

Specific status seems well-deserved and genetic work to establish the close relationships would be desirable, in many ways it is more reminiscent of Black-browed Triller (*L. atrovirens*)

Reference

del Hoyo, J. et al. (2005). *Handbook of the Birds of the World Vol. 10*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.

Names of New Guinea birds: an Editorial Perspective

There has been a move to standardise the vernacular names of birds, with both the Asian Bird Club and the IOC leading a move in this direction. The recent (2007) publication of *Birds of the World Recommended English Names*, by McGill and Wright was put together by a small group of experts without wide consultation. Our view is that where a name is confusing or inappropriate, or the same as one in wide use elsewhere, then clearly a consensus decision is required. An instance in New Guinea is Vulturine Parrot (*Psittrichas fulgidus*), having the same name as a South American species (*Pionopsitta vulturina*), so it could be renamed Pesquet's Parrot.

A good general guideline is to use the established names as per the main field guides for the country, a principle which was sadly ignored by Clements in his checklist for the African and Australasian regions and which has caused much confusion ever since. North American names are far too often widely at variance with the names being used in the countries where the bird occurs. This smacks of cultural insensitivity to say the least. Moves to remove the names of historical pioneers (usually dead white males in politically correct jargon) from specific names are an initiative of the Asian Bird Club and seem regrettable, losing a lot of historic names for often poor descriptive alternatives.

We by and large use the common New Guinea field guide names, choosing what we feel to be the most appropriate where Coates is at variance with Beehler et al. A few coinings of our own are used for some taxa, such as Bismarck Crow (*Corvus (orru) insularis*) which we feel is long overdue for specific status, and Island Myna for the inaccurate Long-tailed Myna (*Mino kreffti*). We also favour a narrow taxonomic approach, as opposed to broad species groups, which lump many subspecies together, and opt for splitting taxa where a good case can be made. A revised New Guinea checklist is badly needed, using appropriate vernacular names and reviewing some records of rare birds.