

Subspecies names in the Sibley Guide to Birds

What follows is a list of all the regional variations illustrated or mentioned in the guide, with the current scientific name for each population. I have chosen to use the word “population” universally to mean any definable group of individuals, without implying any taxonomic rank. The word “group” following a scientific name means that the population as defined in the book includes several subspecies, and then the population is given the name of the first-named subspecies included in the group.

A discussion of the reasoning behind the use of regional names rather than the scientific names of subspecies is [here](#).

Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Atlantic *F. g. glacialis* group

Pacific *F. g. rodgersii*

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

Mediterranean *C. d. diomedea*

Atlantic *C. d. borealis*

Leach's Storm-Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

White-rumped mostly *O. l. leucorhoa*

Dark-rumped mostly *O. l. chapmani*

winter breeding population there is named *O. l. cheimomnestes*

summer breeding population *O. l. socorroensis*.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

Atlantic *S. l. leucogaster*

Eastern Pacific *S. l. brewsteri*

Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*

Caribbean *S. s. sula*

Eastern Pacific *S. s. websteri*

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*

Atlantic *P. o. occidentalis* group

Pacific *P. o. californicus* group

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*

Eastern *P. a. auritus* group

Western *P. a. cinctatus* group

Pelagic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pelagicus*

Southern *P. p. resplendens*

Bering Sea *P. p. pelagicus*

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*

Great Blue *A. h. herodias* group

Great White *A. h. occidentalis*

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*

Now split into two species:

American *P. roseus*

Eurasian (**Greater**) *P. ruber*

Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

Whistling *C. c. columbianus*

Bewick's *C. c. bewickii*

Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Tundra *A. a. frontalis*

Taiga *A. a. gambelli*

Tule *A. a. elgasi*

Greenland *A. a. flavirostris*

Snow Goose *Chen caerulescens*

Snow Goose *Chen caerulescens*Lesser *C. c. caerulescens*Greater *C. c. atlanticus***Brant** *Branta bernicla*Black *B. b. nigricans*Intermediate *B. b.* unnamed?Pale-bellied *B. b. hrota***Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

Now split into two species:

Canada Goose *B. canadensis* includes: Common *B. c. canadensis* groupLesser *B. c. parvipes*Dusky *B. c. occidentalis* group**Cackling Goose** *B. hutchinsii* includes:Richardson's *B. h. hutchinsii*Cackling *B. h. minima*Aleutian *B. h. leucopareia***Green-winged Teal** *Anas crecca*American *A. c. carolinensis*Eurasian *A. c. crecca* group**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*Northern *A. p. platyrhynchos* groupMexican *A. p. diazi***Common Eider** *Somateria mollissima*West Arctic *S. m. v-nigra*Hudson Bay *S. m. sedentaria*East Arctic *S. m. borealis*Atlantic *S. m. dresseri***Bald Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*Northern *H. l. alascanus*Southern *H. l. leucocephalus***Red-shouldered Hawk** *Buteo lineatus*Eastern *B. l. lineatus* groupFlorida *B. l. extimus*California *B. l. elegans***Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis*Eastern *B. j. borealis* group"Krider's" *B. j. Æðkriderii*Southwestern *B. j. fuertesi*Western *B. j. calurus* groupHarlan's *B. j. harlani***Merlin** *Falco columbarius*Taiga *F. c. columbarius* groupPrairie *F. c. richardsoni*Black (Pacific) *F. c. suckleyi***Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*Tundra *F. p. tundrius*Interior West *F. p. anatum*Peale's (Pacific) *F. p. pealei***Ring-necked Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*White-winged *P. c. chrysomelas* groupRing-necked *P. c. torquatus* groupEuropean *P. c. colchicus* groupJapanese Green Pheasant *P. c. versicolor* group**Spruce Grouse** *Dendragapus canadensis*Taiga *D. c. canadensis* group

Franklin's *D. c. franklinii* group

Blue Grouse *Dendragapus obscurus*

Now split into two species:

