

FOLK NAMES OF NEW YORK BIRDS: IV

W. L. McATEE

Purple Martin. Black martin, blue martin (the feathers are tipped with steel-blue, overlying black and sooty-gray; martin, martin swallow.

Canada Jay. Camp-robber (from its pilfering food about woodland camps); caribou bird (it consorts with members of the deer family for the sake of ticks and insects it can glean from them); grease bird (from its pilfering food of that description about woodland camps); Hudson Bay bird (as of northern affinities); meat bird, meat hawk (same note as for grease bird); moose bird (the moose permits these birds to alight on it to remove ticks. Charles C. Ward in Mayer, 1883. It is also believed that this jay directs hunters to the moose); venison hawk (same note as for meat hawk); whiskey jack (phonetic rendering of an Indian name wisk-i-djak, a spiritual being for which the moose bird speaks, directing the hunter to a moose. E. T. Adney in letter).

Blue Jay. Jay, jay bird (sound names).

Common Raven. Raven.

Common Crow. Bald Hill parrot (residents of Patchogue, Long Island, sarcastically couple the name of a nearby village with an epithet for the despised crow. Francis Harper, orally); Coram duck (similar note but a different village involved); crow; Jim crow (a familiar or "pet" name).

Black-capped Chickadee. Chickadee (sonic); snow bird (as being noticed in winter).

White-breasted Nuthatch. Devil-down-head (in clambering about trees, it seems as much at home head-downward as in any other position); runaround (from its clambering about tree trunks); sapsucker (misnomer, through confusion with woodpeckers, most of which, themselves, do not deserve this name); tree-peck (probably from confusion with woodpeckers); upside-down bird (see first note).

Red-breasted Nuthatch. It probably shares all of the names of the preceding species, but I have record only of tree-peck from New York.

House Wren. Jenny wren (a familiar or "pet" name); wren.

Winter Wren. Elephant bird (facetious for one of our smallest birds).

Mockingbird Mock bird, mocking bird (it imitates the notes of various birds and even other types of sounds); thrush (as a superlative songster).

Catbird. That universal name alludes to a cry of the bird that resembles the meow of a cat; mockingbird (as a mimic, though in that respect the catbird falls far short of the preceding species).

Brown Thrasher. Brown thrush (color cinnamon-rufous above; "thrush" as a notable songster); euchre bird (first term possibly sonic); ground mockingbird (a ground lover, this species is an occasional, though expert, imitator of the notes of other birds); ground thrasher (see note on thrasher); mavis (a British name for the European song thrush, traceable to Chaucer 1366 [mavys] OED); red thrush (the general color above is cinnamon-rufous; "thrush" as an expert songster); Saranac nightingale (first term from that locality in New York State; "nightingale" in allusion to the famed European bird melodist, is intended to compliment the thrasher's song); thrasher (thresher is an English name for the European song thrush, so the name of our bird may be a transfer. Suggestions are made that the term alludes to the bird's "rooting" among fallen leaves, or its beating insects preparatory to swallowing them, but the derivation through thrush, thrusher, thresher, seems preferable).

American Robin. Fieldfare (the European fieldfare is a close relative of our bird; the name meaning field-goer is in British use and is traced to 1100 A.D. by OED [feldeware]); robin, robin redbreast (these names for our most familiar bird are transfers from a similarly confiding but smaller European species of the same family, which is dusky above and reddish-orange below).

Wood Thrush. Chawweet (sonic); flute bird (from its whistling notes); ground robin (although of different coloration, it is rather closely related to the robin); little brown thrasher (superficially a miniature); swamp angel (as a "heavenly-

voiced" inhabitant of swamps); swamp robin (see note on ground robin); wood thrush.

Hermit Thrush. Partridge bird (a clucking note is similar to one of the partridge or ruffed grouse); swamp angel, swamp robin (see under the preceding species); swamp thrush; wood robin (see note on ground robin under the preceding species).

Veery. Nightingale (likening it to Europe's most noted bird songster is intended as a tribute to its singing ability; it resembles that bird also in singing at night); veery (sonic).

Eastern Bluebird. Bluebird (the male is blue above); blue robin (it is related to the robin and like that bird, has a cinnamon breast); peter bird (a common call note may be interpreted as "peter").

Cedar Waxwing. Cedar bird; cherry bird; English robin (a market name when the bird was sold for food); ringtail (the tip of the tail is yellow); sealing-wax bird (the shafts of the secondary wing-feathers look as if tipped with red sealing-wax); spider bird (from feeding on those creatures); topknot (both sexes are crested); wax bird; yellow-tail.

Northern Shrike. Butcher bird (because it hangs its prey on thorns or other sharp objects and in crotches, preparatory to rending it. This name is also in British vernacular use).

Southern Shrike. Butcher bird (first sentence of the preceding note applies); French mockingbird (as a distinctive kind of "mocker"; it has great similarity in general appearance to the true mockingbird; and also has some power of mimicry).

Red-eyed Vireo. Preacher ("So constant may his voice be heard, He's sometimes called the Preacher Bird." Craig 1939).

Parula Warbler. Brassback (there is a yellowish olive-green patch between the shoulders).

Yellow Warbler. Summer yellow bird; swamp bird; wild canary (from the largely yellow coloration of the male); yellow bird; yellow wren (a small bird of largely yellow coloration).

Myrtle Warbler. Myrtle bird (from feeding on the fruit of the wax-myrtle, *Myrica*).

Black-poll Warbler. Sailor (Pennant 1785).

Oven-bird. That name, in rather general use, refers to the arched-over nest; it is not, however, made of clay).

Maryland Yellowthroat. Yellowthroat.

