

## WHY BIRDS ARE SO NAMED.

BY KATIE M. ROADS.

“What’s in a name?” Would some of the names of our birds suit one as well as another, or, as in other branches of science, has there been some significance attached to them or some characteristic described by them?

While some birds rest content with one name, some have such marked peculiarities as to attract the attention of different persons and each person has given his own interpretation of these by giving a name of his own. This may account for the 124 different names for the Flicker as compiled by Frank L. Burns, in *The Wilson Bulletin* No. 31. While all birds have not this motley array of names, the majority are supplied with several.

In the following incomplete list it will be observed that the names employed involve practically every part of the bird’s external anatomy. The color involves the main color of the bird, as well as the color of the head, the back, the wings, the tail, the under parts, the sides, the bill, and even peculiarities in markings. The shape and length of tail and bill, peculiarities of feet and legs, the place it frequents, the call notes, the song, the imitation in either form, color, or notes, and other things, including persons and places. While many of these names are more or less useful in describing the bird, some of them are distinctly misleading or misnomers.

It will be impossible to collate all names which every bird may be or may have been called by, therefore it seems wise to limit this paper to the vernacular or English names in general use and of recognized standing in ornithological literature. The different headings will often be sufficiently descriptive so that annotations for each species will be unnecessary. A supplementary paper on local names may follow this one if such a paper may seem of sufficient interest.

## THE MAIN COLOR OF THE BIRD.

WHITE: Ivory Gull, Snowy Egret, Snow Goose, Snowy

Owl, Snow Plover, White Gyrfalcon, White Heron (Great), White Ibis, White Pelican, White Wagtail.

PURPLE: Glossy Ibis, Purple Finch, Purple Gallinule, Purple Martin, Purple Sandpiper.

GRAY: Ashy Titmouse, Ashy Petrel, Cinereous Shearwater, Clay-colored Sparrow, Dusky Grouse, Dusky Horned Lark, Dusky Kinglet, Dusky Poor-will, Dusky Seaside Sparrow, Dusky Warbler, Frosted Poor-will, Glaucus Gull, Gray Flycatcher, Gray Gyrfalcon, Gray Jay, Gray Kingbird, Gray Ruffed Grouse, Gray Sage Sparrow, Gray Sea Eagle, Gray Titmouse, Gray Owl (Great), Gray Vireo, Gray Warbler (Black-throated), Cerulean Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Lazuli Pallid Horned Lark, Pallid Wren-tit, Plumbeous Chickadee, Plumbeous Gnatcatcher, Plumbeous Vireo, Slate-colored Fox Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco.

BLUE: Azure Bluebird, Bluebird, Blue Goose, Blue Grosbeak, Blue Heron (Great & Little), Blue Jay, Blue Warbler (Black-throated), Cerulean Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Lazuli Bunting.

GREEN: Green Heron, Green Jay, Green Sandpiper, Green Warbler (Black-throated), Green Woodpecker, Olivaceous Flycatcher, Olive Warbler.

YELLOW: Golden Eagle, Golden Pileolated Warbler, Golden Plover, Goldfinch, Lutescent Warbler, Pale Goldfinch, Yellow Palm Warbler, Yellow Rail, Yellow Warbler.

RED: Flamingo, Red Crossbill, Redstart, Roseate Spoonbill, Roseate Tern, Rosy Finch, Scarlet Ibis, Scarlet Tanager, Vermillion Flycatcher.

BROWN: Brown Crane (Little), Brown Creeper, Brown Pelican, Brown Thrasher, Bronzed Cowbird, Bronzed Grackle, Cinnamon Teal, Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, Ferruginous Rough-leg, Fox Sparrow, Fulvous Tree-duck, Ruddy Duck, Ruddy Quail-Dove, Ruddy Turnstone, Ruddy Wren-tit, Ruddy Horned Lark, Rufous Humingbird, Rusty Song Sparrow, Scorched Horned Lark, Umber Bird.

BLACK: Blackbird, Black Brant, Black Duck, Black Guillemot, Black Gyrfalcon, Black Oystercatcher, Black Petrel,

Black Pigeon Hawk, Black Phoebe, Black Rail, Black Petrel, Black Rosy Finch, Black Skimmer, Black Swift, Black Tern, Black Turnstone, Black Vulture, Sooty Albatross, Sooty Fox Sparrow, Sooty Grouse, Sooty Shearwater, Sooty Song Sparrow, Sooty Tern, Velvet Scoter.

