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The correct authorship and type locality of *Melanocorypha leucoptera* (Aves: Passeriformes, Alaudidae)

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Mlíkovský (2013) proposed replacing the widely-used *Melanocorypha leucoptera* (Pallas, 1811) with *Melanocorypha leucoptera* (Hablizl, 1785) as the correct name for the White-winged Lark, with consequent shift in type locality from the Irtyš River-Baraba steppe region in south Siberia to the Crimea. This action breaches Art. 80.9 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999), hereafter “the Code”. That article states that “no ruling given by the Commission in relation to a particular work, name, or nomenclatural act is to be set aside without the consent of the Commission”. *Melanocorypha leucoptera* of Pallas (1811), as published in his *Zoographia Rosso-Asiatica*, was conserved explicitly in Opinion 403 of the Commission (ICZN 1956), and no consent to Mlíkovský’s findings has been given since.

Mlíkovský (2013) argued that Pallas had simply adopted Hablizl’s name without accreditation. Although that is quite possible because Pallas and Hablizl were familiar, the evidence is circumstantial and arguably untenable. According to the information Mlíkovský presents, *Alauda leucoptera* of Hablizl was published anonymously, is not supported by any traceable specimens, and was never expressly referred to Hablizl by Pallas who did not quote this or any other previously published source for his own use of *Alauda leucoptera*. Upon the evidence, *leucoptera* Anonymous?Hablizl (type locality: Crimea) is advisedly treated as a senior but unused primary homonym of *leucoptera* Pallas (type locality: Irtyš River-Baraba steppe region in northeast Kazakhstan-south Siberia) in *Alauda*. As such, it can be disposed of under Art. 57.2.2 or Arts. 23.9 and 57.2.1 of the Code should the Commission consent to a review of Opinion 403. In the interim, *Melanocorypha leucoptera* (Pallas, 1811) must remain the correct name for the White-winged Lark, as directed by Article 80.9 of the Code.

We add that should consent be sought from the Commission to change the authorship of *M. leucoptera* to Hablizl, with consequent change in type locality, the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature of the International Ornithologists’ Union can be expected to oppose the application in the interests of nomenclatural stability. The authors of this note are members of that committee.

Acknowledgements

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