

# Changes to the WA Museum Checklist from November 2023 (updated June 2024)

## Reptiles and frogs

### Taxonomic change to WA turtle species.

*Emydura victoriae* and *E. australis* have been found to be the same species in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. Furthermore, *E. australis* is determined to be the senior synonym and is now the name for the Kimberley *Emydura*.

Kehlmaier, C., Fritz, U. & Kuchling, G. (2024). Show me your true face: How many *Emydura* species occur in the Mitchell River Drainage, Kimberly, Australia? *Salamandra* **60**: 51–59.

<https://www.salamandra-journal.com/index.php/contents/2024-vol-60/2142-kehlmaier,-c,-u-fritz-g-kuchling/file>

### *Lerista microtis* complex revision.

*Lerista arenicola* and both subspecies of *L. microtis* (*L. m. intermedia*, *L. m. schwaneri*) have been synonymised to *Lerista microtis* based on morphological and molecular genetic evidence. This results in a single morphologically variable species that spans nearly 2400 linear kilometers along Australia's southern coast.

Farquar, J.E., Prates, I., Doughty, P., Rabosky, D.L. and Chapple, D.G. (2024). Morphological and genetic data challenge species and subspecies in the *Lerista microtis* group (Squamata: Scincidae). *Zootaxa* **5437**: 336–362.

<https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.5437.3.2>

## Birds

### Following IOC changes.

Hooded Dotterel, formerly included in the genus *Thinornis*, is embedded in *Charadrius* in phylogenetic analysis (dos Remedios et al. 2015).

Black-fronted Dotterel was previously assigned to the monotypic genus *Elseyaornis*. But phylogenetic analyses show it to be sister to the two species formerly assigned to *Thinornis*, Hooded Plover and Shore Plover, which are now included in *Charadrius* (Barth et al. 2013; Černý & Natale 2022).

*Anarhynchus* was formerly a monotypic genus associated with Wrybill *Anarhynchus frontalis*. But phylogenetic analysis reveals that, despite its unique bill, it is deeply embedded in a large clade of plovers classically attributed to *Charadrius* but significantly divergent from that genus (dos Remedios et al. 2015; Eaton et al. 2021). *Anarhynchus* is the oldest available name for this clade (Eaton et al. 2021; WGAC).

Tibetan Sand Plover *Anarhynchus atrifrons* (including *pamirensis* and *schaeferi*) is split from Lesser Sand Plover *A. mongolus* (re-named Siberian Sand Plover) based on phenotypic

differences and phylogenetic analysis which demonstrates paraphyly of these two taxa relative to *Anarhynchus leschenaultii* (Livezey 2010; Wei et al. 2022).

Plumed Egret *Ardea plumifera* is split from *Ardea intermedia* based on differences in proportions and substantial differences in high breeding plumage (del Hoyo & Collar 2014; WGAC).

Change English name of *Pitta sordida* from Hooded Pitta to Western Hooded Pitta with the split of the Hooded Pitta complex. The Hooded Pitta complex *Pitta sordida* s.l. is split based on morphology and vocalizations supported by genomic analysis (Allen 2020; Ericson et al. 2019; Eaton et al. 2021; HBW/BirdLife, WGAC).

Supertramp Fantail *Rhipidura semicollaris* (including all subspecies except *dryas* and *streptophora*) is split from Arafura Fantail *R. dryas* on the basis of vocalizations (Eaton et al. 2021; WGAC).

#### **Fairywren split.**

*Malurus splendens* is split, raising subspecies *M. callainus* to full species, Kearns et al. (2024).

Kearns, A. M., Dolman, G., & Joseph, L. (2024). Does nuclear DNA support the recognition of three species within the Splendid Fairywren *Malurus splendens*? *Emu - Austral Ornithology*, 1–8. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01584197.2024.2352400>

#### **Mammals**

**Splitting of the Delicate Mouse.** Roycroft et al. (2024) revised the Delicate Mouse and established a new species for the Pilbara population, *Pseudomys pilbarensis*.

Roycroft, E., Ford, F., Ramm, T., Schembri, R., Breed, W. G., Burns, P. A., Rowe, K. C., & Moritz, C. (2024). Speciation across biomes: Rapid diversification with reproductive isolation in the Australian delicate mice. *Molecular Ecology*, 00, e17301. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mec.17301>