

33rd Report of the **ABA** Checklist Committee 2022

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Bat Falcon, Red-masked Parakeet, Lilac-crowned Parrot, and Rufous-tailed Rock-thrush added to the Checklist

This is the 33rd published report of the ABA Checklist Committee (ABA-CLC), covering deliberations during 2022. The primary role of the ABA-CLC is to consider the addition of new species to (and, in rare cases, the removal of species from) the *ABA Checklist*. Secondary roles include reviewing and revising ABA Codes covering ease of observation in the ABA Area and updating and maintaining the *ABA Checklist* regarding taxonomic sequence, common and scientific names, and four-letter alpha codes.

The ABA-CLC consists of eight voting members who serve staggered four-year terms. Each year, two members typically cycle off and are replaced by re-elected or newly elected members. Members may be re-elected after their first four-year term but must take at least one year off after two consecutive terms. Two terms were expiring after 2022, those of Aaron Lang and Tom Johnson, after eight consecutive years of service each. Therefore, two vacancies for voting members needed to be filled beginning in 2023, and we have nominated Luke DeCiccio and Doug Gochfeld to become new ABA-CLC members. The ABA-CLC thanks Aaron and Tom for their eight years of excellent service and welcomes Luke and Doug as new ABA-CLC members.

For species under consideration, each member

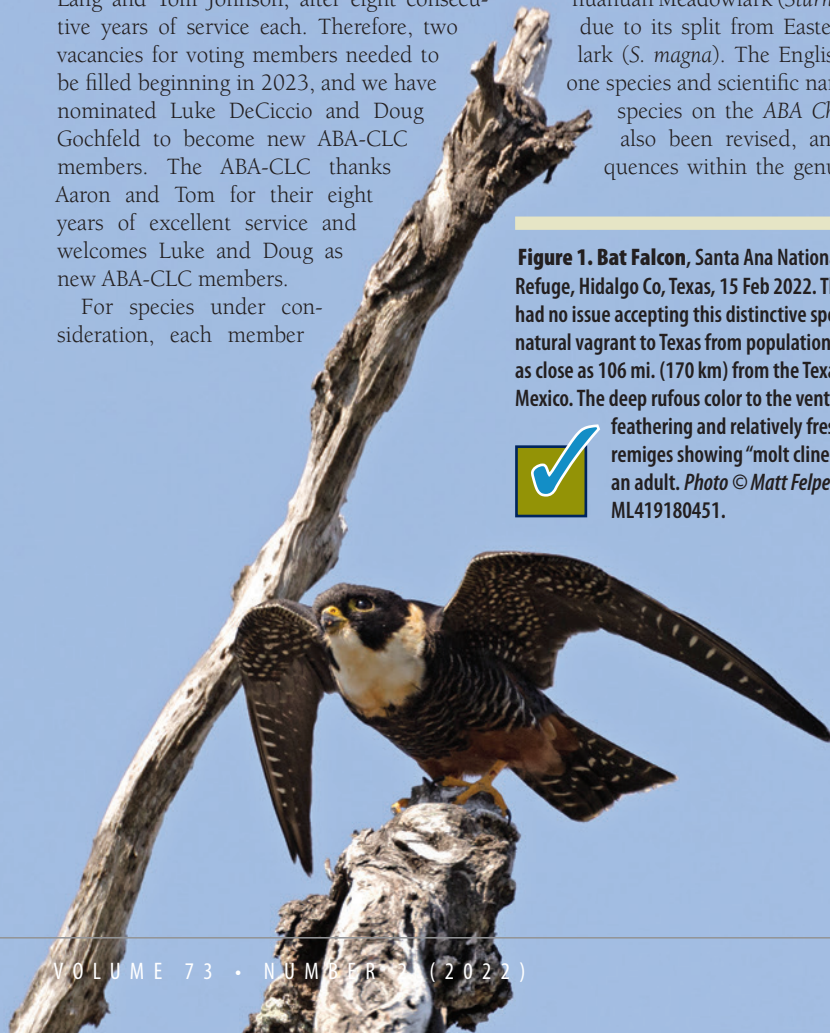
votes to accept or not accept it to the *ABA Checklist* based on evidence from one or more records in the ABA Area (Pranty et al. 2008). A tally of 8:0 for acceptance automatically results in the species' addition to the *Checklist*, whereas a tally of 0:8 results in automatic non-acceptance. Intermediate vote tallies result in automatic recirculation (if 6:2, 5:3, or 4:4) or recirculation at the request of the dissenting (if 7:1) or any accepting (if 3:5, 2:6, 1:7) member. Species can circulate for up to three rounds, at which point an 8:0 or 7:1 tally is needed for acceptance to the *Checklist*.

