

## SYNONYMS.

**SCIENTIFIC. Polynomials.** *Picus varius major alis aureis*, Catesby, "Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands," Vol. I, plate 18, full size colored figure, 1731.

*Cuculus alis deauratis*, Klein, "Historiae Avium Prodomus, cum Praefatione Ordine Anamaliium," etc., 1750, page 30.

**Binomials.** *Cuculus auratus*, Linnæus, "Systema Naturæ," 1758, 10th Edition, Vol. I, p. 112.

*Picus auratus*, Linnæus, "Systema Naturæ," 1766, 12th Edition, Vol. I, p. 174.

*Colaptes auratus*, Swainson, "Zoological Journal," 1827, Vol. III, p. 353.

*Colaptes auratus luteus*, Part, Bangs, "Auk," 1898, Vol. XV, p. 117.

Modern nomenclature dates from 1758, when Linnæus introduced what is known as the binomial system, consisting of a generic, followed by a specific term; hence Catesby's many-worded descriptive name, though the earliest, receives no recognition. The same may be said of Klein who, almost a score of years later, erroneously placed it with the Cuckoos. Linnæus followed his predecessors closely, considering the difference in systems, and to him is given the credit of the specific term; while to Swainson, erecting a new genus almost a century after Catesby, is given that of the generic term.

According to Coues, *Colaptes* is of Greek derivation, signifying "a chisel, hammer," and *auratus*, "gilden, golden (colored)". More appropriate terms could scarcely have been chosen. Bangs' third term, reducing the northern bird to sub-specific rank, follows to complete the synonymy, illustrating the instability of American nomenclature and the difficulties placed in the way of a study of the literature of a species.

Though the American Ornithologists' Union does not recognize hybrid forms as even sub-species, some of our lead-

ing authorities have at one time or another suggested designations for this peculiar form. Accordingly, as in the case of *C. a. luteus*, I have added such names in the sense of being pure synonyms, which apply equally to *C. cafer*.

*Picus ayresii*, Part, Audubon, "Birds of North America," 1843, Vol. VII, p. 348.

*Colaptes hybridus*, Part, Baird, "Pacific Railroad Exploration and Survey Report," 1858, Vol. IX, p. 123.

*Picus hybridus, aurato-mexicanus*, Part, Sundevall, "Conspectus Avium Picinarum," 1866, p. 72.

*Colaptes auratus*+*Colaptes cafer*, Coues, "Key to North American Birds," 1872, 1st Edition, p. 198.

*Colaptes auratus hybridus*, Part, Ridgway, "Nomenclature of North American Birds," 1881, p. 35.

Audubon's type, now deposited in the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, is a male in breeding plumage, exhibiting the yellow shafts of *auratus* and the red malar stripes of *cafer*, and in the absence of intermediate specimens was thought to have been a good species. Baird found it in all stages of blending in Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana and the Dakotas—principally in the Upper Missouri and Yellowstone river regions—and recognized its true relationship. It is said that at about this time Cassin was inclined to believe that it could be broken up into several distinct species; a belief which he did not act upon, however. Sundevall and Coues adopt forms which are comprehensive, while at the same time somewhat unique. Ridgway admits it as a sub-species. I am informed that in the next edition of Coues' "Key to North American Birds," it was the intention to have it appear as *Colaptes auratus ayresii*, going back to Audubon for the sub-specific term, which Hargitt has already made use of in the British Museum Catalogue, omitting the middle term.

**VERNACULAR.** Happily our subject escaped the servitude of the prefixed personal name, laid on so many of its class, which in common with names of an indifferent, irrelevant or misleading nature, are the chief obstacles to the acceptance and common use of the official vernacular titles. Names descriptive of form, flight, plumage, notes, habits, habitat, characteristics, etc., or of onomatopoeic origin, are preferable if short and catchy. With its matchless array of marked charac-

teristics, any one of which would well deserve the adoption of a concise descriptive name in a species less excentric, no word in the English language would prove more apt than the one it now possesses—the name given it by the early settlers.

