How is 'Liocichla' pronounced?

I was asked recently how the generic name *Liocichla* is pronounced. It is not a classical Latin word, but it is now part of scientific (Latin) nomenclature in accordance with the arbitrary and complex rules of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature.

The name has the components “leio”, from the ancient Greek *leioV* [smooth] taken from the generic name *Leio(thrix)*, and the Greek noun *kich* [thrush]. When Latinized within the context of scientific nomenclature, leio became *lio*, and kich became *kichla*, thus yielding *Liocichla*.

As a Latin word, *Liocichla* is pronounced *liokikla*: 'li'—as in lid (not as in life), ‘o’—as in know (not as in now), ‘ki’—as in kit (not as in kite), and ‘cla’—as in clap (not as in clay or claw).

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Bugun Liocichla

Thanks for the July–August 2006 *Indian Birds*. As usual it is a very well brought out publication and I must, as usual, complement you of a very dedicated effort.

Regarding the acceptance of the new species of Liocichla, I recollect the day I had informed the late Dharmakumarsinhji on recording the White-bellied Minivet in the Hingol Gadh jungle: the first record for Saurashtra. He promptly wanted proof by way of a specimen. Instead, I did the very next thing which was far, far better; I put up a hide at a nest and when he dropped in on his seasonal monsoon visit, I put him in it. Of course, extension of range and the establishing of a new species are two quite different matters, but then, does it really matter whether scientists accept the new species as valid or not when the birds are happily foraging around with all visitors to see and admire?

As far as I am concerned, we have a new species whether ornithologically accepted or not. For example, there is the yellow bulbul with a black head and upright crest in NE India and a yellow bulbul with a crestless black head and ruby red throat considered as subspecies by ornithologists! As far as I am concerned, we have two species. I hope permission will not be granted for “collecting” a type specimen of Bugun Liocichla.

My congratulations to Ramana Athreya.

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Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera* in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, India

On 20.i.2006 at about 20:30 hrs I had a call from an industrial worker, that an uncommon bird had been found injured on the Nagar–Arangaon road (c. 5 km from Ahmednagar city). The area is interspersed with roadside trees, cultivation and residential colonies. As January is a month of ‘Makar Sankrati’, the sky is always full of colourful kites and there were many injuries to birds because of the sharp thread (locally called ’manja’) used to fly kites. I requested him to keep the bird for the night collected it in the morning to keep it in a cage at the forest department. When I saw the bird I found that it was a Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera*. I had never seen this bird in this area (Kurhade 1996).

The Red-necked Falcon is a fairly uncommon resident of the Deccan and the ghats of Maharashtra and probably breeds in Ahmednagar district (Prasad 2003). Though it is common in some districts of Maharashtra, this might be the first record from Ahmednagar city.

References


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Short-toed Eagle

Forgive me for a grandfatherly indulgence but I think this is a rather good birdy joke. We went to Kings Lynn (Norfolk) for my grandson’s sixth birthday, bearing gifts of course. To keep his four-year-old brother happy we also took him a gift or two. He is into raptors (true) so we had bought him a little book of stick-on pictures. He asked me where to put the sticker of the Short-toed Eagle. I showed him and asked him what he thought this eagle ate. He looked at me with wide eyes and said promptly “Short Toads?” (He is also into amphibia).

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Errata


Page 101 col 1 line 2 from bottom: change scientific name to *Anser fabalis*.

Page 101 col 2 line 3 from top: change scientific name to *Anser anser*.

Page 101 col 2 line 5 from top: change scientific name *Branta ruficollis*.

Page 101 col 2 line 20 from top: change scientific name to *Anas penelope*.

Page 101 col 2 line 38 from top: change scientific name to *Aythya baeri*.

Page 102 col 2 line 14 from bottom: change scientific name to *Larus brunnicephalus*.

Page 102 col 3 line 15 from top: change scientific name to *Psittacula eupatria*.

Page 103 col 1 line 16 from top: change scientific name to *Alcedo hercules*.

Page 103 col 2 line 14 from top: change scientific name to *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*.

Page 103 col 2 line 18 from top: change scientific name to *Serilophus lunulatus*.

Page 103 col 3 line 16 from top: change scientific name to *Monticola rufocentricus*. 