

# News, Notes, Comments

## Updates to Four-letter and Six-letter Alpha Codes based on Revisions by the American Ornithologists' Union in 2007-2008

Pyle and DeSante (2003) derived alpha codes based on the English and scientific names of 2,030 species recorded in the American Ornithologists' Union's (AOU) 1998 check-list and supplements through 2002. They also derived codes for 91 non-species taxa including subspecies, unidentified taxa, intergrades, morphs, and hybrids. Four-letter codes, based on the English names, largely coincided with those utilized by the Bird Banding Laboratory for use on banding schedules. Six-letter codes, based on scientific names, are favored by ornithologists in Latin America. These lists can be downloaded from the Institute for Bird Population's web site at:

<http://www.birdpop.org/AlphaCodes.htm>

Pyle and DeSante (2005, 2006) updated their lists according to taxonomic and other changes made by the AOU in supplements to their check-list published in 2003-2006, and made other corrections and additions resulting in 2041 species and 97 non-species taxa. Here we list all changes to our alpha-code lists (to English name, four-letter code, scientific name, and six-letter code) based on additional supplements by the AOU (Banks et al. 2007, 2008), and we add one non-species taxon (see Appendix 1). These changes bring the totals in the list to 2048 species and 98 non-species taxa. We publish this list of updates for those who have already incorporated the old list into their databases and would find it easier to incorporate these updates than to download the revised list. Note, however, that updates not resulting in changes to either four-letter or six-letter alpha codes (including changes in taxonomic order) are not included in Appendix 1; please refer to the revised lists to access these changes. The revised list (through 2008), incorporating updates itemized in Appendix 1, other changes that did not affect alpha codes (e.g.,

Apr. - Jun. 2009

to the gender of scientific names), and the revised taxonomic order recommended by the AOU, is now available at the above web site.

We thank Bob Wilkerson for assistance in maintaining the lists on the web site. This is contribution #372 of The Institute for Bird Populations.

### LITERATURE CITED

- Banks, R.C., R.T. Chesser, C. Cicero, J.L. Dunn, A.W. Kratter, I.J. Lovette, P.C. Rasmussen, J.V. Remsen Jr., J.D. Rising, and D.F. Stotz. 2007. Forty-eighth supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds. *Auk* 124:1109-1115.
- Banks, R.C., R.T. Chesser, C. Cicero, J.L. Dunn, A.W. Kratter, I.J. Lovette, P.C. Rasmussen, J.V. Remsen Jr., J.D. Rising, and D.F. Stotz. 2008. Forty-ninth supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds. *Auk* 125:758-768.
- Pyle, P. and D.F. DeSante. 2003. Four-letter and six-letter alpha codes for birds recorded in the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list area. *North American Bird Bander* 28:64-79.
- Pyle, P. and D.F. DeSante. 2005. Updates to four-letter and six-letter alpha codes based on revisions by the American Ornithologists' Union. *North American Bird Bander* 30:70-72.
- Pyle, P. and D.F. DeSante. 2006. Updates to four-letter and six-letter alpha codes based on revisions by the American Ornithologists' Union in 2005-2006. *North American Bird Bander* 31:193-195.

*Peter Pyle and David F. DeSante*  
The Institute for Bird Populations  
P.O. Box 1346  
Point Reyes Station, CA  
94956ppyle@birdpop.org

## Appendix 1

Changes to the lists of four-letter and six-letter codes for birds recorded in the American Ornithologists' Union check-list area.

**Replace** Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis*) with Taiga Bean-Goose. **Change** Four-letter Code to TABG.

**Insert** Tundra Bean-Goose (*Anser serrirostris*) after Taiga Bean-Goose. Four-letter Code = TUBG, Six-letter Code = ANSSER.

**Replace** Spot-billed Duck (*Anas poecilorrhyncha*) with Eastern Spot-billed Duck (*Anas zonorhyncha*). **Change** Four-letter Code to ESPD, Six-letter Code to ANAZON.

**Insert** Ringed Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma hornbyi*) before Leach's Storm-Petrel (*O. leucorhoa*). Four-letter Code = RISP, Six-letter Code = OCEHOR.

Great Frigatebird (*Fregata minor*). **Change** Four-letter Code to GREF.

**Insert** Intermediate Egret (*Mesophoyx intermedia*) after Great Egret (*Ardea alba*). Four-letter Code = INEG, Six-letter Code = MESINT.

**Change** Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) to American Flamingo. **Change** Four-letter Code to AMFL. (Move to follow Clark's Grebe, *Aechmophorus clarkii*).

**Change** *Rostrhamus hamatus* (Slender-billed Kite) to *Helicolestes hamatus*. **Change** Six-letter Code to HELHAM.

**Remove** Mangrove Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus subtilis*).

**Insert** Cuban Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus gundlachi*) after Common Black-Hawk (*B. anthracinus*). Four-letter Code = CUBH, Six-letter Code — BUTGUN.

**Insert** Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*) after American Kestrel (*F. sparverius*). Four-letter Code — RFFA, Six-letter Code = FALVES.

**Insert** Swallow-tailed Gull (*Creagrus furcatus*) after Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola maldivarum*). Four-letter Code = STGU, Six-letter Code = CREFUR.