While the compilation of a dictionary of synonyms was not originally contemplated, the vulgar appellations or aliases collected from various sources number 124, all of which have been actually in use, either generally or locally. The probable derivation and meaning, as well as other notes, have been added, when it appeared necessary. Although apparently so varied in character, there is scarcely a name that cannot be placed in one of the three divisions: Descriptive, Onomatopoeic, Misnomers.

**Antbird.** Minnesota. So called from its well known taste for ants (*Hymenoptera*), of which it devours immense quantities.

**Big Sapsucker.** Northern States. Misnomer.

**Carpintero.** Spanish. Obsolete in the United States. Carpenter—the name given to the whole Woodpecker family in Spanish America.

**Cave-duc.** Maine. Of French Canadian origin. Apparently confounded with the hole-nesting species of horned or eared Owls and continued through ignorance of the original. Along the St. Lawrence river the natives call the horn-owl "cave-duc" or "horn-coot"—Russell Gray.

**Clape, Claype.** Western New York, Western end of Long Island. Ernest Ingersoll quotes Dr. DeKay as follows: "Said to have been some provincial word introduced by the early English colonists." In this instance it is doubtless misapplied, as our New York observers unite in the assertion that it is an imitation of the loud spring call note.

**Common Flicker.** Sometimes used in the East, but more frequently in some sections of the West, where both *auratus* and *cafer* occur.

**Cotton-rump.** Pennsylvania. From the conspicuous white patch of feathers on the rump. (A similar name—Cotton-tail—has been applied to *C. cafer* in California according to H. R. Taylor).

**Crescent-bird.** West. From the prominent black crescent on the breast, or the scarlet occipital crescent, or both.

**Eastern Flicker.** West. Its habitat from a western standpoint.

**English Woodpecker.** Long Island; Newfoundland. Probably traceable to the early settlers, who doubtless considered it nothing more nor less than a "degenerate offshoot" of a species inhabiting that country.

**Fiddler.** Cape Cod, Massachusetts. I feel pretty sure that this name is derived from the peculiar sew-saw motions indulged in by the males while courting the females during the early spring months.—Willard N. Clute.

**Flicker.** This is the most popular and generally used name. Some difference of opinion exists as to the exact derivation of the term, some contending that it is from the song—*wicher* and variations—hence onomatopoeic; while others are just as sure that it must have been suggested by the peculiar twinkling or flickering of the bright shafts when the wings open and close in flight. The latter would commonly suggest the name before the bird had uttered a sound.

**Flicker Woodpecker.** Middle States.

**Flitter.** Eastern Pennsylvania. A corruption of Flicker.

**French Woodpecker.** New Hampshire. Probably derived from the mongrel term, French-pie, which is one of the local names in common use in some parts of England for the Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Picus major*.)

**Gaffle Woodpecker.** Hudson, Massachusetts. Perhaps a provincial corruption for "gaffer"—a talkative old man.—Frank A. Bates. Or a corruption of "Yaffle," for which see same.

**Gallie.** Northern New Jersey. Pretty generally so called by the bird-nesting boys.—Willard N. Clute. Evidently an abbreviation of the old English title, "Galley-bird," which, according to Charles Swainson in "Provincial Names of British Birds," is the Sussex name for a woodpecker. The old time supposition was that all of this tribe were doomed to "incessant toil and slavery;" hence the term.

**Gel Specht, Gelb Specht.** Pennsylvania. German or "Pennsylvania Dutch." Pronounced gail spycht. Yellow Woodpecker.

**Golden Sapsucker.** Southern New Jersey. Common name in that region.—Dr. Walter W. Maires.

**Golden-shafted Flicker, Golden-shafted Woodpecker, Golden-wing, Golden-winged Flicker, Golden-winged Woodpecker, Gold-wing Woodpecker, Golden-wing Woodpecker, Golden-winged Woodpecker.** In more or less frequent use, chiefly through the influence of our earlier ornithological writers.

