

# The dates of six taxa described by A.O. Hume (*Puffinus persicus*, *Ephialtes brucei* and *Ninox obscurus*) and W.E. Brooks (*Cyornis poliogenys*, *Phylloscopus sindianus* and *Calandrella tibetana*)

Aasheesh Pittie

Pittie, A. 2006. The dates of six taxa described by A.O. Hume (*Puffinus persicus*, *Ephialtes brucei* and *Ninox obscurus*) and W.E. Brooks (*Cyornis poliogenys*, *Phylloscopus sindianus* and *Calandrella tibetana*). *Indian Birds* 2 (5): 132–136.  
Aasheesh Pittie, P.O. Box # 68, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500034, India. Email: aasheesh.pittie@gmail.com.

The validity of a scientific taxon and its authorship may depend upon its date of publication, following the Principle of Priority laid down in Article 23 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature—henceforth known as ‘the Code’ (ICZN 1999). Therefore establishing such a date is of considerable importance.

In this paper I deal with the dates of some taxa described in *Stray Feathers*. An appendix contains a table with the imprint date, pagination and dates of publication of all twelve volumes of *Stray Feathers*.

### Taxa described by Allan Octavian Hume

A.O. Hume described 11 new taxa (pp. 1–19) in Volume I, No. 1 of *Stray Feathers*—his 18<sup>th</sup> century ornithological journal. Of these, the dates of three taxa (see below) are discussed here, as various authorities (Table 1) have recorded their dates of publication inconsistently.

“*Puffinus Persicus*, Sp. Nov.” (p. 5). [at sea between Guadar and Muscat.]

“*Ephialtes Brucei*, Sp. Nov.” (p. 8) “Rahuri, Ahmednuggur”.

“*Ninox Obscurus*, Sp. Nov.” (p. 11) near “Camorta” in the “Nicobars”.

*Ephialtes brucei* retains its specific status and is now treated as *Otus brucei brucei*; *Puffinus persicus* is sometimes treated as a subspecies *Puffinus lherminieri persicus* and *Ninox obscurus* is usually considered to be a race of *Ninox scutulata*.

This volume of *Stray Feathers* had a title page dated “1873”. However, the “Contents of Vol. I. 1872–73” (pp. i–iii) state clearly that the six numbers that comprised it, were not all published in that year. “No. 1. – November,” was published in 1872 with the remainder in 1873—“No. 2, 3, & 4. – February,” “No. 5. – July,” and “No. 6. – December”. Despite the imprint date (or ‘specified date’) of “November, 1872” on the first page of Volume I No. 1 (p. 1), several authorities seem to have erred in dating these taxa, probably due to the title page date of “1873”. The specified date of November 1872 must be applied under the Code (Art. 21.2) unless that can be shown to be incorrect. No suggestion to this effect is known to the author. If necessary to date this more precisely Art. 21.3.1 of the Code should be applied and the actual date of publication of this part (Volume I, No. 1, November 1872) should be taken as 30<sup>th</sup> November 1872.

**Table 1. Taxa described by Hume (1872)**

Author	<i>Puffinus persicus</i>	<i>Otus b. brucei</i>	<i>Ninox s. obscura</i>
Blanford 1895	—	1873	1873
Blanford 1898	1873	—	—
Baker 1922	—	1873	1873
Baker 1923	1873	—	—
Baker 1927	—	1873	1873
Baker 1929	1873	—	—
Baker 1930a	—	1873	<b>1872</b>
Baker 1930b	1875	—	—
Peters 1931	1873	—	—
Peters 1940	—	1873	1873
Ripley 1961	1873	<b>1872</b>	<b>1872</b>
Jouanin & Mougouin 1979	1873	—	—
Ripley 1982	1873	—	—
Ali & Ripley 2001	1873	<b>1872</b>	<b>1872</b>
del Hoyo et al. 1992	1873	—	—
del Hoyo et al. 1999	—	1873	1873
Dickinson 2003	1873	1873 <sup>1</sup>	1873

Following the evidence of the actual date of publication given above, it is suggested that in future, these taxa be cited as follows, with the actual date after the author and the parenthesized imprint date after the relevant pagination:

1. *Puffinus persicus* Hume, 1872, *Stray Feathers* I (1): 5 (1873). The recommended short citation (to be used within the body of an article) is *Puffinus persicus* Hume, 1872.
2. *Otus brucei brucei* (Hume, 1872), *Stray Feathers* I (1): 8 (1873). The recommended short citation (to be used within the body of an article) is *Otus brucei brucei* (Hume, 1872).
3. *Ninox scutulata obscura* A.O. Hume, 1872, *Stray Feathers* I (1): 11 (1873). The recommended short citation (to be used within the body of an article) is *Ninox scutulata obscura* Hume, 1872.

