

Paul DeBenedictis (Chair), Donna L. Dittmann, Jon L. Dunn, Kimball Garrett, Greg Lasley, Stu Tingley, and Thede Tobish

1994 ABA Checklist Report

Changes in Brief

New Species Accepted

Citrine Wagtail
Eurasian Siskin



GREG D. JACKSON



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Citrine Wagtail, photographed at Starkville Sewage Ponds, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi, on 1 February 1992.

PAUL A. DEBENEDICTIS *

THIS SUPPLEMENT TO THE FOURTH EDITION of the *ABA Checklist* reports all changes adopted since our last report (*Birding* 1994, 27: 320–326). With this report, the *ABA Checklist* contains 897 species, of which the natural occurrence of four is uncertain. For convenience, we refer to the AOU Committee on Nomenclature and Classification as the “AOU Check-list Committee” throughout. All observers who submitted documentation examined by this committee are listed in the accounts of species; those who discovered the bird are listed first.

New Species Accepted— Citrine Wagtail (*Motacilla citreola*)

Where. Starkville Sewage Ponds, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi.

When. 31 January–1 February 1992.

Observers. Terence Lee Schiefer; Jim Holmes, Greg D. Jackson, Gene Knight.

Published Details. *American Birds* 1992, 46: 278.

Documentation. Photographs by Greg D. Jackson deposited in VIREO, copies on file with the ABA and AOU checklist committees.

Identification. Males in alternate plumage have gray backs and a yellow head; females, immatures, and winter males are less distinctive but have a stronger facial pattern than Yellow Wagtails (*M. flava*). Calls also differ, but observers need comparative experience with both species. A more complete discussion on the separation of these two species can be found in *The Macmillan Field Guide to Bird Identification* (Harris, A., L. Tucker, and K. Vinicombe, 1989, Macmillan Press) and *A Field Guide to the Rare Birds of Britain and Europe* (Lewington, I., P. Alström, and P. Colston, 1991, HarperCollins). The expert reviewers all agreed this individual was not a Yellow Wagtail, emphasizing the distinct facial pattern and gray back of this bird. The negative vote expressed concern that it could be a hybrid, which are known to occur in areas where the range of Citrine is expanding into localities occupied by Yellow Wagtail.

Distribution. Nests from northeastern Europe to east-central Asia; migratory, wintering primarily in India, southern China, and Indochina, straying regularly to western Europe.

Motion to add. Dunn / DeBenedictis.

Vote. 6/1

* Educational Communications, SUNY Health Science Center at Syracuse, 750 East Adams, Syracuse, New York 13120

Placement on the ABA

Checklist. Insert between Yellow Wagtail and Gray Wagtail.

Status. A.

Birding code. 5.

**New Species Accepted—
Eurasian Siskin
(*Carduelis spinus*)**

Where. Attu Island, Alaska.

When. 21–22 May 1993.

Observers. M. E. Isleib, Macklin Smith.

Published Details. *American Birds* 1993, 47: 445.

Documentation. Specimen (UAM 6354) in University of Alaska Museum.

Identification. Generally similar to Pine Siskin. Males are readily identified by their black cap, and females differ from Pine Siskin most conspicuously by their white crissum. The rather similar Oriental Greenfinch is larger overall and is less streaked above and below.

Distribution. Migratory, breeding in northern Eurasia and wintering south to the Mediterranean and central Asia. The ABA Checklist Committee has not reviewed the reports from eastern Canada and New England listed by McLaren et al. (*American Birds* 1989, 43: 1268–1274); few if any are accepted as unassisted occurrences by the appropriate local bird records committees.

Motion to add. Tobish / DeBenedictis.

Vote. 7/0.

Placement on the ABA

Checklist. Insert between Hoary Redpoll and Pine Siskin.

Status. A.

Birding code. 5.



B. J. ROSE

Eurasian Siskin, photographed at Attu Island, Alaska, on 22 May 1995.

Other Matters

In the previous supplement, the scientific name of Black Rosy-Finch was incorrectly formed; it should be *Leucosticte atrata*.

The ABA Checklist Committee has been consulting with the AOU Check-list Committee on a number of matters pertinent to the upcoming revision to the *AOU Check-list*, but adoption of changes by the ABA Checklist Committee is deferred until the AOU Check-list Committee formally publishes them. The species currently being considered for addition to the *ABA Check-list* are “Soft-plumaged” Petrel, Lesser White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Oystercatcher, Swallow-tailed Gull, Blue Mockingbird, and Common Chaffinch. Motions to change the status of Streak-backed Oriole and to de-

lete Scarlet Ibis and Red-crowned Parrot also are under consideration.



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