

SOME CHANGES IN THE PRESENTATION OF OUR ARTICLES: FROM REORDERING OF SECONDARY INFORMATION TO THE INCLUSION OF LOCAL COMMON NAMES OF NEOTROPICAL BIRDS

Algunos cambios en la presentación de nuestros artículos: desde un reordenamiento de la información secundaria hasta la inclusión de los nombres comunes locales de las aves neo- tropicales

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No human creation or endeavor is free from change. In the articles of this edition, you will notice the following modifications:

- (i) Relocation of the dates of receipt and acceptance of the manuscript.
- (ii) Inclusion of the name of the associate editor who processed the manuscript.
- (iii) Insertion of the ORCID record of some authors.
- (iv) Inclusion of local common bird species names that we share with other Spanish-speaking countries.
- (v) Grammatical updating on using the adverb *solo* and personal pronouns.

Below, I explain the purposes of these changes.

Relocation of revision history and other inserts

Currently, articles in multiple scientific journals contain inserts unrelated to their scientific content. Usually, these inserts include the review history (*i.e.*, date of receipt and acceptance of the manuscript) and the name of the associate editor who coordinated the review. The purpose is to convey transparency and seriousness about the editorial process, which is always desirable.

In the articles of several journals, we will also see that to the side of the names of some authors, there is a yellow-green badge with the word ID inside. That badge

indicates that authors have a unique digital identifier, the ORCID (open researcher and contributor ID). The usefulness of ORCID is that it reduces the author's search time in digital systems and allows access to their entire scientific production.

Other inserts in some journal articles are (i) how to cite the article and (ii) an open-access statement. The former is a great advantage. Having the full citation of the article at hand saves us from having to reconstruct it when that article is part of our manuscript. The open access statement reveals that the organization or publishing company that manages the journal adheres to a global policy of fairness for access to scientific production. This policy allows authors free access to articles of interest to them.

A custom without explicit justification in many journals is to put all the inserts mentioned on the article's first page. The Chilean National Association for Research and Development (ANID) recommends that the review history be on the first page, but without giving technical or scientific reasons.

Frankly, I consider it neither necessary nor convenient to add so much extra-scientific information on the face of a scientific article. The most visible inconvenience is the overload of information on a single page. The first page of an article already contains enough technical information to be "chewed" by the reader. The second inconvenience is that the inserts unrelated to the scientific

content are more distracting than informative. From a communication point of view, we must ensure that the reader concentrates on the essentials of the article. Finally, the revision history may be irrelevant to readers eager to know the article content than to know how long its “metamorphosis” took. Once a manuscript “molts” to article status, perhaps very few readers will care about the time between receipt and acceptance of the manuscript. Thus, it is trivial to highlight at the beginning of the article when the respective manuscript was received and accepted by the managing editor or editorial team.

A separate case is that of the ORCID badge. Imagine an article with 100 authors, all holding an ORCID record. How would we see the set of 100 ORCID badges next to the names of each author? Perhaps like a “colorful Christmas tree,” at least. Maybe we would have to take up two or three pages just for that, not counting affiliations. Besides, such an excess of colored circles could irritate chromophobic readers.

That is not to say that the review history and other inserts have no value. All of them are useful for accreditation purposes of a scientific or academic journal and facilitate eventual bibliometric analyses. However, a scientific article is first scientific and secondarily a device to inform about the political-administrative aspects of the journal. That means that everything that happens or is behind the administration of a manuscript must be left behind. To be more precise, the review history, the name of the associate editor, additional author information, and the open-access statement should be at the end of the article. Some classical ornithological journals still maintain this Aristotelian order. The principle is as simple as it is funny: first things first and second things second. Therefore, from this issue on, all inserts not directly related to the scientific content will be on its last page.

Explicit acknowledgment of associate editors who process manuscripts

So far, we have taken a corner of the editorial section to thank the associate editors who have coordinated the review of manuscripts. As of this issue, their names will be in the same article resulting from the processed manuscript. Apart from being an outstanding debt, this addition is relevant for two reasons. On the one hand, as I have already mentioned, it conveys transparency regarding the review process. On the other hand, it is an act of recognition towards the associate editor for the time dedicated to the editorial work. In addition, such an insert serves as a record for the benefit of the editors’ curriculum and our journal.