### Taxa described by W. Edwin Brooks

W.E. Brooks described three new taxa (see below) in *Stray Feathers*, volume eight number six. The first two taxa retain

<sup>1</sup> Dickinson (2006) emends the date to 1872.

their specific status until today whereas the third is treated as *Calandrella acutirostris tibetana*.

“*Cyornis poliogenys*, N. Sp.” (p. 469) from “Salbaree” in the “Sikhim Terai” (=Salbari, Sikkim, India).

“*Phylloscopus sindianus*, Sp. Nov.” (pp. 476) from “Sukhur” (=Sukkur, Sind).

“*Calandrella tibetana*, Sp. Nov.” (p. 488) from “Thibet, beyond Sikhim” (=Tibet).

Volume VIII of *Stray Feathers* had a title page date of “1879”. The first five parts were published in that year—“No. 1” in “April” and “No. 2–5” in “October”. The last part, “No. 6”, had an imprint date of “December 1879” on its first page (p. 423). However, on the last page of this part (p. 503) is a “Note” from “The Editor” dated “March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1880”, which states:

“That this number, which should have appeared in December 1879, and a great part of which was printed in November of that year, has, owing to circumstances beyond the Editor’s control, remained unpublished for several months, and will only actually issue in May.”

Though Hume included a correction to the volume’s title page date, it is incomplete and at best a prediction of a supposed publication date in May 1880. It is therefore recommended that Art. 21.3.2 of the Code should be applied and the date of publication of this part (Volume VIII, No. 6, December 1879) be taken as 31<sup>st</sup> December 1880.

Various authorities have treated the dates of publication of these three taxa as either 1879 or 1880 (Table 2).

**Table 2. Taxa described by Brooks (1880)**

Author	<i>Cyornis poliogenys</i>	<i>Phylloscopus sindianus</i>	<i>Calandrella a. tibetana</i>
Oates 1889	-	Not given	-
Oates 1890	1879	-	1879
Baker 1921a	1879	-	<b>1880</b>
Baker 1921b	-	<b>1880</b>	-
Baker 1924	1879	<b>1880</b>	-
Baker 1926	-	-	1879
Baker 1930a	1879	<b>1880</b>	1879
Peters 1960	-	-	<b>1880</b>
Ripley 1961	1879	1879	1879
Ripley 1982	1879	1879	1879
Watson 1986 a,b	1879	1879	-
Ali & Ripley 2001a,b,c	1879	1879	1879
Roberts 1992	-	1879	-
Baker 1997	-	1879	-
Dickinson 2003	1879	1879	<b>1880</b>
del Hoyo et al. 2004	-	-	<b>1880</b>

Following the evidence of the actual date of publication given above, it is suggested that in future, these taxa be cited as follows, with the actual date after the author and the parenthesized imprint date after the relevant pagination:

1. *Cyornis poliogenys* W.E. Brooks, 1880, *Stray Feathers* 8 (6): 469 (1879). The recommended short citation (to be used within the body of an article) is *Cyornis poliogenys* W.E. Brooks, 1880.
2. *Phylloscopus sindianus* W.E. Brooks, 1880, *Stray Feathers* 8 (6): 476–480 (1879). The recommended short citation is *Phylloscopus sindianus* W.E. Brooks, 1880.
3. *Calandrella acutirostris tibetana* W.E. Brooks, 1880, *Stray Feathers* 8 (6): 488 (1879). The recommended short citation is *Calandrella acutirostris tibetana* W.E. Brooks, 1880.

Changing the dates of these taxa does not affect their priority under the Principle of Priority as no new names were suggested for any of them between 31.xii.1879 and 31.xii.1880 (Baker 1930a).

### Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Edward C. Dickinson and Stephen Gregory for improving this note with their suggestions.

### References

- Ali, S. & S.D. Ripley. 2001. *Handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan together with those of Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Ceylon. Divers to Hawks*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Vol. I. Delhi: (Sponsored by Bombay Natural History Society.) Oxford University Press [Oxford India Paperbacks].
- Ali, S. & S.D. Ripley. 2001. *Handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan together with those of Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Ceylon. Stone Curlews to Owls*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Vol. III. Delhi: (Sponsored by Bombay Natural History Society.) Oxford University Press [Oxford India Paperbacks].
- Ali, S. & Ripley, S.D. 2001a. *Handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan together with those of Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Ceylon. Larks to Grey Hypocolius*. Vol. 5. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Delhi: (Sponsored by Bombay Natural History Society.) Oxford University Press [Oxford India Paperbacks].
- Ali, S. & Ripley, S.D. 2001b. *Handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan together with those of Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Ceylon. Laughing Thrushes to the Mangrove Whistler*. Vol. 7. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Delhi: (Sponsored by Bombay Natural History Society.) Oxford University Press [Oxford India Paperbacks].
- Ali, S. & Ripley, S.D. 2001c. *Handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan together with those of Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Ceylon. Warblers to Redstarts*. Vol. 8. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Delhi: (Sponsored by Bombay Natural History Society.) Oxford University Press [Oxford India Paperbacks].
- Baker, E.C.S. 1921a. Hand-list of the “Birds of India”, Part II. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* XXVII (3): 448–491.
- Baker, E.C.S. 1921b. Hand-list of the “Birds of India”, Part III. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* XXVII (4): 692–744.
- Baker, E.C.S. 1922. Birds of the Indian Empire. [Hand-list of the “Birds of India”]. Part VI. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* XXVIII (3): 576–594.
- Baker, E.C.S. 1923. Birds of the Indian Empire. [Hand-list of the “Birds of India”]. Part VIII. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* XXIX (1): 9–22.
- Baker, E.C.S. 1924. *The fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Birds*. Vol. II. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Shipley, A.E. (Ed.) London: Taylor and Francis.
- Baker, E.C.S. 1926. *The fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Birds*. Vol. III. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Shipley, A.E. (Ed.) London: Taylor and Francis.
- Baker, E.C.S. 1927. *The fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Birds*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Vol. IV. Shipley, A.E. (ed.) London: Taylor and Francis.