Pacific = **Sooty Grouse** *D. fuliginosus*

Interior = **Dusky Grouse** *D. obscurus*

Rock Ptarmigan *Lagopus mutus*

Continental *L. m. rupestris* group

Western Aleutian *L. m. evermanni* group

Central Aleutian *L. m. atkensis* group

Greater Prairie-Chicken *Tympanuchus cupido*

Northern *T. c. pinnatus*

Attwater's (Texas) *T. c. attwateri*

Wild Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo*

Eastern *M. g. silvestris* group

Southwestern *M. g. merriami*

The intermediate population found in Texas is named *M. g. intermedia*.

Northern Bobwhite *Colinus virginianus*

Eastern *C. v. virginianus*

Florida *C. v. floridanus*

Texas *C. v. texanus*

Masked *C. v. ridgwayi*

Clapper Rail *Rallus longirostris*

Atlantic *R. l. crepitans* group

Gulf Coast *R. l. saturatus* group

California *R. l. obsoletus* group (includes *levipes* and *yumanensis*)

Sandhill Crane *Grus canadensis*

Greater *G. c. pratensis* group (Widespread subspecies is *G. c. tabida*)

Lesser *G. c. canadensis*

Snowy Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Western *C. a. nivosus*

Gulf Coast *C. a. tenuirostris*

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus*

Eastern *H. p. palliatus*

Pacific *H. p. frazari*

Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*

Western *C. s. inornatus*

Eastern *C. s. semipalmatus*

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

American *N. p. hudsonicus*

European *N. p. phaeopus* group

Siberian *N. p. variegatus*

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

European *L. l. lapponica*

Siberian *L. l. baueri*

Rock Sandpiper *Calidris ptilocnemis*

Pribilof *C. p. ptilocnemis*

Aleutian *C. p. couesi*

Bering Sea *C. p. tschuktschorum*

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

American *C. a. hudsonia* group

Greenland *C. a. alpina* group

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus*

Atlantic *L. g. griseus*

Prairie *L. g. hendersoni*

Pacific *L. g. caurinus*

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Now split into two species

American = **Wilson's Snipe** *G. delicata*

Eurasian = **Common Snipe** *G. gallinago*

Mew Gull *Larus canus*

Short-billed *L. c. brachyrhynchus*

Common *L. c. canus* group

Kamchatka *L. c. kamchatschensis*

California Gull *Larus californicus*

Southwestern *L. c. californicus*

Northeastern *L. c. albertaensis*

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

American *L. a. smithsonianus*

European *L. a. argentatus/argenteus*

Vega *L. a. vegae*

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Mediterranean *L. c. michahellis*

Caspian *L. c. cachinnans*

Atlantic Island *L. c. atlantis*

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

True Iceland *L. g. glaucoides*

Kumlien's *L. g. kumlieni*

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Britain/Iceland *L. f. graellsii*

