

ioral, distributional, and other differences, A.O.U. 1993).

The scientific name of Crested Caracara (formerly *Polyborus plancus*) is now *Caracara plancus*. It has been agreed that the 180-year-old type specimen upon which the genus *Polyborus* was named is not identifiable. Therefore, this genus name has been replaced by the next one available for this species (A.O.U. 1993).

Change the common name of Greater Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) to European Golden-Plover. Changes described below in the name of the Lesser Golden-Plover (*P. dominicus*) make the descriptive term "greater" inappropriate (A.O.U. 1995).

*Lesser Golden-Plover (formerly *P. dominicus*) is now split into two species, the American Golden-Plover (*P. dominicus*) of North and South America, and the Pacific Golden-Plover (*P. fulva*) which breeds in Alaskan tundra (at higher elevations and in sparser vegetation than the former) and winters on Pacific islands (A.O.U. 1993, 1995).

If you own Peterson's "A Field Guide to Western Birds", change the spelling of the scientific name of the Green Sandpiper (an accidental stray to the Aleutians from Eurasia, Peterson 1990) from *Tringa ochrophus* to *T. ochropus*. This will update the spelling of its species designation in accordance with the amended spelling designated by the International Committee on Zoological Nomenclature (A.O.U. 1989).

Change the English name of Rufous-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) to Red-necked Stint. This change was made to standardize its common name with that used by the British Ornithologists' Union since this western Alaskan bird is primarily a Eurasian species (Auk 1995).

The English name of Common Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) should be shortened to Black-headed Gull. This colonizer of our northeast coast is primarily a European species so its name was changed to conform with that of the British Ornithologists' Union (Auk 1995).

*The common name of *Tyto alba* is now Barn Owl rather than Common Barn-Owl. Changes in the English names of other species make the use of the modifier "common" no longer necessary (Auk 1989). All four field guides already reflect this change. However, your life lists and local check-lists may not.

*Common Screech Owl (*Otus asio*) in the Peterson eastern guide needs to be split into Eastern Screech-Owl (*O. asio*) and Western Screech-Owl (*O. kennicottii*). Lack of hybridization and differences in behaviors and vocalizations constituted the bases for separating these species in the 6th edition of the check-list (A.O.U. 1983). The other field guides already contain this change.

If necessary in the guide you own, change the common name of Northern Hawk-Owl (*Surnia ulula*) to Northern Hawk Owl. The hyphen incorrectly connotes that this species is related to southeastern Eurasian and Australian Hawk-Owls of the genus *Ninox* (Auk 1989).

The scientific name of the Burrowing Owl, formerly *Athene cunicularia*, is now *Speotyto cunicularia*. Chromosomal studies have indicated that it should be placed in its own genus, *Speotyto*, rather than remain in the Old World genus *Athene* (A.O.U. 1991).

Change Common Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) to Pauraque (same scientific name). Changes in the English names of related species have made the delineation "common" unnecessary (Auk 1989).

*The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) should be divided into Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (same scientific name) of the eastern U.S. and the Red-naped Sapsucker (*S. nuchalis*) of the western U.S. Genetic differences and lack of interbreeding in areas where their ranges overlap were the reasons for separating these species (Auk 1983).

*If necessary, change Common Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) to Northern Flicker (same scientific name, A.O.U. 1983). This is an older change, but some field guides do not reflect it.

The Gilded Flicker (*C. chrysoides*) of large cacti (saguaro) in warm southwestern deserts is now a full species after being split from Northern Flicker. Interbreeding is extremely limited between these two forms because of genetic isolation and important differences in life history (Auk 1995).

The Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*) is now split into Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*E. difficilis*) of the Pacific coast, and Cordilleran Flycatcher (*E. occidentalis*) of the extended Rocky Mountain region. This separation is based on differences in tissue proteins, vocalizations, and occurrence together without interbreeding in northern California (Auk 1989).

The English name of the Eurasian Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) should be changed to Sky Lark to conform with the British Ornithologists' Union (A.O.U. 1995). Their terminology takes precedence since this is a Eurasian species introduced to Vancouver Island. It is also a rare visitor to the Aleutians and Pribilofs.

Morphological, behavioral, and genetic differences indicate that the Scrub Jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) be divided into three separate species. These three species are geographically distinguished as the Florida Scrub-Jay (*A. coerulescens*) in Florida, Island Scrub-Jay (*A. insularis*) on Santa Cruz Island, California, and Western Scrub-Jay (*A. californica*) of the southwestern United States (Auk 1995).