OF GENERAL APPLICATION BUT NOT SOLID COLORS.

TWO COLORS: Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Violet-green Cormorant, Violet-green Swallow, Yellow-green Vireo, Black and White Warbler.

SPOTTED: Dotted Canon Wren, Spotted Crake, Spotted Owl, Spotted Petrel, Spotted Sandpiper, Spotted Screech Owl, Ocellated Turkey, Scaled Partridge, Scaled Petrel, Scaled Pigeon.

BARRED OR VARIEGATED: Barred Owl, Carbonated Warbler, Gilded Flicker, Lucifer Hummingbird, Marbled Godwit, Marbled Murrelet, Mottled Duck, Painted Bunting, Painted Redstart, Pied Wagtail, Varied Bunting, Varied Thrush.

COLOR OF THE BACK.

WHITE: White-rumped Sandpiper, White-rumped Shrike.

YELLOW: Yellow-rumped Warbler.

GREEN: Green-backed Goldfinch, Olive-backed Thrush.

RED: Red-backed Junco, Red-backed Sandpiper.

BROWN: Chestnut-backed Bluebird, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Russet-backed Thrush.

BLACK: Black-backed Gull (Great), Slaty-backed Gull.

COLOR OF THE BILL.

WHITE: Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

YELLOW: Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-billed Loon, Yellow-billed Magpie, Yellow-billed Tropic Bird, Yellow-nosed Albatross.

RED: Red-billed Pigeon, Red-billed Tropic Bird.

BLACK: Black-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Magpie, Pied-billed Grebe, Ring-billed Gull.

COLOR OF THE HEAD.

WHITE: Bald Eagle, White-cheeked Goose, White-crested

Cormorant, White-crowned Pigeon, White-crowned Sparrow, White-eared Hummingbird, White-faced Ibis, White-faced Petrel, White-fronted Dove, White-fronted Goose, White-headed Woodpecker, White-naped Nuthatch.

GRAY: Gray-cheeked Thrush, Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, Gray-headed Junco.

BLUE: Blue-eared Jay, Blue-faced Booby, Blue-headed Quail-Dove, Blue-headed Vireo.

YELLOW: Golden-cheeked Warbler, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Golden Eagle, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Yellow-headed Blackbird.

RED: Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Red-faced Cormorant, Red-faced Warbler, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-naped Sapsucker, Redpoll, Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

BROWN: Brown-capped Rosy Finch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Rufous-crested Duck, Rufous-crowned Sparrow.

BLACK: Black-capped Chickadee, Black-capped Petrel, Black-capped Vireo, Black-crested Titmouse, Black-crowned Night Heron, Black-headed Goldfinch, Black-headed Grosbeak, Black-headed Gull (Laughing), Black-headed Jay, Black-poll Warbler, Black-whiskered Vireo

GENERAL: Bridled Tern, Bridled Titmouse, Hooded Warbler, Masked Duck, Pileated Woodpecker, Pileated Warbler, Spectacled Eider, Whiskered Auklet.

#### COLOR OF THE TAIL.

WHITE: White-tailed Hawk (Sennett's), White-tailed Kite, White-tailed Ptarmigan, Gray-tailed Cardinal.

RED: Copper-tailed Trogon, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-tailed Tropic Bird.

GREEN: Green-tailed Towhee.

BLACK: Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Black-tailed Godwit, Black-tailed Shearwater.

GENERAL: Band-tailed Pigeon, Zone-tailed Hawk.

## COLOR OF THE THROAT, CHIN AND NECK.

WHITE: White-necked Raven, White-throated Sparrow, White-throated Swift, White-throated Wren.

GRAY: Ash-throated Flycatcher.

YELLOW: Yellow-throat, Yellow-throated Vireo, Yellow-throated Warbler.

BLUE: Blue-throat (Siberian Red-spotted), Blue-throated Hummingbird.

RED: Red-throated Loon, Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

BROWN: Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Chestnut-collared Longspur.

BLACK: Black-chinned Hummingbird, Black-chinned Sparrow, Black-necked Stilt, Black-throated Blue-Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Black-throated Sparrow, Ring-necked Duck.

## COLOR: OF THE UNDERPARTS.

WHITE: Gray-breasted Martin, White-bellied Brant, White-breasted Nuthatch.

YELLOW: Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Yellow-breasted Chat.