Records finalized by the ABA-CLC in 2022

In 2022, the ABA-CLC finalized voting on four species that would represent additions to the ABA Area and all four were accepted and added to the *ABA Checklist*. Accounts for these species are provided below. In addition, and according to the *ABA Checklist* convention, all taxonomic and nomenclatural decisions of the American Ornithological Society (AOS) are automatically recognized by the ABA-CLC. This year, decisions by the AOS's North American Classification Committee (Chesser et al. 2022) resulted in the addition of one species, Chihuahuan Meadowlark (*Sturnella lilianae*), due to its split from Eastern Meadowlark (*S. magna*). The English names of one species and scientific names of three species on the *ABA Checklist* have also been revised, and linear sequences within the genus *Strix* and

Figure 1. Bat Falcon, Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, Hidalgo Co, Texas, 15 Feb 2022. The ABA-CLC had no issue accepting this distinctive species as a natural vagrant to Texas from populations that breed as close as 106 mi. (170 km) from the Texas border with Mexico. The deep rufous color to the vent and femoral

feathering and relatively fresh and dark remiges showing "molt clines" indicate an adult. Photo © Matt Felperin. ML419180451.



CHANGES IN BRIEF:

Species Added Based on New Distributional Records or Established Populations

Bat Falcon
(*Falco ruficularis*)
ABA Code 5

Red-masked Parakeet
(*Psittacara erythrogenys*)
ABA Code 2

Lilac-crowned Parrot
(*Amazona finschi*)
ABA Code 2

Rufous-tailed Rock-thrush
(*Monticola saxatilis*)
ABA Code 5

among many of the wrens were re-ordered. For details, see Michael L. P. Retter's "Checklist Redux" beginning on p. 38 of this issue, and see also below for the addition of names recognized by Clements et al. (2021), including revisions in 2022) and eBird where they differ from those of the AOS. The addition of these five species results in a total of 1,133 species on the *ABA Checklist*.

New Species Accepted to the *ABA Checklist*

Bat Falcon (*Falco ruficularis*)—ABA-CLC Record #2022–03 (8:0, Jun 2022). The ABA-CLC unanimously accepted the record of an adult Bat Falcon observed at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, Hidalgo Co, Texas,

from 8 Dec 2021 to 10 Mar 2022 (Fig. 1). This record was also unanimously accepted by the Texas Bird Records Committee in May 2022. ABA-CLC members had no concerns with this individual's identification or status as a natural vagrant. Natural populations in Mexico breed as close as 106 mi. (170 km) to southern Texas (Bierregaard and Kirwan 2020), and the appearance and behavior of the Texas bird indicated no signs of previous captivity. Following the sequence of the American Ornithological Society's Checklist (Chesser et al. 2022), Bat Falcon follows Aplomado Falcon (*Falco femoralis*) on the *ABA Checklist*, and the CLC has assigned it ABA Code 5. For more on this record, see p. 38 of this issue of *North American Birds*.

Red-masked Parakeet (*Psittacara erythrogenys*)—ABA-CLC Record #2022–05 (8:0, Aug 2022). This South American species (Kalodimos 2020) has substantial and increasing breeding populations in California, including within the San Francisco (>250 individuals), Los Angeles (100s of individuals), and San Diego (>80 individuals) metropolitan areas

(Allen et al. 2016, Garrett 2018, Benson et al. 2021a; Fig. 2), such that the species was added to the state list by the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC) in Jun 2022. The ABA-CLC agreed unanimously that the population status in California met those of the ABA for an established exotic species (Pranty et al. 2008). Breeding populations also exist in Florida (about 150 individuals; Chatfield-Taylor and Epps 2020) and in Hawaii (50–60 on O'ahu and 50–80 on Hawai'i; Pyle and Pyle 2017). The Hawaii populations were considered not quite robust enough to be added to the *ABA Checklist* by the ABA-CLC in 2017 (Pyle et al. 2018). Following Clements et al. (2021), Red-masked Parakeet follows Mitred Parakeet (*P. mitratus*) on the *ABA Checklist*, and it has been given ABA Code 2.