**Change** genus of Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*), Gray-hooded Gull (*L. cirrocephalus*), and Black-headed Gull (*L. ridibundus*) to *Chroicocephalus*. **Change** Six-letter Codes to CHRPHI, CHRCIR, and CHRRID, respectively.

**Change** *Larus minutus* (Little Gull) to *Hydrocoloeus minutus*. **Change** Six-letter Code to HYDMIN.

**Change** genus for Gray Gull (*Larus modestus*), Laughing Gull (*L. atricilla*), and Franklin's Gull (*L. pipixcan*) to *Leucophaeus*. **Change** Six-letter Codes to LEUMOD, LEUATC, and LEUIPI, respectively.

**Change** *Larus cachinnans* (Yellow-legged Gull) to *Larus michahellis*. **Change** Six-letter Code to LARMIC.

**Change** genus of Brown-hooded Parrot (*Pionopsitta haematotis*) and Saffron-headed Parrot (*P. pyrdia*) to *Pyrilia*. **Change** Six-letter Codes to PYRHAE and PYRPYL, respectively.

**Change** Brown Violet-ear (*Colibris delphinae*) to Brown Violetear. **Change** Four-letter Code to BRVI.

**Change** Green Violet-ear (*Colibris thalassinus*) to Green Violetear. **Change** Four-letter Code to GREV.

**Change** Rufous-cheeked Hummingbird (*Goethalsia bella*) to Pirre Hummingbird. **Change** Four-letter Code to PIHU.

Blue-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia cyanura*). **Change** Four-letter Code to BTLH.

**Change** genus for Ringed Kingfisher (*Ceryle torquata*) and Belted Kingfisher (*C. alcyon*) to *Megaceryle*. **Change** Six-letter Codes to MEGTOR and MEGALC, respectively.

**Change** *Nonnularuficapilla* (Gray-checked Nunlet) to *Nonnula frontalis*. **Change** Six-letter Code to NONFRO.

**Change** genus for Golden-olive Woodpecker (*Piculus rubiginosus*) and Gray-crowned Woodpecker (*P. auricularis*) to *Colaptes*. **Change** Six-letter Codes to COLRUB and COLAUC, respectively.

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*). **Change** Six-letter Code to COLAUT.

**Change** *Myrmotherula fulviventris* (Checker-throated Antwren) to *Epinecrophylla fulviventris*. **Change** Six-letter Code to EPIFUL.

**Change** Brownish Flycatcher (*Cnipodectes subbrunneus*) to Brownish Twistwing. **Change** Four-letter Code to BRTW.

**Insert** Pallas's Leaf-Warbler (*Phylloscopus proregulus*) after Dusky Warbler (*P. fuscatus*). Four-letter Code = PALW, Six-letter Code = PHYPRO.

**Insert** Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) after Redwing (*T. iliacus*). Four-letter Code = SOTH, Six-letter Code = TURPHI.

**Change** the English names, from "Robin" to "Thrush," for Sooty (*Turdus nigrescens*), Black (*T. infuscatus*), Mountain (*T. plebejus*), Clay-colored (*T. grayi*), Bare-eyed (*T. nudigenis*), and White-throated (*T. assimilis*) robins. **Change** Four-letter Codes to SOOT, BLTH, MOTH, CCTH, BEYT, and WTTH, respectively.

**Insert** Mangrove Warbler (*Dendroica petechia erithachorides* group) after Yellow Warbler (*D. petechia*). Four-letter Code = MANW, Six-letter Code = DENPER.

**Replace** Olive Tanager (*Chlorothraupis carmioli*) with Catmiol's Tanager. **Change** Four-letter Code to CATA.

**Replace** genera of Sooty-faced Finch (*Lysurus crassirostris*), Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch (*Buarremon brunneinucha*), Green-striped Brush-Finch (*B. virenticeps*), and Stripe-headed Brush-Finch (*B. torquatus*) to *Arremon*. **Change** Six-letter Codes to ARRCRA, ARRBRU, ARR VIR, and ARRTOR, respectively.

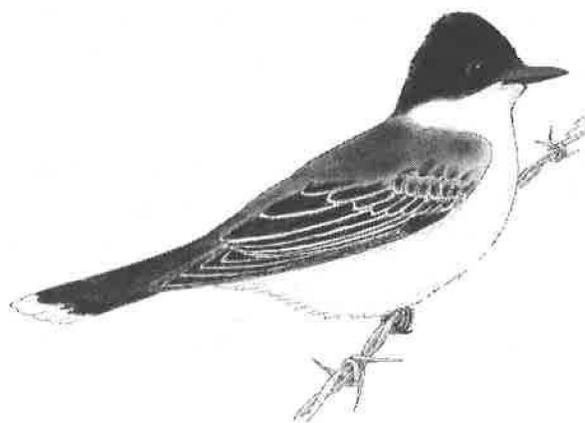
**Change** Troupial (*Icterus icterus*) to Venezuelan Troupial. **Change** Four-letter Code to VETR.

Montezuma Oropendola (*Psarocolius montezuma*). **Change** Four-letter Code to MORO.

Black Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte atrata*). **Change** Six-letter Code to LEUATT.

Eurasian Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*). **Change** Six-letter Code to PYRPYH.

**Change** *Hemignathus parvus* (Anianiau) to *Magumma parva*. **Change** Six-letter Code to MAGPAR.



Eastern Kingbird (EAKI)  
by George West