

TIME FOR A CHANGE: CHECK YOUR LIST!

by Robert H. Stymeist, Brookline

After twenty-five years, the long awaited sixth edition of The American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds is now in press and should appear sometime in 1983. Recently published in The Auk was the thirty-fourth supplement to the check-list which included an updated list of species of birds reported with documentation through December 1981. The complete sixth edition will cover species from Bermuda, the West Indies, and Middle America (Mexico through Panama). Good-bye 700 club!

The new check-list will be revised considerably in the higher categories, that is, in the taxonomic sequence that is the presently accepted avian classification. The concept of primitive to derived sequences is used in the arrangement of taxa. English names, where changed, were adopted with a global viewpoint. Bird Observer will adopt this new phylogenetic list with our 1983 volume issue.

The new English names of most of the birds that we encounter here in eastern Massachusetts are given below.

<u>Old Name</u>	<u>New Name</u>
Gannet	Northern Gannet
White Pelican	American White Pelican
Louisiana Heron	Tricolored Heron
Green Heron	Green-backed Heron
Black-crowned Night Heron	Black-crowned Night-Heron
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
Whistling Swan	Tundra Swan
Black Duck	American Black Duck
Pintail	Northern Pintail
European Wigeon	Eurasian Wigeon
Marsh Hawk	Northern Harrier
Goshawk	Northern Goshawk
Bobwhite	Northern Bobwhite
Common Gallinule	Common Moorhen
American Golden Plover	Lesser Golden-Plover
Northern Phalarope	Red-necked Phalarope
Black-headed Gull	Common Black-headed Gull
Common Puffin	Atlantic Puffin
Barn Owl	Common Barn-Owl
Screech Owl	Eastern Screech-Owl
Hawk Owl	Northern Hawk-Owl
Saw-whet Owl	Northern Saw-whet Owl
Northern Three-toed Woodpecker	Three-toed Woodpecker
Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker	Black-backed Woodpecker
Common Flicker	Northern Flicker
Eastern Wood Pewee	Eastern Wood-Pewee

Old Name

Rough-winged Swallow
Common Crow
Short-billed Marsh Wren
Long-billed Marsh Wren
Mockingbird
Starling
Cardinal
Tree Sparrow

New Name

Northern Rough-winged Swallow
American Crow
Sedge Wren
Marsh Wren
Northern Mockingbird
European Starling
Northern Cardinal
American Tree Sparrow


Copies of the complete Thirty-fourth Supplement to the A.O.U. check-list are available for \$3.00 each postpaid from G. E. Woolfenden, Biology, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33620.



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