

ABSTRACTS FOR CONDOR 104(1) FEBRUARY 2002 C.E.

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

HOLARCTIC PHYLOGEOGRAPHY AND SPECIES LIMITS OF THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS

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Abstract. We compared mitochondrial DNA sequences of Three-toed Woodpeckers (*Picoides tridactylus*) within and between Eurasia and North America. Samples from the two continents are each reciprocally monophyletic, and differ by approximately 4% sequence divergence, suggesting that a separate species exists on each continent. We recommend formal taxonomic action. Within continents, no phylogeographic structuring was found, suggesting that both species have recently expanded their ranges following the end of the last ice age.

Key words: *mtDNA, Picoides tridactylus, population expansions, species limits, Three-toed Woodpecker.*

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