

ENGLISH NAMES OF BIRDS

It has always been the policy of *The Kingbird* to use the English and scientific names of birds that are officially recognized by the American Ornithologists' Union, as published in the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds*, Fifth edition (1957). In the last few years, however, quite a few of these official names have been changed by the A.O.U., the changes appearing in *The Auk*. A certain amount of confusion has resulted, and in order to resolve this confusion as it applies to the Regional Reports, we are listing here all the recent changes of English names that involve the birds of New York State. Readers who do not own a copy of the A.O.U. *Check-list* can refer to *Birds of North America: A Guide to Field Identification*, by C. S. Robbins, B. Bruun and H. S. Zim, and illustrated by Arthur Singer (Golden Press, 1966). The latter book follows official A.O.U. nomenclature, so that questions on names used in *The Kingbird* can be settled by consulting Robbins, *et al.*, and the list given below.

Some of the changes in names are the result of the lumping of certain species; in such cases the old names on the following list are given in quotes. These old names can and should still be used to refer to recognizable subspecies (e.g., "Baltimore Oriole" and "Bullock's Oriole" to refer to the two subspecies of what is now known as the Northern Oriole). Old names not enclosed in quotes have been changed for reasons not involving the lumping of species; such names should no longer be used.

Old Name	New Name
Fulmar	Northern Fulmar
Leach's Petrel	Leach's Storm-Petrel
Wilson's Petrel	Wilson's Storm-Petrel
Common Egret	Great Egret
Wood Ibis	Wood Stork
"Black Brant"	Brant
"Blue Goose"	Snow Goose
Fulvous Tree Duck	Fulvous Whistling-Duck
"Common Teal"	Green-winged Teal
European Widgeon	European Wigeon
American Widgeon	American Wigeon
Shoveler	Northern Shoveler
Common Scoter	Black Scoter
Pigeon Hawk	Merlin

Sparrow Hawk	American Kestrel
Upland Plover	Upland Sandpiper
Knot	Red Knot
"Yellow-shafted Flicker"	Common Flicker
Traill's Flycatcher	Willow Flycatcher
Traill's Flycatcher	Alder Flycatcher
Catbird	Gray Catbird
Robin	American Robin
Parula Warbler	Northern Parula
"Myrtle Warbler"	Yellow-rumped Warbler
"Audubon's Warbler"	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Yellowthroat	Common Yellowthroat
"Baltimore Oriole"	Northern Oriole
"Bullock's Oriole"	Northern Oriole
"Ipswich Sparrow"	Savannah Sparrow
"Slate-colored Junco"	Dark-eyed Junco
"Oregon Junco"	Dark-eyed Junco

In addition to the above changes, a race of the Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus thayeri*, has been raised to the rank of a full species, to be called Thayer's Gull.

Details on these and other name changes may be found in the following references:

- A.O.U. Committee on Classification and Nomenclature. 1973. Thirty-second Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds. *Auk* 90: 411-419.
- A.O.U. Committee on Classification and Nomenclature. 1973. Corrections and Additions to the "Thirty-second Supplement to the Check-list of North American Birds." *Auk* 90: 887.
- A.O.U. Committee on Classification and Nomenclature. 1976. Thirty-third Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds. *Auk* 93: 876-879.

The Editors