- Baker, E.C.S. 1929. *The fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Birds.* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Vol. VI. London: Taylor and Francis.
- Baker, E.C.S. 1930a. *The fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Birds.* Vol. VII. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. London: Taylor and Francis.
- Baker, E.C.S. 1930b. *The fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Birds.* Vol. VIII. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. London: Taylor and Francis.
- Baker, K. 1997. *Warblers of Europe, Asia and North Africa.* London.: Christopher Helm, A & C Black.
- Blanford, W.T. 1895. *The fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma (Birds).* 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Vol. III. London: Taylor and Francis.
- Blanford, W.T. 1898. *The fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma (Birds).* 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Vol. IV. London: Taylor and Francis.
- Brooks, W.E. 1880. Ornithological observations in Sikhim, the Punjab, and Sind. *Stray Feathers* VIII (6): 464–480 (1879).
- del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott & J. Sargatal. 1992. *Handbook of the birds of the world. Vol. I. Ostrich to Ducks.* Barcelona: Lynx Edicions.
- del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott & J. Sargatal. 1999. *Handbook of the birds of the world. Vol. V. Barn-owls to Hummingbirds.* Barcelona.: Lynx Edicions.
- del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A. & Christie, D. 2004. *Handbook of the birds of the world. Vol. IX. Cotingas to Pipits and Wagtails.* 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Barcelona: Lynx Edicions.
- Dickinson, E.C. (Ed.) 2003. *The Howard and Moore complete checklist of the birds of the World.* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. London: Christopher Helm.
- Dickinson, E.C. 2006. Howard & Moore Edition 3 (2003): Corrigenda 5 (31.01.2006). Pp. 1-69. Unpublished pdf file downloaded on 10.ix.2006 at 19:00hrs. from: [www.naturalis.nl/asp/page.asp?alias=naturalis.en&view=naturalis.en&id=i000256&frameurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.naturalis.nl%2Fnaturalis.en%2Fnaturalis.en%2Fi000000.html](http://www.naturalis.nl/asp/page.asp?alias=naturalis.en&view=naturalis.en&id=i000256&frameurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.naturalis.nl%2Fnaturalis.en%2Fnaturalis.en%2Fi000000.html).
- Hume, A.O. 1872. Novelties. *Stray Feathers* I (1): 1–19.
- ICZN. 1999. *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature.* 4<sup>th</sup> ed. London: The International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature.
- Jouanin, C. & Mougou, J.-L. 1979. Order Procellariiformes. 48-121. In: Mayr, E. & Cottrell. *Check-list of birds of the World.* Cambridge, Mass.: Mus. Comp. Zool.
- Oates, E.W. 1889. *The fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma (Birds).* Vol. 1. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Blanford, W.T. (Ed.) London: Taylor and Francis.
- Oates, E.W. 1890. *The fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma (Birds).* Vol. 2. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Blanford, W.T. (Ed.) London: Taylor and Francis.
- Peters, J.L. 1931. *Checklist of the birds of the World.* Vol. 1. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.
- Peters, J.L. 1940. *Checklist of the birds of the World.* Vol. 4. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.
- Peters, J.L. 1960. Family Alaudidae. 3–80. In: Mayr, E. & Greenway Jr., J.C. *Check-list of birds of the world.* Cambridge, Mass.: Mus. Comp. Zool.
- Ripley, S.D. 1961. *A synopsis of the birds of India and Pakistan together with those of Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and Ceylon.* 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Bombay: Bombay Natural History Society.
- Ripley, S.D. 1982. *A synopsis of the birds of India and Pakistan together with those of Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and Ceylon.* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Bombay; Oxford: Bombay Natural History Society; Oxford University Press.
- Watson, G. E., 1986a. In: Watson, G.E., Traylor Jr., M.A. & Mayr, E. 1986. Family Sylviidae. 3–294. In: Mayr, E. & Cottrell, G.W. *Check-list of birds of the world.* Cambridge, Mass.: Mus. Comp. Zool.
- Watson G. E., 1986b. In: Watson, G.E., Traylor Jr., M.A. & Mayr, E. 1986. Family Muscicapidae (*sensu stricto*). 295–375. In: Mayr, E. & Cottrell, G.W. *Check-list of birds of the world.* Cambridge, Mass.: Mus. Comp. Zool.

### Appendix

The dates of publication of Stray Feathers volumes 1-12 (1872-1899).  
The dates in column five apply the requirements of Article 21 of The Code (ICZN 1999).

Year	Volume	Part	Pages	Date of publication	Notes
1872	I	1	1 l (title), i-iii (contents), 1 l (preface), 1-50 (text)	30.xi.1872	Volume title page dated "1873". Preface dated 1.xii.1873. Imprint date on p. 1 is "November, 1872".
1873		2, 3 & 4	51-323 (text)	28.ii.1873	Imprint date on p. 51 is "February, 1873".
1873		5	325-427 (text)	31.vii.1873	Imprint date on p. 325 is "July, 1873".
1873		6	429-496 (text)	31.xii.1873	Imprint date on p. 429 is "December, 1873".
1873		Index	i-xiv (text)		
1874	II	1, 2 & 3	1 l (title), 1-4 (preface), i-iii (contents), 1 l (insert),	31.i.1874 1-336 (text)	Volume title page dated "1874". Preface is undated. Imprint date on p. 1 is "January, 1874".
1874		4 & 5	337-466 (text)	31.v.1874	Imprint date on p. 337 is "June, 1874".
1874		6	467-536 (text)	31.x.1874	Imprint date on p. 467 is "October, 1874".
1874		Index	i-xix (text)		
1875	III	1, 2 & 3	1 l (title), i-iv (contents), 1-2 (preface), 1-268 (text)	31.i.1875	Volume title page dated "1875". Preface dated 2.xii.1875 (p. 2). Imprint date on p. 1 is "January, 1875".
1875		4	269-333 (text)	31.v.1875	Imprint date on p. 269 is "May, 1875".
1875		5	335-431 (text)	30.xi.1875	Imprint date on p. 335 is "November, 1875".
1875		6	433-500 (text)	31.xii.1875	Imprint date on p. 433 is "December, 1875".

