

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.,

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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.

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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 gundlachii*) 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 LEUPIP, 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, ARRBUR, ARRVIR, and ARRTOR, respectively.

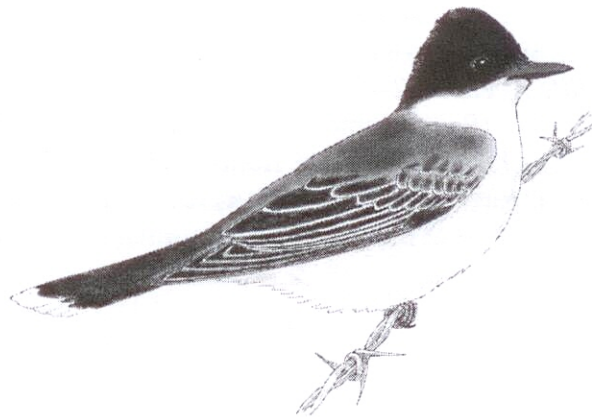
Change Troupial (*Icterus icterus*) to Venezuelan Troupial. **Change** Four-letter Code to VETR.

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 *Magnumma parva*. **Change** Six-letter Code to MAGPAR.



Eastern Kingbird (EAKI)
by George West