Denmark *L. f. intermedius*

Western Gull *Larus occidentalis*

Northern *L. o. occidentalis*

Southern *L. o. wymani*

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

widespread *L. h. hyperboreus*

small *L. h. barrovianus*

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

American/European *L. h. hirundo*

Siberian *L. h. longipennis*

Common Murre *Uria aalge*

Atlantic *U. a. aalge*

Pacific *U. a. californica*

Thick-billed Murre *Uria lomvia*

Atlantic *U. l. lomvia*

Pacific *U. l. arra*

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

Atlantic *C. g. atlantis* group

Arctic *C. g. mandtii* group

Xantus' Murrelet *Synthliboramphus hypoleucus*

Northern *S. h. scrippsi*

Southern *S. h. hypoleucus*

Common Ground-Dove *Columbina passerina*

Eastern *C. p. passerina*

Western *C. p. pallescens*

Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti*Eastern *C. t. rufipennis*Western *C. t. eluta***Eastern Screech-Owl** *Otus asio*Typical *O. a. asio* groupGreat Plains *O. a. maxwelliae*Mexican *O. a. mcalli***Western Screech-Owl** *Otus kennicottii*Pacific *O. k. kennicottii*Great Plains *O. k. aikenii*Mojave *O. k. yumanensis*Mexican *O. k. suttoni***Great Horned Owl** *Bubo virginianus*Eastern *B. v. virginianus*West Taiga *B. v. wapacutha*Pacific *B. v. pacificus*Southwest *B. v. pallescens***Northern Pygmy-Owl** *Glaucidium gnoma*Pacific *G. g. californicum* groupInterior West *G. g. pinicola*Mexican *G. g. gnoma***Burrowing Owl** *Athene cunicularia*Florida *A. c. floridana*Western *A. c. hypugaea***Spotted Owl** *Strix occidentalis*Pacific (Northern) *S. o. occidentalis* groupInterior West (Mexican) *S. o. lucida***Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*Northern *A. f. flammeus*Caribbean *A. f. domingensis***Northern Saw-whet Owl** *Aegolius acadicus*Typical *A. a. acadicus*Queen Charlotte *A. a. brooksi***Common Nighthawk** *Chordeiles minor*Pacific/Eastern *C. m. minor* groupSouthwestern *C. m. henryi*Northern Plains *C. m. sennetti***Whip-poor-will** *Caprimulgus vociferus*Eastern *C. v. vociferus*Arizona *C. v. stephensi***Allen's Hummingbird** *Selasphorus sasin*Northern *S. s. sasin*Southern *S. s. sedentarius***Acorn Woodpecker** *Melanerpes formicivorus*Coastal *M. f. bairdi*Interior *M. f. formicivorus***Red-bellied Woodpecker** *Melanerpes carolinus*Northern *M. c. 'carolinus'* groupFlorida *M. c. 'perplexus'***Red-breasted Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus ruber*Northern *S. r. ruber*Southern *S. r. daggetti*

Downy Woodpecker *Picoides pubescens*Eastern *P. p. pubescens* groupInterior West *P. p. leucurus* groupPacific *P. p. gairdnerii* group**Hairy Woodpecker** *Picoides villosus*Eastern *P. v. villosus* groupInterior West *P. v. septentrionalis* groupPacific *P. v. harrisi* group**Three-toed Woodpecker** *Picoides tridactylus*East Taiga *P. t. bacatus*West Taiga *P. t. fasciatus*Rocky Mountains *P. t. dorsalis***Northern Flicker** *Colaptes auratus*Red-shafted *C. a. cafer* groupYellow-shafted *C. a. auratus* group**Olive-sided Flycatcher** *Contopus borealis*Northern *C. b. cooperi*Pacific *C. b. majorinus* although the Pacific song type described in the guide occurs far beyond the limited range of the subspecies *majorinus*.**Willow Flycatcher** *Empidonax traillii*Eastern *E. t. traillii* groupSouthwestern *E. t. brewsteri* group**Pacific Slope Flycatcher** *Empidonax difficilis*Mainland *E. d. difficilis*Channel Islands *E. d. insulicola***Brown-crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus tyrannulus*Arizona *M. t. magister*Texas *M. t. cooperi***Tropical Kingbird** *Tyrannus melancholicus*Western *T. m. occidentalis*Eastern *T. m. satrapa***Fork-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus savana*South American *T. s. savana* groupCentral American *T. s. monachus***Loggerhead Shrike** *Lanius ludovicianus*Lighter *L. l. excubitorides*Darker Southern California *L. l. grinnelli*San Clemente Island *L. l. meamsi* (another subspecies *L. l. anthonyi* is found on the other Channel Islands)**Black-whiskered Vireo** *Vireo altiloquus*Florida *V. a. barbatulus*Caribbean *V. a. altiloquus***Bell's Vireo** *Vireo bellii*Eastern *V. b. bellii*Arizona *V. b. arizonae*California (Least) *V. b. pusillus***Blue-headed Vireo** *Vireo solitarius*Northern *V. s. solitarius*Appalachian *V. s. alticola***Hutton's Vireo** *Vireo huttoni*Pacific *V. h. huttoni* groupMexican *V. h. stephensi* group**Warbling Vireo** *Vireo gilvus*Eastern *V. a. ailvus*

