

A new name for the eastern subspecies of the
Brown-backed Solitaire *Myadestes*
occidentalis

by H. Douglas Pratt

Received 17 December 1987

The Hawaiian thrushes were long classified in an endemic genus *Phaeornis*. Pratt ('Relationships and speciation of the Hawaiian thrushes': 1982, *Living Bird* 19: 73-90) showed that these birds were very similar in

a variety of characters to American solitaires of the genus *Myadestes*, and recommended the merger of that genus and *Phaeornis*. The Thirty-fifth supplement to 'The American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds' (6th Edition 1983) (1985, *Auk* 102: 683-684) followed Pratt's recommendation. The former *Phaeornis obscurus* (Gmelin) 1789 thus became *Myadestes obscurus* (Gmelin) 1789 and the Latin name of the Brown-backed Solitaire of Mexico, formerly *M. obscurus* Lafresnaye 1839, became preoccupied. The Brown-backed Solitaire is now known as *M. occidentalis* Stejneger 1882, based on the epithet of its western subspecies. No name is available, however, for the eastern and formerly nominate subspecies. I propose that it be called

***Myadestes occidentalis orientalis* nom. nov.**

in the hope that the seemingly contradictory epithets will cause less confusion than a totally new name devoid of useful information.

It should be noted that this paper is the same as the one which was cited in my earlier work (Pratt *loc. cit.*) as "Pratt (in press)". It will not be published, *contra* the citation, in the Occasional Papers of the Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University.

Address: Dr H. Douglas Pratt, Museum of Natural Science, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, U.S.A. 70893

© British Ornithologists' Club 1988