Lilac-crowned Parrot (*Amazona finschi*)—ABA-CLC Record #2022–04 (8:0, Jul 2022). Similar to Red-masked Parakeet, the CBRC added Lilac-crowned Parrot to the California state list (in Jan 2022), and the ABA-CLC agreed that it met the criteria of the ABA for an established exotic species. Native popula-

Figure 2. Red-masked Parakeet, Temple City, Los Angeles Co, California, 15 Jan 2011. The ABA-CLC added this exotic species to the *ABA Checklist* based on established and expanding breeding populations of >500 individuals in California. Breeding populations of smaller size also exist in Florida and Hawai'i. Photo © Larry Sansone.





Figure 3. Lilac-crowned Parrot, O'Neill Regional Park, Orange Co, California, 15 Feb 2021. As with Red-masked Parakeet, the ABA-CLC agreed with the California Bird Records Committee that expanding breeding populations of 400–500 individuals met the criteria of both committees to consider this an established exotic species. Smaller populations also occur in Florida and Texas. Photo © Rick Bergstrom. ML313926441.

2011). Following the sequence of the AOS's *Check-list* (Chesser et al. 2022), Lilac-crowned Parrot follows Red-crowned Parrot (*Amazona viridigenalis*) on the ABA Checklist and the CLC has assigned it ABA Code 2.

Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush (*Monticola saxatilis*)—ABA-CLC Record #2021-03 (8:0, May 2022). In Nov 2021 the Alaska Checklist Committee unanimously accepted this species to the Alaska state list based on a record of a first-cycle male present at Utqiagvik (Barrow), Alaska 24–25 Jun 2021 (Fig. 4). This distinctive species breeds in montane habitats from Spain to central China and winters in eastern Africa (Collar and Bonan 2020). Its occurrence in Alaska likely represents a spring overshoot of eastern breeding populations. Following Clements et al. (2021), Rufous-tailed Rock-thrush follows Common Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) on the ABA Checklist, and it has been assigned ABA Code 5.

ABA Code Updates

The ABA-CLC has developed a coding system to reflect the abundance and ease of detecting

Figure 4. Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush, Utqiagvik (Barrow), Alaska, 25 Jun 2021. There are no identification issues with this distinctive species, which breeds in central Eurasia and migrates primarily to Africa. The worn juvenile remiges and outer greater coverts indicate a bird in first alternate plumage and the bright coloration indicates a male. Photo © Raymond VanBuskirk. ML350349271.



tions of Lilac-crowned Parrot are endemic to western Mexico (Renton 2020), and this species now has established exotic populations of >400–500 individuals in coastal southern California, from Ventura to San Diego counties (Allen et al. 2016, Benson et al. 2021b; Fig. 3). Smaller populations of up to several dozen individuals have also existed in Florida and Texas (Pranty and Garrett





Figure 5. Southern Lapwing, Iosco Co, Michigan, 30 Jul 2022. The ABA-CLC may consider adding this species to the ABA Checklist following evaluation by the Michigan Bird Records Committee. Additional records of this species from Maryland and Florida could also be considered.
 Photo © Tammy McQuade. ML471332121.



each species in the ABA Area at aba.org/aba-checklist/ (see also Pranty et al. 2008). The Codes range from 1 (most common and easily detected) to 5 (five or fewer records in the ABA Area) and 6 (presumed extirpated or extinct). As mentioned above, the four species added to the ABA Checklist in 2022 received ABA Code 5 (Bat Falcon and Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush) or ABA Code 2 (Red-masked Parakeet and Lilac-crowned Parrot). The code for the newly split Chihuahuan Meadowlark is 1. No other code changes were considered by the ABA-CLC in 2022.

