

ern Birds" were updated to reflect the taxonomic changes of the 6th edition checklist and its first supplement (#35). The current Peterson "A Field Guide to the Birds" (eastern birds, 4th edition) and Golden Press's "Birds of North America" are both slightly older than these guides, and contain slightly older species designations. They were updated to reflect most of the changes of the 6th edition of the checklist, but none of its supplements.

The immediately following section provides the changes of the first supplement to the 6th checklist (the 35th supplement). If you own the 4th edition of Peterson's "A Field Guide to the Birds" (eastern birds), and/or Golden Press's field guide, you should begin with the next paragraph. If you own a 2nd edition of the National Geographic field guide, and/or the 3rd edition of Peterson's "A Field Guide to Western Birds," you can skip the next section, and begin up-

dating at the heading "National Geographic and Peterson Western Guide Changes Start Here".

Birders primarily interested in Illinois species need only read the changes prefaced by an asterisk, which indicates discussion of an Illinois species. Traveling birders, interested in knowing what's happening to the names of birds from the Aleutian Islands to Key West, will need to wade through all of the following changes.

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**Changes to Peterson's "A Field Guide to the Birds" - Eastern Birds 4th Edition (1980) and Golden Press's "Birds of North America" (1983) Start Here.**

Change Arctic Loon to Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*). Arctic and Pacific loons had previously been thought to be different populations of the same species. However, research conducted primarily by the Russians indicates that they are separate species. The Arctic Loon is typically found in the Old World, while the Pacific Loon is found in the New World (American Ornithologists' Union -hereafter A.O.U.- 1985).

In the Peterson guide, label the diagram of the alternative head pattern of Western Grebe (head and neck sketch shown left of Western Grebe) as Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*). Birds with the white of the face extending above the eye and a more yellow-orange bill were thought to be simply a form of the Western Grebe (*A. occidentalis*). Now they have been determined to constitute a separate species, Clark's Grebe (A.O.U. 1985). Golden guide owners should insert Clark's Grebe above Western, along with its description given above. Clark's Grebe inhabits the same general region as the Western, but is less common in the northern and eastern sections of its range (Scott 1983).

*Morus* is now the genus of the Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) instead of *Sula*, since it is more distantly related to boobies of the genus *Sula* than was previously thought (A.O.U. 1989). The Peterson guide already reflects this change, but Golden Press's guide does not.

The following section contains changes for both eastern and western birds. Peterson eastern bird guide owners should incorporate changes pertaining to eastern species into their field guides. Golden guide owners should incorporate all changes into their books.

**National Geographic and Peterson's "A Field Guide to Western Birds" Changes Start Here (Golden guide and Peterson's eastern bird guide changes continued).**

Change Olivaceous Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax olivaceous*) to Neotropic Cormorant (*P. brasilianus*). The English name was changed to avoid the implication that this species is olivaceously colored, and to conform with terminology used by ornithologists from the tropics (A.O.U. 1991).

\*DNA-DNA hybridization studies and analysis of skeletal characteristics have indicated that the Great Egret is more closely related to birds of the Great Blue Heron's genus, *Ardea*, than was previously thought. Therefore, the scientific name of Great Egret is now *Ardea alba* instead of *Camerodius albus* (AOU 1995).

\*Our Green-backed Heron (formerly *Butorides striatus*) is once again the Green Heron (*B. virescens*). This is a split of Green-backed Heron into Green and Striated Heron (*B. striatus*). Their ranges are from Panama north vs. from Panama south, respectively. They coexist in Panama without apparent interbreeding (A.O.U. 1993).

\*The scientific name of the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron is now *Nyctanassa violacea* instead of *Nycticorax violaceus* (A.O.U. 1989). Most field guides already reflect this change.

Delete American from the common name of Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*). An African species that had been called by that same name has been renamed, making the modifier "American" unnecessary (A.O.U. 1995).

The Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) is now White-tailed Kite (*E. leucurus*) owing to separation of Old World and New World forms (based on behav-