

Generic name of southern snowfinches

J. MLIKOVSKY

The southern snowfinches *Montifringilla davidiana*, *M. blanfordi*, *M. ruficollis* and *M. taczanowskii* are often separated in the genus *Pyrgilauda* (e.g. Gebauer and Kaiser 1994, Inskipp *et al.* 1996). The first of these species was described by Verreaux (1871, 1872) on the basis of material supplied from Tibet by the priest and traveller Armand David. Recently, the validity of the generic name has been discussed (Kasin 1982, Nejšel'dt 1986, Stepanjan 1990), and the situation needs to be clarified.

First, Kasin (1982) suggested that *Pyrgilauda* Verreaux 1870 [= 1871] was preoccupied by '*Pyrgilauda*' Bonaparte 1850, and created a new name, *Stepaniana*, for it. Nejšel'dt (1986) pointed out that the alleged senior synonym was spelled *Pyrrhulauda* by Bonaparte (1850). In consequence, she supported the nomenclatural validity of *Pyrgilauda* Verreaux 1871, and indicated that *Stepaniana* Kasin 1982 is its junior objective synonym. Later, Stepanjan (1990) reported that *Pyrgilauda* first appeared in Bonaparte (1850) under conditions that did not comply with the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, but in the interests of the stability of nomenclature he supported further use of *Pyrgilauda* Verreaux 1871. Inexplicably, he referred to the second edition of the Code, which has been invalid since February 1985, when the third edition came into force. The latter edition of the Code (ICZN 1985) presents a solution for the situation under discussion, as will be shown below.

The name *Pyrgilauda* was published for the first time by Bonaparte (1850: 511) as '*Pyrgilauda*, Verr.' In the synonymy of *Pyrrhulauda* Smith 1839. Such a name becomes available if 'prior to 1961 it has been treated as an available name and...adopted as the name of a taxon' (ICZN 1985, Art. 11/e), as was done in this case e.g. by Verreaux (1871, 1872) and Stegmann (1932). The author of such a name is 'the person who published it as a synonym, even if some other originator is cited' (ICZN 1985, Art. 50/g). *Pyrgilauda* is thus attributable to Bonaparte (1850: 511), not to Verreaux, although he

was the first to publish its description in 1871 and 1872. The type species of *Pyrgilauda* Bonaparte 1850 becomes *Pyrgilauda davidiana* Verreaux 1871 (ICZN 1985, Art. 69/i/1). *Stepaniana* Kasin 1982 is a junior objective synonym of *Pyrgilauda* Bonaparte 1850.

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