Western *V. g. swainsoni* group

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

European *A. a. arvensis*

Asian *A. a. pekinensis*

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

West Arctic *E. a. arcticola*

Pacific Northwest *E. a. strigata*

Interior West *E. a. occidentalis*

Central California *E. a. sierrae*

Southeast Arizona *E. a. adusta*

South Texas *E. a. giraudi*

Northeast *E. a. alpestris*

Purple Martin *Progne subis*

Eastern *P. s. subis*

Western *P. s. hesperia* group

Cliff Swallow *Hirundo pyrrhonota*

Northern *H. p. pyrrhonota*

Southwestern *H. p. swainsoni*

Cave Swallow *Hirundo fulva*

Mexican *H. f. pelodoma*

Caribbean *H. f. fulva*

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

American *H. r. erythrophthalmus* group

Eurasian *H. r. rustica* group

Gray Jay *Perisoreus canadensis*

Taiga *P. c. canadensis*

Rocky Mts *P. c. capitalis*

Pacific *P. c. obscurus*

Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri*

Pacific *C. s. stelleri* group

Queen Charlotte Islands *C. s. carlottae*

Interior *C. s. macrolopha* group

Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata*

Northern *C. c. bromia*

Southern *C. c. cristata*

Western Scrub Jay *Aphelocoma californica*

Pacific *A. c. californica* group

Interior West *A. c. woodhouseii* group

Gray-breasted Jay *Aphelocoma ultramarina*

Texas *A. u. couchii*

Arizona *A. u. arizonae*

Black-billed Magpie *Pica hudsonia*

No subspecies are described. The differences between Northern and Southern forms mentioned in the Guide need more study.

Black-capped Chickadee *Parus atricapillus* [now in the genus *Poecile*]

Eastern *P. a. atricapillus* group

Rocky Mountain *P. a. septentrionalis* group

Pacific *P. a. occidentalis* group

Carolina Chickadee *Parus carolinensis* [now in the genus *Poecile*]

Northeast *P. c. extimus*

Southwest *P. c. agilis*

Mountain Chickadee *Parus gambeli* [now in the genus *Poecile*]

Pacific *P. g. baileyae*

Rocky Mountains *P. g. gambeli*

Boreal Chickadee *Parus hudsonicus* [now in the genus *Poecile*]

Alaska *P. h. columbianus* group

Typical *P. h. hudsonicus* group

Chestnut-backed Chickadee *Parus rufescens* [now in the genus *Poecile*]

Typical *P. r. rufescens*

Central California Coast *P. r. barlowi*

Marin County, CA is occupied by an intermediate subspecies *P. r. neglectus*.

Tufted Titmouse *Parus bicolor* [now in the genus *Baeolophus*]

Now split into two species:

Tufted Titmouse *B. bicolor*

Black-crested Titmouse *B. atricristatus*

Bushtit *Psaltriparus minimus*

Pacific *P. m. minimus* group

Interior *P. m. plumbeus* group

Black-eared *P. m. melanotis* group (the subspecies occurring in North America is *P. m. dimorphicus*)

White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis*

Eastern *S. c. carolinensis* group

Mountain *S. c. nelsoni* group

Pacific *S. c. aculeata* group

Pygmy Nuthatch *Sitta pygmaea*

Interior *S. p. melanotis*

Central California *S. p. pygmaea*

Brown Creeper *Certhia americana*

Eastern *C. a. americana* group

Western *C. a. occidentalis* group

Mexican *C. a. albescens*

Cactus Wren *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*

Interior *C. b. couesi* group

Coastal Southern California *C. b. affine* group (the subspecies found in California is *C. c. sandiegense*)

