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Updates to Four-letter and Six-letter Alpha Codes based on Revisions by the American Ornithologists' Union in 2009

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announce this and several concomitant changes (see #4 below). The advent of computerization made the calendar year more logical.

2. Design and size of schedules

Two distinctive changes in the size and shape of banding schedules were omitted by us. In 1942, the Bi-860 banding schedule form was 11 inches wide and 8.5 inches high, standard letter-sized paper used sideways, in what later became known as "landscape" orientation.

In mid-1948, schedules were decreased in width, from 11 inches to 9.375 inches, so they would fit in a portable typewriter but still with a height of 8.5 inches. On a single-spaced typewriter, it was possible to type in 140 lines (in two columns) [Seth Low, *Bird Banding Notes* 4, #1:4-5, June 1948].

3. First use of latitude and longitude of banding stations

In 1955, banders were asked to enter, for the first time, the latitude and longitude in parentheses immediately following each STATION LOCATION near the top of the schedule.

In 1961, the 3-860 schedule was revised completely, and printed sideways in "landscape" mode on standard letter-size 8.5 x 11 inch paper, almost an inch narrower. The important change, a first, was a vertical column with a heading "lat-long," to enter the first three digits of latitude and the first four digits of longitude. Houston's banding station in the eastern half of the city of Saskatoon was now entered as 520-1063— within the 10-minute block extending from 52°00' to 52°10' N latitude, and from 106°30' to 106°40' W longitude.

4. Age terminology

Until 1949, "the terms 'juvenile' and 'immature' . . . [were] loosely and interchangeably used." That year BBL Chief Seth Low decreed that I for Imm was to be applied to birds able to fly but less than one year old. N was acceptable for a nestling still in the nest. The new term, Local, shortened to Loc or L, was introduced to indicate a flightless bird reared locally (Seth Low, *Bird Banding Notes* 4, #2:7, August 1949).

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The 1955 15-page document mentioned above in #1, also contained a three-page Glossary of Banding Terms, three pages concerning Report Forms (prohibiting the use of J for Juvenile and initiating use of L for Local flightless young, and S for Subadult), one page about Traps and Supplies, a five-page Appendix A listing AOU numbers and recommended band sizes, a two-page Appendix B about an all-purpose trap, and Appendix C, the names and addresses of the secretaries of the four regional banding associations holding office in 1955 and 1956.

On 9 Jun 1967, *Memorandum To All Banders* #7, signed by Earl B. Baysinger, introduced the final change in age codes, to come into effect immediately for all birds banded after 30 Jun 1967. Added to continued use of Local for flightless young, the new age classes included HY (Hatch Year, but flying and no longer "local"), AHY (After Hatch Year), ASY (After Second Year), etc.

We regret the sudden death of our co-author, M. Kathleen Klimkiewicz, on 6 Nov 2008.

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Updates to Four-letter and Six-letter Alpha Codes based on Revisions by the American Ornithologists' Union in 2009

Pyle and DeSante (2003) derived alpha codes based on the English and scientific names of 2030 species recorded in the American Ornithologists' Union (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 (IBP) web site at <http://www.birdpop.org/AlphaCodes.htm>

Pyle and DeSante (2005, 2006, 2007-2008) updated these lists biennially, according to taxonomic and other changes made by the AOU in supplements to their check-list published in 2003-2008, and made other corrections and additions resulting in 2048 species and 97 non-species taxa. Here we list all changes to our alpha-code lists (to four-letter and six-letter codes) based on changes published in the fiftieth supplement by the AOU (Chesser et al. 2009); see Appendix 1. We now plan to update this list annually, as soon as each annual AOU supplement has been published, to keep the list as current as possible in this rapidly evolving internet age.

These changes bring the totals in the list to 2055 species and 97 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 and scientific name gender) are not included in the Appendix; please refer to the revised lists to access these changes. The revised lists (through 2009), incorporating updates itemized in Appendix 1, other changes that did not affect alpha codes (e.g., changes to English or scientific names not resulting in code changes), and the revised taxonomic order recommended by the AOU, are now available at the IBP web site (see above).

We thank Bob Wilkerson for assistance in maintaining the lists on the web site. This is contribution # 378 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, based on the fiftieth supplement of the AOU checklist (Chesser et al. 2009).

Insert Graylag Goose (*Anser anser*) after Lesser White-fronted Goose (*A. erythropus*). Four-letter Code = GRGO, Six-letter Code = ANSANS.

Change Four-letter Code of Plain Pigeon to PLAP.

Insert Plumbeous Pigeon (*Patagioenas plumbea*) after Ring-tailed Pigeon. (*P. caribaea*). Four-letter Code = PLUP, Six-letter Code = PATPLU.

Insert Brown Hawk-Owl (*Ninox scutulata*) after Unspotted Saw-Whet Owl (*Aegolius ridgwayi*). Four-letter Code = BRHO, Six-letter Code = NINSCU.

Change *Notharchus macrorhynchus* (White-necked Puffbird) to *Notharchus hyperrhynchus*. Change Six-letter Code to NOTHYP.

Insert Yellow-breasted Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias flaviventris*) after Yellow-margined Flycatcher (*T. assimilis*). Four-letter Code = YBRF, Six-letter Code = TOLFLA.

Insert Crowned Slaty-Flycatcher (*Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus*) after Variegated Flycatcher (*E. varius*). Four-letter Code = CRSF, Six-letter Code = EMPAUR.

Insert Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*) after Millerbird (*A. familiaris*). Four-letter Code = SEWA, Six-letter Code = ACRSCH.

Change *Cichlherminia lherminieri* (Forest Thrush) to *Turdus lherminieri*. **Change** Six-letter Code to TURLHE.

Change Four-letter Code of Semper's Warbler (*Leucopezia semperi*) to SEMW.

Change Six-letter Code for *Spindalis dominicensis* (Hispaniolan Spindalis) to SPDDOM.

Change Six-letter Code for *Spizella atrogularis* (Black-chinned Sparrow) to SPIATG.

Change Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) to Nelson's Sparrow. **Change** Four-letter Code to NESP.

Change Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) to Saltmarsh Sparrow. **Change** Four-letter Code to SALS.

Insert Yellow-browed Bunting (*Emberiza chrysophrys*) after Pine Bunting (*E. leucocephalus*). Four-letter Code = YBWB, Six-letter Code = EMBCHR.

Change Four-letter Code for Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*) to YBSB.

Change Six-letter Code for *Cardinalis sinuatus* (Pyrrhuloxia) to CARSIN.

Change genus names of *Carduelis flammea* (Common Redpoll) and *C. hornemanni* (Hoary Redpoll) to *Acanthus flammea* and *A. hornemanni*.

Change Six-letter Codes to ACAFLA and ACAHOR, respectively. Also, **change** the scientific name for "Unidentified Redpoll" to "*Acanthus flammea/hornemanni*" and Six-letter Code for this non-species taxon to ACAFLH.

Change genus names of 10 species of siskin and North American goldfinches from *Carduelis* to *Spinus* and Six-letter Codes from CARXXX to SPIXXX, as follows: *S. spinus* (SPISPI), *S. pinus* (SPIPIN), *S. atriceps* (SPIATC), *S. notatus* (SPINOT), *S. xanthogastrus* (SPIXAN), *S. cucullatus* (SPICUC), *S. dominicensis* (SPUDOM), *S. psaltria* (SPIPSA), *S. lawrencei* (SPILAW), and *S. tristis* (SPITRI).

Change *Carduelis sinica* (Oriental Greenfinch) to *Chloris sinica*. **Change** Six-letter Code to CHLSIN.