Year	Volume	Part	Pages	Date of publication	Notes
1875		Index	i-xxiii (text)		
1876	IV	1, 2 & 3	1 l (title), i-iii (contents), 1 l (preface), 1-230 (text)	10.ii.1876	Volume title page dated "1876". Preface dated 25.xi.1876. Imprint date on p. 1 is "January, 1876". Letter dated 10.ii.1876 (p. 228).
1876		4, 5 & 6	231-512 (text)	31.xii.1876	Imprint date on p. 231 is "December, 1876".
1876		Index	i-xviii (text)		
1877	V	1	1 l (title), i-v (contents), 1 l (preface), 1-63 (text)	30.iv.1877	Volume title page dated "1877". Preface dated 1.xii.1877. Imprint date on p. 1 is "April 1877".
1877		2	64-140 (text)	30.vi.1877	Imprint date on p. 64 is "June 1877".
1877		3 & 4	141-354 (text)	31.viii.1877	Imprint date on p. 141 is "August 1877".
1877		5 & 6	355-504 (text)	31.xii.1877	Imprint date on p. 355 is "November 1877". Editorial note on p. 504, "Note that the publication of this number has been delayed, and, although intended to appear on the 1st of November, will not actually issue until December."
1877		Index	i-xxi (text)		
1878	VI	1-6	1-6 (title, contents, preface), i-viii (text), 1-524 (text)	30.vi.1878	Volume title page dated "1878". Preface undated. Imprint date on p. i is "June 1878".
1878		Index	i-xxii (text)		
1878	VII	1 & 2	1 l (title), 1-3 (preface), i- v (contents), 1-172 (text)	31.viii.1878	Volume title page dated "1878". Preface undated. Imprint date on p. 1 is "August 1878".
1878		3, 4 & 5	173-470 (text)	31.xii.1878	Imprint date on p. 173 is "December 1878".
1879		6	471-528 (text)	31.iii.1879	Imprint date on p. 471 is "March 1879".
1879		Index	i-xxxii (text)		
1879	VIII	1	1 l (title), i-iii (contents), 1 l (preface), 1-150 (text)	30.iv.1879	Volume title page dated "1879". Preface dated 23.iii.1880. Imprint date on p. 1 is "April 1879".
1879		2-5	151-421 (text)	31.x.1879	Imprint date on p. 151 is "October 1879".
1880		6	423-503 (text)	31.xii.1880	Imprint date on p. 423 is "December 1879". No index is present at the end of this volume. Dating based on facts stated earlier in this paper.
1880	IX	1-3	1 l (title), i-iii (contents), 1 l (preface), 1-238 (text)	31.viii.1880	Volume title page dated "1880". Preface undated. Imprint date on p. 1 is "August 1880".
1880		4	239-300 (text)	30.xi.1880	Imprint date on p. 239 is "November 1880".
1881		5 & 6	301-508 (text)	30.ix.1881	Imprint date on p. 301 is "September 1881".
1881		Index	i-xxvii (text)		
1881	X	1, 2 & 3	2 ll (title & preface), i-iv (contents), 1-174 (text)	31.xii.1881	Volume title page dated "1887". Preface undated. Imprint date on p. 1 is "December 1881".
1882		4	175-328 (text)	31.vii.1882	Imprint date on p. 175 is "July 1882".
1883		5	329-434 (text)	31.iii.1883	Imprint date on p. 329 is "March 1883".
1887		6	435-531 (text)	31.xii.1887	Imprint date on p. 435 is "December 1887".
1887		Index	532-560 (text)		
1888	XI	1-4	1 l (title), i-v (text), 1-353 (text)	31.xii.1888	Volume title page dated "1888".
1899	XII		i-iv (title & preface), 1- 167 (text)	22.xi.1899	Volume title page dated "1899". Preface by Charles Chubb dated 22.xi.1899 (p. iv).