Carolina Wren *Thyrothorus ludovicianus*

Mexican *T. l. lomitensis*

Northern *T. l. ludovicianus* group

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii*

Eastern *T. b. bewickii*

Southwestern *T. b. eremophilus* group

Pacific *T. b. drymoecus* group

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

Eastern *T. a. aedon*

Western *T. a. parkmanii*

Brown-throated *T. a. cahooni* group (the intermediate birds in Arizona have been given the name *T. a. 'vorhiesi'*)

Winter Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Eastern *T. t. hiemalis* group

Pacific *T. t. pacificus* group

Pribilofs *T. t. alascensis* group

Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris*

Eastern *C. p. palustris* group

Worthington's *C. p. griseus*

Western *C. p. paludicola* group

Golden-crowned Kinglet *Regulus satrapa*

Eastern *R. s. satrapa*

Western *R. s. olivaceus* group

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila caerulea*Eastern *P. c. caerulea*Western *P.c. obscura***Black-tailed Gnatcatcher** *Poliophtila melanura*Eastern *P. m. melanura*Western *P. m. lucida***Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*Greenland *O. o. leucorhoa*Alaskan *O. o. oenanthe***Eastern Bluebird** *Sialia sialis*Northern *S. s. sialis* groupArizona *S. s. fulva* group**Veery** *Catharus fuscescens*Eastern *C. f. fuliginosa* groupWestern *C. f. salicicola***Gray-cheeked Thrush** *Catharus minimus*Typical *C. m. aliciae*Newfoundland *C. m. minimus***Swainson's Thrush** *Catharus ustulatus*Pacific *C. u. ustulatus* groupTaiga/Interior West *C. u. swainsoni* group**Hermit Thrush** *Catharus guttatus*Taiga/Eastern *C. g. faxoni* groupRocky Mountains *C. g. auduboni* groupPacific *C. g. guttatus* group**American Robin** *Turdus migratorius*Eastern *T. m. migratorius* groupBlack-backed *T. m. nigriceps* (some authors do not recognize this as a valid subspecies)Western *T. m. propinquus* group**Wrentit** *Chamaea fasciata*Variation is clinal, with the darkest subspecies in the far northwest of range *C. f. phaea*, and palest in far southeast *C. f. henshawi*.**Brown Thrasher** *Toxostoma rufum*Western *T. r. longicauda*Eastern *T. r. rufum***Curve-billed Thrasher** *Toxostoma curvirostre*Arizona *T. c. palmeri*Texas *T. c. oberholseri***American Pipit** *Anthus rubescens*Arctic *A. r. rubescens* group (includes *A. r. pacificus*)Rocky Mountain *A. r. alticolus*Asian *A. r. japonicus***Northern Parula** *Parula americana*Eastern *P. a. americana*Western *P. a. ludoviciana***Orange-crowned Warbler** *Vermivora celata*Pacific *V. c. lutescens*Taiga *V. c. celata*Interior West *V. c. orestera*Channel Islands *V. c. sordida***Nashville Warbler** *Vermivora ruficapilla*Eastern *V. r. ruficapilla*

Western *V. r. ridgwayi*

Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia*

Northern group *D. p. aestiva* group

Eastern *D. p. aestiva*

Southwestern *D. p. sonorana*

Northern *D. p. amnicola*

Golden *D. p. petechia* group (the subspecies in Florida is *D. p. gundlachi*)

Black-throated Blue Warbler *Dendroica caerulescens*

Most authors do not recognize two subspecies due to clinal variation and much overlap; if separated the Northern birds are *D. c. caerulescens* and the Appalachian birds *D. c. cairnsi*.

