

Correct name for the Asian Russet Sparrow

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Abstract The widespread Russet Sparrow is usually called *Passer rutilans* (Temminck). I have shown that this specific name was published on 31 December 1836, and that it is preceded by *cinnamomeus*, published by Gould on 8 April 1836. The species thus should be called *Passer cinnamomeus* (Gould, 1836) due to the Principle of Priority. The three generally recognized subspecies should bear the following names: *P. cinnamomeus rutilans* (Temminck, 1836), *P. cinnamomeus intensior* Rothschild, 1922, and *P. cinnamomeus cinnamomeus* (Gould, 1836), respectively.

Keywords *Passer rutilans*, *Passer cinnamomeus*, nomenclature

Introduction

The Russet Sparrow is a rather common and widespread species of the Oriental Region. Three subspecies are generally recognized, including *Passer rutilans rutilans* (Temminck and Laugier de Chartrouse, 1836), which breeds in China east of Tibet, Japan and adjacent parts of East Asia, *Passer rutilans cinnamomeus* (Gould, 1836), which inhabits the Himalayas and adjacent mountain ranges, and *Passer rutilans intensior* Rothschild, 1922, which lives in South-east Asia (Moreau and Greenway, 1962; Clement et al., 1993; Dickinson, 2003; Summers-Smith, 2009).

Results and discussion

Temminck's *rutilans* and Gould's *cinnamomeus* were long considered similar, but separate species until Hartert (1904:161–162) lumped them into a single species. Hartert (1904) incorrectly dated Temminck's and Gould's papers to 1829 and 1835, respectively, and accordingly called the species *rutilans*, which name he believed to have six years

precedence over *cinnamomeus*. Recent advances in bibliographic research indicate that *cinnamomeus* has precedence.

Temminck published the name *rutilans* in the binomen *Fringilla rutilans* in the text accompanying plate 588 of his and Laugier's *Planches coloriées*. This plate appeared in the 99th *livraison*. Hartert (1904:161) said that the plate appeared in 1829 without explanation. Crotch (1869:500), Sherborn (1898:488), Stresemann (1922:54–55) and Zimmer (1926:627) believed that *livraison* 99 appeared in 1835 (closer date unknown), but Dickinson (2001) documented that this *livraison* was published only in 1836. A closer date being unknown, the work is deemed as having been published on 31 December 1836 (Dickinson, 2001:47; ICZN 1999, Art. 21.3).

Gould published the name *cinnamomeus* in the binomen *Pyrgita cinnamomea* in a report on the meeting of the Zoological Society of London held on 8 December 1835. This report appeared in the 36th issue of the Society's Proceedings and was included in the volume for 1835. It has long been established that this issue appeared on 8 April 1836 (Sclater, 1893; Duncan, 1937; Dickinson, 2005; Peterson, 2011).

All other synonyms were published much later and do not compete with Temminck's *rutilans* and Gould's *cinnamomeus* for priority (Hartert, 1904:161–162; Moreau and Greenway, 1962:13–14). The earliest name for the South-east Asian subspecies is *Passer rutilans intensior* Rothschild (1922:11).

These data allow to conclude that Gould's *cinnamomeus*

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was published on 8 April 1836, while Temminck's *rutilans* appeared on an unknown date within 1836, i.e., unless shown otherwise, on 31 December 1836 in the sense of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999, Art. 21.3 and 21.7). Hence, *cinnamomeus* has priority over *rutilans*.

The Russet Sparrow thus should bear the name *Passer cinnamomeus* (Gould, 1836). Its three generally recognized subspecies should be called *Passer cinnamomeus rutilans* (Temminck, 1836), *P. cinnamomeus intensior* Rothschild, 1922, and *P. cinnamomeus cinnamomeus* (Gould, 1836).

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山麻雀命名的考证

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摘要: 山麻雀是一种广布的小型鸣禽，拉丁学名通常为 *Passer rutilans* (Temminck)。经作者考证，该种名发表于1836年12月31日，但在此之前，Gould已于1836年4月8日发表了该种并命名为 *Passer cinnamomeus*。因此，根据动物命名法中的优先原则，该种应称作 *Passer cinnamomeus* (Gould, 1836)。其公认的3个亚种也应分别称作 *P. cinnamomeus rutilans* (Temminck, 1836), *P. cinnamomeus intensior* Rothschild, 1922 及 *P. cinnamomeus cinnamomeus* (Gould, 1836)。

关键词: *Passer rutilans*, *Passer cinnamomeus*, 命名法