**Golden Woodpecker.** New York.

**Golden-winged Woodcock.** Iowa. Misnomer.

**Grasshopper Woodpecker.** Vermont. From its habit of frequenting open fields where grasshoppers (*Acrididae*), abound upon which it feeds.

**Hairy-wicket, Harry-wicket.** New England. Corruption of the love or scythe-whetting notes.

**Hammer-Head.** Western part of Hampshire county, Massachusetts. This name is equally applicable to any other woodpecker.—W. W. Colburn. A homonym. "Name given in the Cape Colony, Africa, to *Scopus umbretta*, which is allied to the Herons."—Newton's Dictionary of Birds.

**Hick-wall.** Connecticut. Obsolescent. A relic of the old world, of which Hewel and Hew-hole are said to be corruptions. The older form of which, "Hick-waw" (Holly hand) and Hickway and Highawe (Cotgrave) can hardly have come from anything but the Anglo-Saxon "Higera" or "Higere" (T. Wright), meaning laughter, and doubtless referring to the cry of the Green Woodpecker (*Geococcyx viridis*).—Newton's Dictionary of Birds.

**High-hole, High-holer, High-hold, High-holder.** Northern United States and Canada. "From the usual position of its nest."—Earnest Ingersoll. Further modifications of "Hewel," "Hewhole," "Heigh-hawe," or "High-hawe."—Newton's Dictionary. The terms may have originated in accordance with Newton's statement, but are now used only in the sense defined by Ingersoll.

**High-ho Woodpecker.** Wisconsin. A contraction of High-hole.

**Hittock, Hittocks, Hittuck.** Canada. New Jersey. "Said to have been handed down from the Delaware Indians, being the Leni-Lenape word for tree."—Heckwelder. "Probably originated from a fancied resemblance of its notes to the sound of the words."—Alexander Wilson. "So called by the Swedes on account of its notes."—Kalm.

**Hivel.** New York; Ohio. Origin in doubt. Possibly a corruption of the old English word Hewel, for which see High-hole and Hick-wall; or a contraction of hive-hole, from the buzzing bee-like sounds emitted by the small young in the nest.

**Hybrid Flicker.** Name given the mixed birds of the West by Baird.

**Jaune, Joune.** Louisiana. French. Meaning yellow. The second a corruption of the first.

**Le pic aux ailes dorees.** Name given by Buffon. French, Golden-winged Woodpecker.

**Little Woodchuck.** Caloosahatche River Region, Florida. The adjective is used to distinguish the smaller from the "Big Woodchuck" (Ivory-billed Woodpecker).—D. D. Stone.

**Meadow Partridge.** Wisconsin. Misnomer. From its hurried, Partridge-like manner of flushing from the grass-fields when startled.

**Missouri Red-moustached Woodpecker.** Audubon's name for the hybrid (*C. ayresii*).

**Mo-ning-qua-na.** White Earth Reservation. Chippewa Indians. "Bird with dirty-colored wings."—W. W. Cooke.

**Northern Flicker.** Prefix given by Outram Bangs to that portion breeding from North Carolina northward.

**Ome-tuc.** Maine. Probably of Indian and onomatopoeic origin.

**On-thee-quan-nor-ow.** Hudson Bay Region. British America. Natives. "From the golden color of its shafts and lower sides of wings."—Alexander Wilson.

**O-zaw-wan-day Paw-Paw-say.** Lower peninsula of Michigan. Pottawatomie Indians. Yellow or Golden-colored Woodpecker.

**Partridge Woodpecker.** Wisconsin; Massachusetts. See Meadow Partridge.

**Paw-Paw-say, plural Paw-Paw-say-og.** Lower peninsula of Michigan. Pottawatomie Indians. "Paw-big (flea) hence the word, jumping about quickly in any direction. Our people did not go into varieties nor define birds and mammals as Europeans do. For instance: should we want to describe more particularly the Red-headed Woodpecker, we would say Mis-qud (red)-o-dib (head), Paw-Paw-say (Woodpecker); or

O - zaw - wan - day Paw - Paw - say, (Yellow or Golden - colored Woodpecker).—Simon, Chief of Pokagons.