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata*

Myrtle *D. c. coronata* group

Audubon's *D. c. auduboni* group

Yellow-throated Warbler *Dendroica dominica*

Southeast *D. d. dominica*

Interior East *D. d. albilora*

Palm Warbler *Dendroica palmarum*

Yellow (Eastern) *D. p. hypochrysea*

Brown (Western) *D. p. palmarum*

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*

Eastern group *G. t. trichas* group

Western Group *G. t. occidentalis* group (including the following three)

Pacific *G. t. arizela* group

Interior West *G. t. occidentalis* group

Southwest *G. t. chryseola*

Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla*

Taiga *W. p. pusilla*

Interior West *W. p. pileolata*

Pacific *W. p. chryseola*

Rufous-capped Warbler *Basileuterus rufifrons*

Eastern *B. r. jouyi*

Western *B. r. caudatus*

Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens*

Eastern *I. v. virens*

Western *I. v. auricollis*

Western Spindalis *Spindalis zena*

Green-backed *S. z. townsendi* (some may be *S. z. pretrei* from Cuba)

Black-backed *S. z. zena*

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*

Eastern *P. r. rubra*

Western *P. r. cooperi* group

Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*

Southwestern *C. c. superbus*

Eastern *C. c. cardinalis* group

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris*

Eastern and Western populations mentioned in the text are barely differentiated and most not named

Eastern Towhee *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*

Red-eyed *P. e. erythrophthalmus* group

White-eyed *P. e. alleni*

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus*

Pacific Northwest *P. m. oregonus* group

Southwest *P. m. montanus* group

Southwest *P. m. montanus* group

Great Plains *P. m. arcticus*

Bachman's Sparrow *Aimophila aestivalis*

Western *A. a. illinoensis*

Eastern *A. a. aestivalis*

Botteri's Sparrow *Aimophila botterii*

Texas *A. b. texana*

Arizona *A. b. arizonae*

Rufous-crowned Sparrow *Aimophila ruficeps*

Pacific *A. r. ruficeps* group

Interior *A. r. scottii* group

American Tree Sparrow *Spizella arborea*

Pale *S. a. ochracea*

Dark *S. a. arborea*

Brewer's Sparrow *Spizella breweri*

Southern *S. b. breweri*

Northern (Timberline) *S. b. taverneri*

Field Sparrow *Spizella pusilla*

Gray *S. p. arenacea*

Rufous *S. p. pusilla*

Black-throated Sparrow *Amphispiza bilineata*

Texas *A. b. bilineata*

Intermediate *A. b. opuntia*

Western *A. b. deserticola*

Sage Sparrow *Amphispiza belli*

Interior *A. b. nevadensis*

Pacific (Bell's) *A. b. belli*

Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis*

Typical *P. s. sandwichensis* group

Ipswich *P. s. princeps*

Belding's *P. s. beldingi*

Aleutian *P. s. sandwichensis* group

Large-billed Sparrow *P. s. rostratus* group

Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum*

Northern *A. s. pratensis* group

Florida *A. s. floridanus*

Nelson's Sparrow *Ammodramus nelsoni*

Interior *A. n. nelsoni/alterus*

Atlantic *A. n. subvirgatus*

Seaside Sparrow *Ammodramus maritimus*

Atlantic *A. m. maritimus* group

Gulf Coast *A. m. sennetti* group

Cape Sable *A. m. mirabilis*

[Dusky] *A. m. nigrescens*

Fox Sparrow *Passerella iliaca*

Red (Taiga) *P. i. iliaca* group

Sooty (Pacific) *P. i. unalaschensis* group

Slate-colored (Interior West) *P. i. schistacea* group

Thick-billed (California) *P. i. megarhyncha* group

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia*

Eastern *M. m. melodia*

Pacific Northwest *M. m. morphna*

Aleutian *M. m. maxima*

Central California coast *M. m. gouldii*

Southwestern *M. m. saltonis*

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*

Eastern Taiga *Z. l. leucophrys*

Western Taiga *Z. l. gambellii*

Interior West *Z. l. oriantha*

Pacific *Z. l. nuttalli* group (includes *Z. l. pugetensis*)