I must say that associate editors play a pivotal role in coordinating the review of manuscripts that address

specific topics in their areas. Since they have the advantage of knowing more experts in their research areas, it is easier for them to contact and get *ad hoc* reviewers. Generally, this results in better reviews and, hence, in articles with better quality of content and presentation.

Inclusion of common names of birds from other Spanish-speaking countries

Recently, nearly a hundred Neotropical ornithologists called for a decrease in the professional and cultural marginalization of native researchers from the global south by the scientific community of the global north (Soares *et al.*, 2023). One of the complaints pointed to the hegemony of English, which also affects the common names of birds. Specifically, the authors complained that English-speaking ornithological journals prioritize the English common name over the Latin one. They add that this prevents them from readily communicating their research findings in the Neotropics. However, ornithologists from the global south are not free of this bias. Among Spanish-language journals, this type of cultural segregation also occurs. Their editorial standards require that the common name be that of the journal’s country of origin. In line with the reasoning of Soares *et al.* (2023), using the common names of birds of the Spanish-speaking country from which the study originates is fundamental to communicating our research to the citizens of that country.

The *Revista Chilena de Ornitología* also “bears the blame” for such cultural segregation. Its instructions for manuscripts dictate that authors write common names in Spanish, as in Jaramillo’s *Las Aves de Chile* (2005). Unquestionably, it is an act of cultural segregation for those who send us their manuscripts from other Spanish-speaking countries with which we share species. However, in our defense, I must say that in the near past, we have promoted cultural inclusion regarding the common names of birds. In the editorial of the special issue of the *Boletín Chileno de Ornitología* on the raptors of the southern temperate forest, I stated the following:

It is a rule that authors use the common names of the species imposed by the journal’s editorial board where they wish to publish their articles. This criterion is undoubtedly helpful in standardizing the language. However, considering that we live in a culturally diverse region, we prefer to be inclusive, and respect vernacular names given to wild species in each country. That is the case for the work of our Argentine colleagues Trejo & Ojeda [original text is in Spanish] (Figueroa 2015).

Subsequently, J.T. Ibarra and C. Pizarro, editors of the special edition on ethno-ornithology, maintained that

inclusive criterion (e.g., Sarmiento 2016, Martínez 2016). That special edition formed the first issue of the *Revista Chilena de Ornitología*. With the new “instructions to authors,” we stopped practicing the inclusivity criterion.

My desire is for our journal to be a reference to cultural inclusiveness. Guided by this desire, from this issue onwards, we will respect the local common names used in the countries with which we share the bird species. However, when appropriate, authors should add the common name used in Chile when mentioning the species for the first time, whether in the text, tables, or figures. This integration of common names of birds will make it easier to communicate our research to a geographically broader audience. In the future, authors may add Latin common names, including names in Portuguese, to their manuscripts in English. By being culturally inclusive, we can make the *Revista Chilena de Ornitología* reach a wider readership in the Neotropics.

Catching up with linguistic changes in the Spanish language

Some orthographic rules of the Spanish language we learned in elementary school have changed. Among those rules were that the adverb *solo* and the demonstrative pronouns had to have a stress on the first syllable (e.g., *sólo*, *ésto*). The purpose was to differentiate them from the adjective *solo* (from *solitary*) and demonstrative determiners (e.g., *este* halcón, *esta* paloma) when they converge in the same utterance. However, linguists realized that, in both cases, it was unjustifiable to add the tilde. The reason is that the diacritical tilde was not applicable. The diacritical tilde is the one that allows one to differentiate stressed or accented words from unstressed or unstressed words that are formally identical. However, both the word *solo* and the demonstrative pronouns are always stressed words in any of their functions. Moreover, we can resolve any interpretative ambiguity based on the communicative context or by using synonyms, appropriate punctuation, or writing in a way that leads to only one interpretation. In short, from now on, neither the adverb *solo* nor the demonstrative pronouns should be accented when writing your manuscript.

Expanding our flight

Positive changes, no matter how small, always have multiplicative beneficial effects. I hope that the changes incorporated from this issue onwards can contribute to raising the quality and visibility of the *Revista Chilena de Ornitología*. In previous editions, I have insisted that the prestige of our journal does not depend strictly on apparent quality metrics but on improving the communicational effectiveness of the articles published. I am sure that re-

ordering the inserts with secondary information and incorporating common names of birds from other countries will contribute to that. In addition, I am hopeful that our practice of cultural inclusion will allow us to expand our flight throughout the Neotropics.

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