**Peckwood, Peckerwood.** Florida, Georgia, Michigan. Transposition of Woodpeck and Woodpecker.

**Peerit, Pee-ut.** New England. **Pe-up.** Massachusetts. From its shrill call notes.

**Pie-bis, Pie-bris.** Louisiana. French. Brown Pie or Magpie. A Misnomer.

**Pigeon Woodpecker.** New England; New York; Minnesota. "Arising from the peculiar pigeon-like attitude when perched across the branch instead of lengthwise along it as do other more genuine woodpeckers."—Ernest Ingersoll.

**Pink-throat.** Mackinac Island, Michigan. In certain lights the pinkish-cinnamon of the neck appears to advantage.

**Picque-bois-jaune.** Louisiana. French. Yellow Woodpecker.

**Piut, Pi-ute.** New England. Same as *Peerit*.

**Sapsuck, Sapsucker.** Southern States. From the belief that it extracts sap from the trees in which it bores. Misnomer.

**Shad-spirit.** New England Coast. "A half superstitious idea of the fishermen of former days—and it may be yet—that this bird came up from the south and ascended the rivers just ahead of vernal migration of shad, in order to inform them of the approach of the fish; in other words, a noting of a coincidence."—Ernest Ingersoll. Its spring cry is heard at about the time the first shad are caught in the Merrimac river.—Walter Hoxie. A parallel case in the Old World is that of *Mackerel-bird*, on Guernsey Island, for the Wry-neck, referring to its appearance coincident to that of the Mackerel.

**Sharp-billed Flicker.** Eastern Pennsylvania.

**Silver Dollar Bird.** Pennsylvania. "From its white rump mark which it shows so conspicuously when rising from the ground."—W. W. Colburn. According to Gould "Handbook of the Birds of Australia," the Australian name for *Eurystomus pacificus* is Dollar Bird, from the silvery-white spot in the middle of the wing, which is distinctly shown when in flight.

**Spotted Woodpecker.** Name given by Maynard to the whole genus.

**Sucker.** Florida. See *Sapsucker*.

**Specht, Speckt, Speight, Spright.** Pennsylvania. German. (Woodpecker). A corruption—*Woodspite*—is locally in use in England to designate the Green Woodpecker, according to Rev. J. G. Wood.—“Popular Natural History.”

**Talpa-na-ni.** Southern Florida. Seminole Indians. It has no equivalent in English. The first part seems to be a generic prefix, and the last two syllables are an imitation of a cry of the kind.—Walter Hoxie.

**Taping-bird.** Massachusetts. This epithet was applied because it flies as if “measured off tape.” In the “Audubon Magazine” an error was made in copying from the “Forest and Stream,” making it “Tapping-bird,” which would of course make it have a very different meaning.—W. W. Colburn.

**Tree-pecker.** Lower Delaware Valley. (Obsolete). So called by the early Swedish settlers, according to Heckwelder.

**Wa-cup.** New London and Windham counties, Connecticut. “So called by every one save a few closet bird men.”—C. L. Rawson. Imitation of its song or greeting notes.

**Wah-cup.** Massachusetts; Long Island. Same as *Wa-cup*.

**Wake-up.** New England; New York; Minnesota. Corruption of *Wa-cup*.

**Wa-wup.** New York; Pennsylvania. Same as *Wa-cup*.

**Weather-hen.** Vermont. Doubtless so called because it becomes, in common with many other species of birds, particularly vociferous just before or after a storm.

**Wheeler.** Somerset county, Maryland. Probably of onomatopoeic origin.

**Wild Hen.** Maine. “Its practice of laying additional eggs when the first set is removed gives the bird this name.”—Ernest Ingersoll. Its cackling notes are somewhat similar to the common domestic fowl’s.

