



Hyphenated Bird Names: A Response to the American Ornithologists' Union's Rejection of International Ornithological Congress Guidelines

Authors: Gill, Frank B., Russell, Stephen M., and Wright III, Minturn T.

Source: The Auk, 125(4) : 986

Published By: American Ornithological Society

URL: <https://doi.org/10.1525/auk.2008.21008.3>

BioOne Complete (complete.BioOne.org) is a full-text database of 200 subscribed and open-access titles in the biological, ecological, and environmental sciences published by nonprofit societies, associations, museums, institutions, and presses.

Your use of this PDF, the BioOne Complete website, and all posted and associated content indicates your acceptance of BioOne's Terms of Use, available at www.bioone.org/terms-of-use.

Usage of BioOne Complete content is strictly limited to personal, educational, and non - commercial use. Commercial inquiries or rights and permissions requests should be directed to the individual publisher as copyright holder.

BioOne sees sustainable scholarly publishing as an inherently collaborative enterprise connecting authors, nonprofit publishers, academic institutions, research libraries, and research funders in the common goal of maximizing access to critical research.

The Auk 125(4):986, 2008
© The American Ornithologists' Union, 2008.
Printed in USA.

Hyphenated bird names: A response to the American Ornithologists' Union's rejection of International Ornithological Congress guidelines.—The North American Check-list Committee (NACC) affirms that it will stick to its practices for the spelling of English names of world birds (*Auk* 124:1472, 2007). On behalf of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU), the NACC rejected our proposal to adopt specific guidelines recommended by the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) Standing Committee on English Names. We regret this decision.

The recommendations were endorsed by the IOC in Hamburg, Germany, in August 2006 and have been adopted in whole or in part by other societies. The AOU had the opportunity to join others worldwide in agreement on some small, but consequential, issues and chose not to do so.

These guidelines were a consensus-based product of 15 years of constructive debate by more than 30 experts on the birds of the world, including distinguished members of the AOU and their

peers in sister societies on other continents. The guidelines are closely aligned with the presentation of the premier world list (*The Howard and Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World*, Princeton University Press, 2003), which provided the taxonomic foundation of the first edition of the IOC list.

We defer to a separate contribution a detailed discussion of the reasons why we chose not to hyphenate compound group names on a worldwide basis. A preview of the problems associated with the current AOU policy is available on the World Bird Names website (www.worldbirdnames.org).

We urge all our colleagues who may be interested in improving worldwide communication in ornithology and bird conservation to explore the IOC guidelines comprehensively and to become engaged in our continuing efforts to improve them.—FRANK B. GILL, *P.O. Box 428, Rushland, Pennsylvania 18956, USA* (e-mail: fbgill@earthlink.net); STEPHEN M. RUSSELL, *2850 North Camino de Oeste, Tucson, Arizona 85745, USA*; and MINTURN T. WRIGHT III, *1200 Sugartown Road, Berwyn, Pennsylvania 19312, USA*.

Received 2 June 2008, accepted 29 June 2008