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Resolution of a case of secondary homonymy in the genus *Sylvia* Scopoli, 1769

by James A. Jobling

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Working on the HBW Alive Key to Scientific Names in Ornithology to ensure that the nomenclature and taxonomy therein reflects those in the *HBW and BirdLife International illustrated checklist of the birds of the world* (del Hoyo & Collar 2016), I discovered a case of preoccupation in the now expanded genus *Sylvia*.

In vol. 2, p. 498, of the above-mentioned work the genera *Pseudoalcippe* Bannerman, 1923, *Lioptilus* Bonaparte, 1850, and *Parisoma* Swainson, 1831, are subsumed within *Sylvia*. As a result, the subspecific name *Parisoma subcaeruleum ansorgei* von Zedlitz, 1921, *Orn. Monatsb.* 29: 52 (currently *Sylvia subcoerulea ansorgei*) becomes preoccupied by *Lioptilus abyssinicus ansorgei* Rothschild, 1918, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 38: 78 (currently *Sylvia abyssinica ansorgei*). Because the prior *ansorgei* Rothschild, 1918, was published after 1899 (Art. 23.9 of the Code (ICZN 1999)), and as no other names are available for the subspecies *ansorgei* von Zedlitz, 1921, I propose:

Sylvia subcoerulea iohannis nom. nov.

The name will serve as a new replacement name for *Parisoma subcaeruleum ansorgei* von Zedlitz, 1921, in *Sylvia* preoccupied by *Lioptilus abyssinicus ansorgei* Rothschild, 1918. Under Art. 72.7 of the Code (ICZN 1999), the type of the new name is automatically that of the replaced name, *ansorgei* von Zedlitz, with the same type locality. The new eponym honours Prof. Dr William John Ansorge (1850–1913) the British physician and zoologist after whom the above-named taxa were originally named.

It should be noted that other recent taxonomic treatments (e.g. Dickinson & Christidis 2014, Gill & Donsker 2017) place *ansorgei* Rothschild, 1918, and *ansorgei* von Zedlitz, 1921, as subspecies in different genera, under which circumstances both remain valid names.

Acknowledgements

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