House Sparrow. English sparrow (much of the original stock was imported from England); sparrow (as if it were the only one — a British name traced to about 725 A.D. [spearua] OED. The bird is no sparrow at all, but a weaver-bird).

Bobolink. That name, in general use, is in imitation of some of its notes); ground blackbird (it is of the blackbird alliance and nests on or near the ground); meadow bird; seventy-six poll-tax (sonic); skunk blackbird (from the black and white coloration of the male).

Eastern Meadowlark. Field lark (as a denizen of grasslands; it is, however, no lark); marsh quail (the bird was formerly hunted in much the same way as are quail); meadowlark; meadow starling (various birds of this family are miscalled "starlings").

Red-winged Blackbird. Corn thief (it is destructive to Indian corn); marsh blackbird; redwing, redwinged blackbird (there is a large red and buff patch on the bend of the wing of the male); red-wing starling (various birds of this family are miscalled "starlings"); swamp blackbird.

Orchard Oriole. Orchard bird; small swinger (its nest is sometimes suspended).

Baltimore Oriole. Fire bird (about half of the plumage of the adult male varies from "cadmium yellow to intense orange or almost flame scarlet". Ridgway 1902); fire hangbird (the nest is suspended); golden oriole (in allusion to the yellow to orange coloration of about half of the plumage of the adult male); golden robin (as a familiar bird of the color just noted); goldfinch (from the coloration as here noted; however, the bird is not a finch nor does it resemble the birds of that family which are known as goldfinches); hangbird, hangnest, swinger (the nest is suspended); whistling swinger (in quality, its song is much like human whistling).

Purple Grackle. Crow blackbird (from its large size among blackbirds); jackdaw (by transfer from a European member of the crow family, with which our bird has

little in common, either in color, size, or habits); starling (various birds of this family are miscalled "starlings").

Common Cowbird. Cowbird, cow bunting, cow blackbird, cow robin (from its associating with cattle; "bunting" if more often applied to a group of finches; "robin" has the significance of a familiar bird); flycatcher (from its catching flies about cattle).

Scarlet Tanager. Black-winged redbird (descriptive of the male); fire bird (the plumage of the adult male is chiefly scarlet); redbird, woods redbird.

Cardinal. Cardinal, cardinal redbird (from the vermilion-red coloration of the male; a distinctive part of the vestiture of a Cardinal or member of the Pope's council, is red); redbird.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Cut-throat sparrow (the breast and sometimes the throat of the male are rose-to poppy-red, as if from bleeding).

Indigo Bunting. Indigo bird (this name, in general use, refers to the cerulean-blue plumage of the male).

Purple Finch. English robin (as a familiar ruddy bird, distinct from the common robin); linnet (this term usually indicates a good songster).

Pine Grosbeak. Bullfinch (as reminding observers of the European bull finch, *Pyrrhula*); pine finch (it lives among pines and feeds on their seeds).

Common Redpoll. Red-breasted snowbird (the fore underparts of the male are more or less suffused with pink); snow bird (as being seen in winter).

Common Goldfinch. Goldfinch (by transfer from a yellow, and otherwise brightly colored European finch; lettuce bird (as feeding on the seeds of that plant); shiner (from the bright coloration of the breeding male); thistle bird (it feeds on thistle seeds and lines its nest with thistle down); thistle yellowbird, wild canary (from the largely yellow coloration of the breeding male); yellow bird.

Red Crossbill. Crossbill (the mandibles are "falcate, deflected to opposite sides, their points crossed (unique among birds)". Coues 1903).

Eastern Towhee. Chawweet, chewink (sonic); fox bird (the sides and flanks are cinnamon-rufous); ground robin, marsh robin (its black and cinnamon coloration suggests that of the robin); seebing (sonic); swamp robin; towhee (sonic); wood thrush (a brushland bird, but not very thrush-like).

Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Quail-head (the markings on the head deemed similar to those of the bobwhite quail).

Vesper Sparrow. Grass bird, grass finch, gray grass bird (as living among grasses); ground sparrow.

Slate-colored Junco. Black chipping bird (its general color is slaty; a characteristic call has been described as "smacking" or "snapping"); black snowbird ("black" as before; "snowbird" from being seen in winter); rain bird (as being especially active before rains); snowbird; white-tailed sparrow (two or three feathers on each side of the tail are white).

Tree Sparrow. Ground Sparrow; snowbird (from being seen in winter); winter chippy (a bird similar to the chipping sparrow that is seen in winter); wood sparrow.

Chipping Sparrow. Chip bird, chipper sparrow, chipping bird, chippy, chippy bird, chippy sparrow (its call is a "chip" and its song a succession of similar notes); hair bird, hairy (it uses animal hair to line its nest); house sparrow (from living about the habitations of man).

Field Sparrow. Bush sparrow; chippy's cousin (as a near relative of the chipping sparrow); sweet singer; wood sparrow.

White-throated Sparrow. Cherry bird (it sometimes attacks cherry blossoms); Peabody bird (a name spreading from New England where a popular rendering of the song is "Sow wheat, Peabody, Peabody, Peabody"); white-throat.

Fox Sparrow. Shepherd (Pennant 1785).

Swamp Sparrow. Red grass-bird (the species has considerable chestnut coloration, and is an inhabitant of low vegetation).

Song Sparrow. Brown canary (The general effect of the coloration is a streaky reddish-brown; it is a persistent singer); brown ground-bird; ground bird; song sparrow.

Lapland Longspur. Snow bird (from being seen in winter).

Snow Bunting. Oortolan (name of a European finch prized by epicures; the present species was formerly sent to northeastern markets in great numbers); snow bird (as being seen in winter); white bird, white snowbird (the plumage is largely white); winter bunting.

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3 *Davie Circle, Chapel Hill, North Carolina*