



A generic name for some sparrows (Aves: Emberizidae)

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Klicka and Spellman (2007) demonstrated convincingly that the genus *Amphispiza* Coues as then recognized is not monophyletic, i.e., that the two species (*bilineata* and *belli*) then assigned to it (American Ornithologists' Union 1998) are not closely related. The species *belli* was shown to be a member of a well-resolved clade of "grassland" sparrows that includes the genera *Poocetes*, *Oriturus*, *Passerculus*, *Ammodramus* (in part), *Melospiza*, and *Xenospiza*. Importantly, the taxonomic affinities of the putative congener *bilineata* lie elsewhere. It is part of a well-supported clade that contains the species *quinquestriata* (recently transferred from *Aimophila* to *Amphispiza*; Chesser *et al.* 2010) and the monotypic form *Calamospiza* (DaCosta *et al.* 2009). The type species of *Amphispiza* is *Emberiza bilineata* Cassin; therefore, a new generic name must be provided for *belli* and its close relatives. Klicka and Spellman (2007) suggested that *Artemisospiza* [sic] would be an appropriate name for *belli*, commonly called the Sage Sparrow, but did not propose it formally, as it did not meet the requirements of Article 13 of the ICZN (1999) Code. We now modify that suggestion and propose the following:

Artemisospiza, new genus

Type species. *Emberiza belli* Cassin.

Diagnosis. Similar to *Amphispiza* but wing shorter relative to the tarsus, and tail longer (Ridgway 1901:262). Molecular analysis also reveals differences in mitochondrial DNA sequences.

Etymology. The feminine name combines the Latin generic name for sagebrush (*Artemisia*, from the Greek word *Artemis*) with the Greek word for finch (*spiza*).

Included taxa. In addition to the type species, this genus includes the species *nevadensis* (Ridgway), which Rising (1996) recognized as distinct and Cicero (2010:113) has also recently suggested deserves specific status. The species *belli* includes the subspecies *cinerea* (Townsend), *clementae* (Ridgway) and *canescens* (Grinnell), fide Cicero (2010).

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Literature cited

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