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*

Slate-colored *J. h. hyemalis* group

Canadian Rocky Mountains ('Cassiar') *J. h. cismontanus*

Oregon *J. h. montanus* group

Pink-sided *J. h. mearnsi*

Gray-headed *J. h. caniceps*

Red-backed *J. h. dorsalis*

White-winged *J. h. aikeni*

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*

Typical *A. p. phoeniceus* group

Bicolored *A. p. californicus* group

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna*

Typical *S. m. magna* group

Lilian's (Southwestern) *S. m. lilianae*

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*

Eastern *Q. m. prosopidicola*

Western *Q. m. nelsoni*

Boat-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus major*

Atlantic *Q. m. torreyi*

Gulf Coast/ Florida *Q. m. major* group

Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula*

Interior (Bronzed) *Q. q. versicolor*

Coastal (Purple) *Q. q. stonei*

Florida *Q. q. quiscula*

Bronzed Cowbird *Molothrus aeneus*

Eastern *M. a. aeneus*

Western *M. a. loyei*

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater*

Eastern *M. a. ater*

Pacific/Mexican *M. a. obscurus*

The intermediate population is named *M. a. artemisiae*.

Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus*

Western *I. c. nelsoni*

Eastern *I. c. sennetti*

The intermediate population is named *I. c. cucullatus*.

Gray-crowned Rosy Finch *Leucosticte arctoa*

Interior (Gray-crowned) *L. a. tephrocotis* group

Coastal (Gray-cheeked or Hepburn's) *L. a. littoralis* group

Bering Sea *L. a. griseonucha* group

Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator*

Pacific *P. e. flammula* group

Interior West *P. e. montanus* group

Taiga *P. e. leucurus*

Purple Finch *Carpodacus purpureus*

Eastern *C. p. purpureus*

Pacific *C. p. californicus*

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Nine different call types corresponding to subtle differences in bill size have been diagnosed in North America (and recent research in Europe has uncovered a similar situation there). These populations have been designated by numbers or letters – e.g. types 1 through 9 or a through i – and for the most part do *not* correspond to previously named subspecies. Under the circumstances I think it is simplest to ignore all previous subspecies names and refer to these birds simply by their number or letter designations, rather than trying to reconcile the two systems of naming. More information can be found in the technical literature.

Common Redpoll *Carduelis flammea* (now placed in the genus *Acanthis*)

Southern *C. f. flammea*

Greenland (Greater) *C. f. rostrata*

Hoary Redpoll *Carduelis homemanni* (now placed in the genus *Acanthis*)

Southern *C. h. exilipes*

Greenland *C. h. homemanni*

Lesser Goldfinch *Carduelis psaltria* (now placed in the genus *Spinus*)

Western *C. p. psaltria*

Texas *C. p. mexicanus*

Evening Grosbeak *Coccothraustes vespertinus*

Eastern *C. v. vespertinus*

Western *C. v. montanus* group

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3 comments to Subspecies names in the Sibley Guide to Birds

Dan Lindsay

[May 27, 2010 at 2:03 PM · Reply](#)

Why is Tundra Cackling Goose (*B. h. taveneri*) not mentioned?

Jason Pietrzak

[December 4, 2010 at 6:04 PM · Reply](#)

Can I request that the latin names be added to the Sibley Guide iPhone edition? Nowadays, I mainly use that version, but then again, I would buy a new desktop edition if it included these subspecies names in it.

Peregrine Rowse

[April 21, 2012 at 1:20 PM · Reply](#)

David, I have just found your website which is extremely useful and informative; thank you. The list of subspecies illustrated in your book is very helpful. I found the lack of this info a bit frustrating but have rectified it with a couple of enjoyable hours transcribing this info from the website list into my copy.

In the website list of subspecies you use *L. arctoa* for Gray crowned Rosy-finch but *L. tephrocotis* in the book without comment (unlike other taxonomic changes). *L. arctoa* is generally used for Asian Rosy-finch and Gray crowned is given specific status (as in the book). Was it your intention to 'downgrade' Gray crowned to *L. a. tephrocotis*? If this change was intentional, I would be grateful for the reference.

regards

Peregrine