	604
B	8
C	10
Total	622

Species in Category D and Category E form no part of the British List.

All the changes listed here can be seen in updated versions of the British List, both in Excel and simple list formats, at [www.bou.org.uk/british-list/](http://www.bou.org.uk/british-list/)

## FILES UNDER CONSIDERATION

### **Ross's Goose *Chen rossii***

A review of the Category D status of this species is being undertaken.

### **White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala***

A review of the Category D status of this species is being undertaken.

### **Giant Petrel sp. *Macronectes giganteus/halli***

One, first-calendar-year or older, Whitburn, Co. Durham, 2 July 2019 and same Cullernose Point, Northumberland, 2 July 2019, is being considered as the first record of this species pair.

**Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster***

One, second-calendar-year or older, Swalecliff, Kent, 19 August 2019, is being considered as the first record of this species.

**Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis taivana***

One, first-calendar-year to second-calendar-year, Pelistry, Kittydown and roaming, St Mary's, Isle of Scilly, 14 November 2018 to 3 February 2019, and 17 April 2019, is being considered as the first record of this taxon.

**Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis tschutschensis***

One, first-calendar-year to second-calendar-year, Sedgeford, Norfolk, 23 December 2019 to 1 March 2020, is being considered as the first record of this taxon.

**Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus***

One, first-calendar-year or older, Sennan, Cornwall, 23 October to 14 November 2019, is being considered as the first record of this species.

**BOU WEBSITE: [WWW.BOU.ORG.UK](http://WWW.BOU.ORG.UK)**

The BOU website is regularly updated and contains the latest version of the British List incorporating IOC taxonomic changes, announcements and the most recent Committee reports. However, the website is for information purposes only and is not an official document or part of the permanent record. Announcements of changes to the British List do not come into effect until published in a Committee Report in *Ibis*.

**PUBLICATIONS BY OR, ON BEHALF OF, MEMBERS OF THE BOURC AND MEMBERS OF THE BOURC-CFSC, RELATING TO THE BRITISH LIST, SINCE THE 51st REPORT**

**McInerny, C.J. & Shaw, K.D.** 2020. The White-billed Diver in Britain: its changing status and identification challenges. *Brit. Birds* 113: 198-210.

**McInerny, C.J. & McGowan, R.Y.** 2020. Scottish Birds Records Committee report on rare birds in Scotland, 2018. *Scott. Birds* 40: 99-119.

**McInerny, C.J. & McGowan, R.Y.** 2021. The 'Mandt's Black Guillemot' in Lincolnshire: BOURC assessment of the first British record. *Brit. Birds* 114: In press.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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(†) Rare species and subspecies for which descriptions are required by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). For species and subspecies not on the British List but considered by BBRC see [www.bbrc.org.uk](http://www.bbrc.org.uk)

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP (JANUARY 2020 - OCTOBER 2020)**

James Gilroy (Chairman)

Chris McInerny (Secretary)

Steve Dudley (*ex officio* non-voting member; BOU Chief Operations Officer)

Dawn Balmer

Chris Batty

Pierre-André Crochet (from July 2020)

Paul French (*ex officio*; BBRC Representative)

Alex Lees

Andy Musgrove (to June 2020)

Andy Stoddart

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