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Addresses: J. Cabot. Estación Biológica de Doñana. Avda. M<sup>a</sup> Luisa s/n. 41013, Sevilla. España. email: cabot@ebd.csic.es. Tj. de Vries. Dpt. Biología. Pontificia Univ. Católica del Ecuador. Apartado 17-01-2184, Quito, Ecuador. email: tdevries@puce.edu.ec

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## The correct publication date of *Aplonis corvina* (Kittlitz, 1833)

by Julian P. Hume & Alan Peterson

Received 30 September 2002

The recent paper by Hume (2002) contains both an error and confusion regarding the publication details of the name *Aplonis corvina*. The error is that the name should have been written as *Aplonis corvina* (Kittlitz, 1833), because the species was originally described by Kittlitz as *Lamprothornis corvina*. The confusion relates to the dating: Hume (2002) followed Amadon (1962) in giving the date of publication as 1833, but then referenced the relevant work (the second part of Kittlitz's *Kupfertafeln zur Naturgeschichte der Vogel* - hereafter *Kupfer. Nat. Vog.*) as 1832, a date that has also been used by some authors.

The Rothschild Library at The Natural History Museum, Tring, has a bound copy of the three published parts (= Hefts) of *Kupfer. Nat. Vog.*, each preceded by its original title page. The title page of the first part is dated 1832, whereas the second and third parts are both dated 1833. The correct publication date for *Aplonis corvina* and other taxa described in the second part is thus 1833. In its entirety, *Kupfer. Nat. Vog.* should be referenced as Kittlitz (1832-33).

A further potential source of confusion, avoided by Hume (2002) but for completeness worth mentioning here, is that Kittlitz (1835) also published a more detailed description and illustration of *A. corvina* in volume 2 of the *Memoirs of the Academy of Imperial Sciences, St. Petersburg*, the title page of which is imprinted 23 November 1831. However, this "1831" paper in fact was not published until 1835 (imprinted title page of the memoirs) and so does not constitute the type description, despite being referenced by Kittlitz (1833) and clearly intended by him to appear first.

For information concerning the nomenclature of *A. corvina* and other nomenclatural matters, the following website, set up by A. Peterson, is available online: <http://www.zoonomen.net/>



### Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Robert Prÿs-Jones for critically reading earlier drafts of this paper.

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*Addresses:* Julian P Hume, Bird Group, Department of Zoology, The Natural History Museum, Akeman St, Tring, Herts HP23 6AP / Palaeobiology Research Group, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Portsmouth University, Portsmouth PO1 3QL; Alan Peterson, POB 1999, Walla Walla, WA. 99362, USA.

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Hume, Julian P and Peterson, Alan. 2003. "The Correct Publication Date of *Aplonis Corvina* (Kittlitz, 1833)." *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 123, 207–208.

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