

ANSWERS TO THE BIRD NAME QUIZ

by Chris Floyd, Lexington

The unfamiliar-looking names are translations of the scientific names of some familiar birds, as shown below. With the help of the listed references, which I used, you might discover other amusing translations. How about California Ground Cuckoo?

Winter Noiselet: Clangula hyemalis: Oldsquaw

Clangula hyemalis, from the diminutive clangula of the Latin clangor, "noise," and the Latin hiemalis, "of winter," from hiems, "winter."

Little White Oxhead: Bucephala albeola: Bufflehead

Bucephala albeola, from the Greek bous, "ox," the Greek kephale, "head," and the Latin albus, "white," plus the diminutive suffix -olus.

Shielded Spoon: Spatula clypeata: Northern Shoveler

Spatula clypeata, from the Latin spatula, "spoon," and the Latin clypeatus, "furnished with a shield," from clypeum, "shield."

Pointed Duck: Anas acuta: Northern Pintail

Anas acuta, from the Latin anas, "duck," and the Latin acutus, "pointed."

Red-footed Duck: Anas rubripes: American Black Duck

Anas rubripes, from the Latin anas, "duck," the Latin ruber, "red," and the Latin pes, "foot."

Harefoot: Lagopus lagopus: Willow Ptarmigan

Lagopus lagopus, from the Greek lagos, "hare," and the Greek pous, "foot."

Cloaked Bloodfoot: Haematopus palliatus: American Oyster-catcher

Haematopus palliatus, from the Greek haima (genitive haimatos), "blood," the Greek pous, "foot," and the Latin palliatus, "wearing a cloak."

Lesser Bog-lover: Philohela minor: American Woodcock

Philohela minor, from the Greek philos, "loving," the Greek helos, "bog," and the Latin minor, "lesser."

Tricolored Waterqueen: Hydranassa tricolor: Tricolored Heron
Hydranassa tricolor, from the Greek hydor, "water," the Greek anassa, "queen," the Latin tres (combining form tri-), "three," and the Latin color, "color."

Violet Nightqueen: Nyctanassa violacea: Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
Nyctanassa violacea, from the Greek nyctos, "night," the Greek anassa, "queen," and the Latin violaceus, "violet-colored," from viola, "violet" (the flower).

Sociable Hookbeak: Rostrhamus sociabilis: Snail Kite
Rostrhamus sociabilis; from the Latin rostrum, "beak," the Latin hamus, "hook," and the Latin sociabilis, "gregarious."

Black Beakface: Rhynchops nigra: Black Skimmer
Rhynchops nigra, from the Greek rhynchos, "beak," the Greek ops, "face," and the Latin niger, "black."

Reddish Bowmouth: Toxostoma rufum: Brown Thrasher
Toxostoma rufum, from the Greek toxon, "bow," the Greek stoma, "mouth," and the Latin rufus, "reddish."

Wandering Worm-eater: Vermivora peregrina: Tennessee Warbler
Vermivora peregrina, from the Latin vermis, "worm," the Latin vorare, "to eat," and the Latin peregrinus, "wandering."

Greenish Gnatking: Empidonax virescens: Acadian Flycatcher
Empidonax virescens, from the Greek empis (genitive empidos), "gnat," the Greek anax, "king," and the Latin virescens, "growing green."

Rice-eating Longclaw: Dolichonyx oryzivorus: Bobolink
Dolichonyx oryzivorus, from the Greek dolichos, "long," the Greek onyx, "claw," the Latin oryza, "rice," and the Latin vorare, "to eat."

Red-tailed Moth-eater: Setophaga ruticilla: American Redstart
Setophaga ruticilla, from the Greek setos, "moth," the Greek phagein, "to eat," the Latin rutilus, "reddish," and the supposed Latin cilla, "tail."

Golden-haired Shaketail: Seiurus aurocapillus: Ovenbird

Seiurus aurocapillus, from the Greek seio, "shake," the Greek oura, "tail," the Latin aurum, "gold," and the Latin capillus, "hair."

Tiger-striped Tree-dweller: Dendroica tigrina: Cape May Warbler

Dendroica tigrina, from the Greek dendron, "tree," the Greek oikeo, "inhabit," and the Latin tigrinus, "striped like a tiger," from tigris, "tiger."

Many-tongued Mimic: Mimus polyglottos: Northern Mockingbird

Mimus polyglottos, from the Latin mimus, "mimic," the Greek poly, "many," and the Greek glotta, "tongue."

REFERENCES

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