**Will Crisson.** Dismal Swamp Region, North Carolina. Given me by a gentleman who visited and hunted in that section and heard it applied. I know nothing of its origin or meaning.—W. W. Colburn. Probably another sound-word, corrupted until all trace of the cry represented has been lost.

**Woodchuck.** Berkshire Hills, Massachusetts; Kansas; North Carolina; Florida. Possibly the suffix is derived from



*chuck*, the original name for hog ; hence literally *Woodhog*, from its habit of burrowing in the wood in comparison to the rooting of the hog in the earth ; or *chuck*, used in the sense "to strike," would still be consistent ; and again, the latter word with other meanings. "To call as a hen to her chickens, to jeer or laugh," would seem equally relevant and appropriate.

**Woodcock.** New England; Pennsylvania; Iowa. A homonym rather than a misnomer.

**Wood-lark.** Locality unknown. Misnomer.

**Woodpeck, Woodpecker, Woodpicker.** Illinois; North Carolina, Michigan.

**Woodpecker Lark.** Georgia; South Carolina. "From the black crescent of the breast."—Ernest Ingersoll. Owing to a resemblance in upper plumage as well as the-at-times-similarity of feeding habits and association while on the ground with the Meadow-lark.

**Wood Pigeon.** New England. Misnomer.

**Wood-quoi.** Connecticut. A mongrel term, possibly from *Wood-pie*, for which see *French Woodpecker*.

**Wood-wall.** New England. Clearly an early importation from England, originating from its nesting habits. Said to have been the ancient name for the Green Woodpecker, and occurring in the writings of the old English poets. Still in use in some parts, particularly in the New Forest, Hampshire, according to Cassell.

**Xebec.** (Pronounced ze-bec). New Hampshire. This is the name under which I received a set of Flicker's eggs some fifteen years ago. The collector knew the species by no other name.—F. H. Lattin. The original of the name is a small sea-going vessel carrying much canvas ; hence the nickname was doubtless suggested by the most conspicuous identity mark of the kind at a distance—the white rump.

**Yacker, Yecker, Yucker.** New York; Massachusetts. Doubtless of onomatopoeic origin.

**Yaffle.** Connecticut. Another importation. "The people of Surry and Sussex, England, call the Green Woodpecker 'yaffle' or 'yaffel,' from its repeated notes which are compared to the sound of a laugh."—Cassell.

**Yarup, Yar-rup, Yaw-up.** Middle States. From its ordinary call note.

**Yellow Flicker.** West. To distinguish it from the Red-shafted Flicker, whose range it overlaps.

**Yellowhammer, Yellerhammer, Yallerhammer, Yellow'ammer.** In general use, ranking next to the Flicker in popularity, more frequently heard in the older States, but not uncommon in the Mississippi Valley, and even cropping out in the far West, thus indicating *C. cafer*. "Yellowhammer is an old Teutonic word, common in Great Britain as the provincial name of the Yellow Bunting (*Emberiza citrinella*). Hammer or 'ammer—it ought to be the latter—means, radically, the chirper, *i. e.*, a small chirping bird, so that Yellow'ammer=Yellow Songbird. Its application to our Flicker is the result of ignorance long ago."—Ernest Ingersoll. Doubtless the very first settlers, eager to discover something in the wilderness that would remind them of the land they had left, so named the strange bird upon the first flash of yellow, irrespective of the difference in size, structure and habits; and the title continued through a sense of its accidental fitness.

**Yellow Jay.** New Hampshire, Wisconsin. A misnomer, but not altogether inappropriate, as it possesses a call note almost in common with one of the Blue Jay's.

**Yellow-shafted Flicker, Yellow-winged Woodpecker.** See Golden-shafted Flicker.

**Yellow Wing.** Cape Ann, Massachusetts.

**Yellow-winged Sapsucker.** Pennsylvania. Misnomer.

**Yellow-winged Woodcock.** Iowa. Misnomer.

**Zebec.** (*Young Oologist*, '84, p. 22). See Xebec.