GREEN: Olive-sided Flycatcher.

RED: Pink-sided Junco, Red-bellied Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-breasted Merganser, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Red-throated Loon, Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

BLUE: Blue-fronted Jay.

BROWN: Bay-breasted Warbler, Buff-bellied Hummingbird, Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Chestnut-bellied Quail, Chestnut-sided Warbler.

BLACK: Black-bellied Plover, Black-bellied Tree-Duck, Black-throated Loon, Black-vented Shearwater.

## COLOR OF THE WING.

WHITE: Glaucus-winged Gull, White-winged Blackbird, White-winged Crossbill, White-winged Dove, White-winged

Junco, White-winged Scoter, White-winged Tern.

BLUE: Blue-winged Teal, Blue-winged Warbler.

GREEN: Green-winged Teal.

YELLOW: Golden-winged Warbler.

RED: Red-shafted Flicker, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-winged Blackbird, Red-winged Thrush.

BROWN: Rufous-winged Sparrow.

BLACK: Black-winged Guillemot.

Tricolored Blackbird.

#### COLOR OF THE FEET AND LEGS.

Black-footed Albatross, Blue-footed Booby, Pink-footed Goose, Pink-footed Shearwater, Red-footed Booby, Red-legged Black Duck, Red-legged Kittiwake, Pink-footed Shearwater, Yellow-legs.

#### COLOR OF THE EYE.

Golden-eye, Red-eyed Cowbird, Red-eyed Vireo, White-eyed Towhee, White-eyed Vireo.

#### GENERAL CHARACTERS.

BILL: Broad-billed Hummingbird, Crossbill, Curve-billed Thrasher, Groove-billed Ani, Gull-billed Tern, Hornbill, Large-billed Pewee, Large-billed Puffin, Large-billed Sparrow, Large-billed Towhee, Long-billed Curlew, Long-billed Dowitcher, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Puffin, Razor-billed Auk, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Slender-billed Fulmar, Slender-billed Nuthatch, Slender-billed Shearwater, Spoonbill (Roseate), Spoon-bill Sandpiper, Thick-billed Fox Sparrow, Thick-billed Parrot, Thick-billed Red-Wing.

FEET AND LEGS: Bristle-thighed Curlew, Light-footed Rail, Longspur, Long-toed Stint, Rough-legged Hawk, Semipalmated Plover, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Spurred Towhee, Stilt Sandpiper, Three-toed Woodpecker.

HEAD AND NECK: Bufflehead, Crested Auklet, Crested Flycatcher, Double-crested Cormorant, Eared Grebe, Hooded Merganser, Horned Grebe, Horned Lark, Horned Owl (Great), Horned Puffin, Long-crested Jay, Long-eared Owl, Narrow-fronted Woodpecker, Plumed Quail, Ring-necked

Duck, Ruff, Ruffed Grouse, Short-eared Owl, Small-headed Warbler, Tufted Puffin, Tufted Titmouse.

TAIL: Boat-tailed Grackle, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Fork-tailed Petrel, Great-tailed Grackle, Long-tailed Chat, Long-tailed Jaeger, Pintail, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Short-tailed Gull, Short-tailed Hawk, Swallow-tailed Gull, Swallow-tailed Kite, Wedge-tailed Shearwater.

WING: Broad-winged Hawk, Rough-winged Swallow, Waxwing.

(To Be Concluded.)

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## SOME BIRD NOTES FROM NEW YORK CITY.

BY GEORGE E. HIX.

Wood Duck.—This duck is a summer resident of Van Cortlandt Park. At least one pair have bred there during the last two summers. On July 4th, 1911, a female was seen leading a brood of eight. In the fall the nesting birds are probably joined by others from elsewhere, as many as nineteen being seen in one flock, of which four were adult males. They remained until November.

Northern Phalarope.—Westchester Avenue, for a distance of about a quarter of a mile, cuts through a slough which will eventually be filled in. On the north side of the avenue there is an extensive pond, sometimes quite deep, at others, with exposed mud-flats, or shallows. On August 26 there was a large flock of various shore-birds roaming about the mud-flats and wading in the shallows. The Phalarope was with these birds. Its different behavior drew attention to it immediately. It was feeding from the surface of the water, and continually swinging its body from side to side. It was present all afternoon, and during that time seldom flew.

Bald Eagle.—Eagles were present on the Hudson River in the usual numbers during the past winter (1910-11). As cold