Four-letter Alpha Codes

Alpha codes are abbreviations of English names; they are used by ornithologists and birders as shorthand, allowing quicker data recording and entry than full species names. Four-letter alpha codes are also now an option for eBird data entry. The codes employed by both the ABA Checklist and eBird follow those maintained by the Institute for Bird Populations (tinyurl.com/IBP-codes), which updates

them each July or August following release of the AOS Checklist supplement. Codes for the five species newly added to the ABA Checklist are as follows: Bat Falcon (BAFA), Red-masked Parakeet (RMPA), Lilac-crowned Parrot (LCPA), Rufous-tailed Rock-thrush (RTRT), and Chihuahuan Meadowlark (CHME). A change in English name to Asian Stonechat (*Saxicola maurus*) by the AOS (Chesser et al. 2022) has resulted in its code becoming ASST (from STON for “Stonechat”), and the code for Harris’s Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) is changed to HAAA (from HASH) due to a change in coding policy regarding non-species forms (see tinyurl.com/IBP-codes).

Anticipated/Possible Future Votes and Other Decisions

The ABA-CLC is currently circulating records of Variable Hawk (*Geranoaetus polyosoma*) from Colorado and New Mexico, and Black Catbird (*Melanoptila glabrirostris*) from Louisiana and Texas for consideration as additions to the ABA Checklist. For both species, deliberations involve topics other than identification, and ABA-CLC conclusions will be published in the next annual report. We are aware of records of Southern Lapwing (*Vanellus chilensis*) in Iosco Co, Michigan from Jun to at least mid-Oct 2022 (Fig. 5) and of Icterine Warbler (*Hippolais icterina*), at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, on 22 Sep 2022 (Fig. 6). As

per tradition, the ABA-CLC will await the decisions of local bird records committees before circulating these records.

This year we will begin to note on the ABA Checklist when there is a discrepancy in English and scientific names between those of the AOS (Chesser et al. 2022) and those of eBird/Clements et al. (2021, including revisions in 2022). This change will allow ABA members who keep lists via eBird to know what species on the ABA Checklist is being referred to. For example, we will now list “Gray-headed [Purple] Swamphen *Porphyrio [porphyrio] poliocephalus*” in the ABA Checklist to reflect differences in taxonomic treatment between these two checklists. This is the only species for which both the common and the scientific names currently differ between the two checklists. There will be 14 other discrepancies listed: six for English names and eight for scientific names, the majority of which are minor and involve either exotic or vagrant species.

Corrigendum and Corrections to the ABA Checklist

In the 2021 ABA-CLC report (Pyle et al. 2021) it was indicated that two separate Inca Terns (*Larosterna inca*) occurred in Hawaii in 2021, but later research documented that only one individual was observed, on different islands, from Mar 2021 into early Jan 2022

Figure 6. Icterine Warbler, Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, 22 Sep 2022. The ABA-CLC will consider adding this species to the ABA Checklist following evaluation of this record by the Alaska Bird Records Committee. Photo © Rodney Ungwiluk, Jr. ML486612921.



(VanderWerf 2022). Also it was indicated that the Blue-and-white Swallow (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*) in Texas on 20–21 Jul 2020 was a male; additional review of sexing criteria indicates that the bird is better left unsexed.

Acknowledgments

The decisions of local bird records committees are instrumental in ABA-CLC evaluation of records, and we thank the following committees and their corresponding members for providing comments or additional information on species considered herein: Alaska Checklist Committee (ABA-CLC member Aaron Lang), Texas Ornithological Committee (Eric Carpenter), California Bird Records Committee (Tom Benson), and Michigan Bird Records Committee (Scott Terry); we are also grateful to the many ABA members and other birders and experts who contributed documentation to local records committees, thereby assisting with ABA-CLC evaluations. We thank Jon Dunn and Eric VanderWerf for pointing out items for the corrigenda. Finally, we acknowledge the thousands of individuals who have contributed images to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Macaulay Library and for agreeing to the license allowing use for research purposes (filenames listed on relevant photos); we thank the photographers listed in the figure captions for permission to publish their images.

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