

collected before the status of Elepaio from that area can be determined. Table 1 compares 6 plumage characters for males and 4 for females of the 3 named subspecies of *Chasiempis sandwichensis* on the island of Hawaii. If the enigmatic Kau birds are ignored, the table can be used to identify almost all specimens.

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The correct name and authorship for Wallace's Standard Wing (Passeriformes, Paradisidae)

by David K. McAlpine

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The modern standard works on the birds of paradise (Gilliard 1969, Cooper & Forshaw 1977) give the name and authorship of Wallace's Standard Wing as *Semioptera wallacei* Gould, and Gilliard further (p. 126) attributes the epithet *wallacei* to "Gould 1859, *Birds Australia Suppl.*, pl. 11 and text".

Semioptera wallacei appears on pl. 52, not pl. 11, of the cited work by Gould in the sequence in which it was to be finally bound. Gould's supplement was issued in 5 parts over the period 1851-1869. Pl. 52 was originally published in part 3 which appeared in September 1859, but the plate number 52 was apparently not designated until 1869 when advice on the sequence for binding the previously issued plates was given with part 5.

Gould did not propose *S. wallacei* as a new species but referred to and quoted from an earlier published note by Gray (June 1859) in the proceedings of a meeting of the Zoological Society of London held on 22 March 1859. Herein Gray gave some descriptive information on the bird, derived from a sketch sent by A. R. Wallace with an accompanying letter marked "Batchian, Moluccas, Oct 29, 1858", and proposed the specific name *Paradisea wallacii* (sic) and the subgeneric name *Semieptera*.

Similar brief accounts of this Zoological Society meeting appeared even earlier in *Ibis* Ser. 1 (1): 210 (April 1859) and in *The Literary Gazette* No. 39 (New Series): 406 (26 March 1859). As the *Literary Gazette* report includes the first publication of both subgeneric and specific names I quote the passage relating to the new bird of paradise in full:—

"Mr. S. Stephens read an extract from a letter received by him from Mr. A. R. Wallace, dated Batchian, Moluccas, October 29, 1858, in which Mr. Wallace stated that he had the finest and most wonderful bird in the islands — a new bird of Paradise, of a new genus, quite unlike anything yet known. Mr. Wallace enclosed a rough sketch of the bird. Mr. G. R. Gray having had the above sketch placed in his hands for examination and comparison with the other known species of *Paradiseae*, agreed with Mr. Wallace that it is an entirely new form, differing from all its congeners, approaching most nearly to the king bird of Paradise, but in place of the lengthened caudal appendages, it has springing from the lesser coverts of each wing two long shafts, each being webbed with white on each side at the apex. The possession of these peculiar winged standards induced Mr. G. R. Gray to propose the subgeneric name of *Semieptera*, and he further added the provisional specific name of *Wallacei*, in commemoration of the indefatigable energy Mr. Wallace had hitherto shown in the advancement of ornithological knowledge."

It is now apparent that the original spellings are "*Wallacei*" for one of the "species of *Paradiseae*" (i.e. the species was placed in the genus *Paradisea*, here rendered in the plural to indicate the species collectively) and *Semieptera* for the subgenus, and that the authorship of both is to be attributed to Gray (International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, Art. 50 (a)). Because of the inclusion of descriptive statements the names cannot be dismissed as *nomina nuda*, though the publication has been generally ignored.

The species must bear the name *Semieptera wallacei* (Gray). The slight alteration in spelling should cause little inconvenience and is a better transliteration from the Greek for standard-wing. The alternative spelling *Semieptera* is liable to misinterpretation as half-wing. The spellings *Semieptera* for the generic name and *wallacii* or *wallaceii* for the species epithet are incorrect subsequent spellings as defined by the International Code (Articles 32 and 33).

The generic name *Paradisea* Linné, 1758, has been commonly given as *Paradisaea* in modern literature. According to Neave (1940), who may have influenced other workers, the spelling *Paradisaea* dates from 1758, while *Paradisea* dates from Linné 1766. Iredale (1948: 175) has correctly pointed out that in the tenth edition of *Systema naturae*, Linné (1758) used the spellings *Paradisea* on p. 83 and *Paradisaea* on p. 110. It is thus a case of multiple original spellings and the spelling adopted by the first reviser is therefore to

be used. In the twelfth edition of *Systema Naturae*, Linné (1766: 117, 166) consistently used the spelling *Paradisea* and this spelling is to be accepted as correct. The family name based on this type-genus should be spelled *Paradiseidae*.

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Sula leucogaster and other species in the Iles Mitsios, Madagascar

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The literature contains no mention of the Iles Mitsios in northwest Madagascar as an important locality for sea-birds in the western Indian Ocean (Milon *et al.* 1973, Feare 1978, C. Jouanin, pers. comm.), but in July 1973 while visiting these islands on board the yacht 'Marimba' I found two rocky islets to be inhabited by many sea-birds, most notable amongst which was a nesting population of the Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*. These islands are therefore the only major sea-bird locality recorded in coastal waters off Madagascar. A set of colour transparencies of the islands and their bird populations is deposited at the Museum of Zoology, University of Cambridge.

I visited the two islets, Behangovo (centred at 48° 30' 33" E, 13° 00' 01" S; maximum height 61 m) and Betalinjona (centred at 48° 30' 00" E, 12° 59' 04" S; maximum height 74 m) on 6 July 1973; these, together with two other rocks (Antsoha and Betaniazo) which are not colonised by sea-birds, constitute 'Les Quatres Frères', a group which lies some 32 km northeast of Nossi Bé and approximately 35 km west of Port St. Louis, one of the nearest points on the mainland. Neither of the sea-bird colonised islets are easily accessible, for they are climbable only by a single tortuous gulley each on their northern sides. Behangovo was visited on the morning of 6 July 1973, and Betalinjona on the afternoon of the same day.