

CHANGES IN THE 7th EDITION OF THE AOU CHECK-LIST RELEVANT TO NEW YORK STATE

Volume 117 No. 3 July 2000(pg. 847-858) of *The Auk* contains the 42nd Supplement to *The American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds*. It includes some changes which apply to the official New York State checklist. As *The Kingbird* follows taxonomic and English name designations established by the AOU , those changes applicable to New York birders are shown below.

English name change:

Oldsquaw is now Long-tailed Duck

The explanation of what has proven to be a controversial change is as follows:

"The Committee was petitioned by a group of biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska to change the English name of *Clangula hyemalis* from Oldsquaw to Long-tailed Duck, the name used for the species outside of North America. The basis for the petition was that the species is declining in numbers in Alaska and conservation management plans require the help and cooperation of Native Americans. The biologists were concerned that the name Oldsquaw would offend Native Americans. Requests to change the name had been made to the Committee in past years by some who consider the word 'squaw' to be offensive. The Committee declines to consider political correctness alone in changing long-standing English names but is willing in this instance to adopt an alternative name that is in use in much of the world."

Taxonomic Name Changes (with no change in English name)

OLD	NEW
<i>Catharacta skua</i>	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>
<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>	<i>Stercorarius maccormicki</i>
<i>Pica pica</i>	<i>Pica hudsonia</i> *
<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	<i>Poecile atricapilla</i>
<i>Poecile hudsonicus</i>	<i>Poecile hudsonica</i>

*The change of the specific designation of Black-billed Magpie from *P. pica* to *P. hudsonia* deserves a word of explanation. Previous to this change, the magpie on the NYS Checklist was considered to be the subspecies *Pp. hudsonia*, which has now been raised to full species status. This may give pause to some serious listers who have seen this bird in NYS as probably a number of NY sightings are escaped cage birds , the Eurasian *P. pica*.

The Editor