

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

## Reptiles and frogs

No changes.

## Birds

### Following IOC changes:

- mtDNA and UCE genetic studies reveal that *Ixobrychus* is not monophyletic but is rather paraphyletic relative to *Botaurus* (Päckert et al. 2014; Hruska et al. 2023). Merge *Ixobrychus* into *Botaurus* (Chesser et al. 2024).
- Phylogenetic analysis based on UCE elements reveals that *Bubulcus* is embedded in *Ardea* (Hruska et al. 2023). Move Eastern Cattle Egret from *Bubulcus* to *Ardea* (Chesser et al. 2024).
  - *Tachyspiza* Kaup 1844 is resurrected as a genus to resolve the non-monophyly in the genus *Accipiter* demonstrated in phylogenetic analyses (Lerner & Mindell 2005; Mindell et al. 2018) following Catanach et al. (2024).
- Pacific Swallow *H. javanica* and Tahiti Swallow *H. tahitica* are split based on differences in morphology (del Hoyo & Collar 2016; HBW/BirdLife). With the split of monotypic Tahiti Swallow *Hirundo tahitica* and polytypic Pacific Swallow, change the scientific name of the latter to *Hirundo javanica*.
- Sandhill Grasswren *Amytornis oweni* (including *aenigma*) is split from Rufous (Pilbara) Grasswren *A. whitei* based on differences in morphology and ecology (Christidis et al. 2013; WGAC 988)

### New vagrant records:

- Red-billed Tropicbird subspecies, *P. a. mesonauta*, recorded on Ashmore Reef.
- Emperor Penguin, *Aptenodytes forsteri*, came ashore at Denmark on 5 November 2024.
- Nazca Booby, *Sula granti*, Banded bird photographed on Ashmore Reef on 7 August 2024.
- Apostlebird, *Struthidea cinerea*, Kununurra area, July 2024.
- Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops* on Christmas Island.

## Mammals

### *Sminthopsis nitela*:

Umbrello et al. (2024) revised the Red-cheeked Dunnart, *Sminthopsis virginiae*, splitting the species into two species, by raising the WA subspecies to full species, *Sminthopsis nitela*. As a result, *Sminthopsis virginiae* is removed from the WA checklist (as it occurs only on the east coast), and *Sminthopsis nitela* is added instead.

Umbrello, L.S., Newton, H., Baker, A.M., Travouillon, K.J., & Westerman, M. (2024). Vicariant speciation resulting from biogeographic barriers in the Australian tropics: The case of the red-cheeked dunnart (*Sminthopsis virginiae*). *Ecology and Evolution*, 14: e70215.

### Minor corrections:

Updated *Nyctophilus holtorum* as WA endemic.

Corrected the subfamily name for *Macroglossus minimus* to Macroglossusinae.