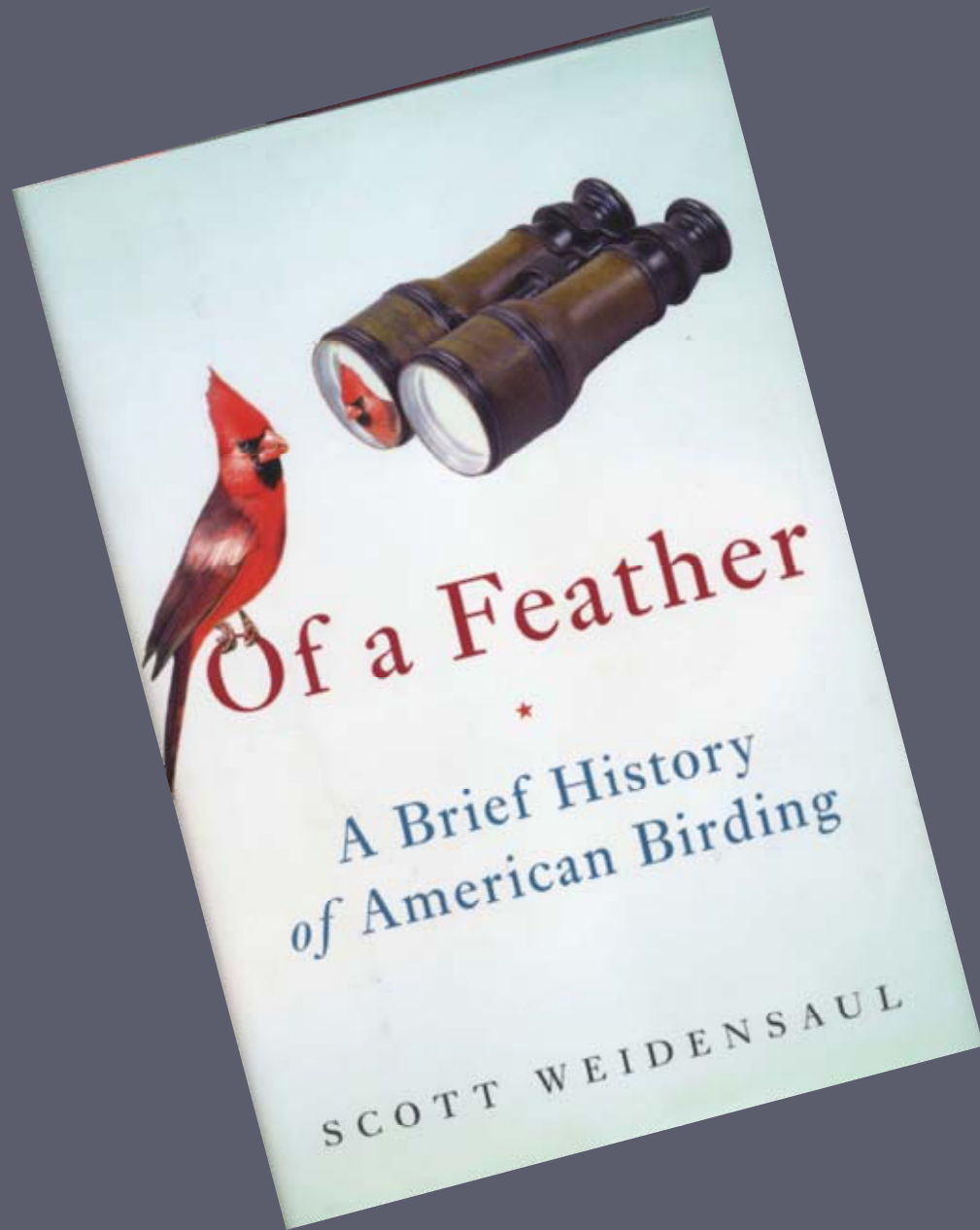




North American Bird  
Names –  
**The Apostrophes**



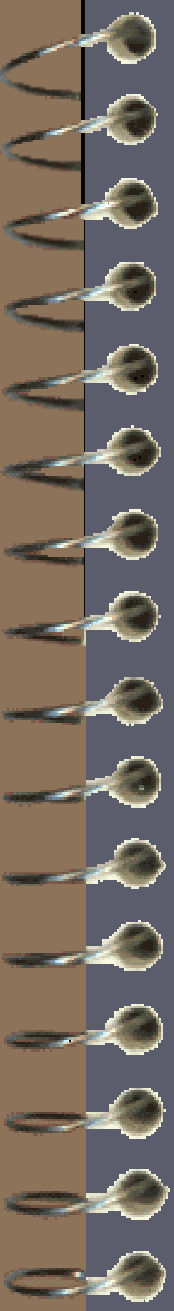
# How Species Get Their Names


## ▶ **Discovery**

Need to collect a specimen

## ▶ **Description**

Most new specimens are sent to a museum scientist for verification and formal description. In most countries that description needs to be published in a recognized scientific journal.


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- ▶ In the early years of discovery in this country, things were a little loopy goosey.
  - ▶ Audubon discovered 34 species, 23 he named for people.

- 
- ▶ Very often the “describer” is the person who assigns a scientific name.
  - ▶ This same person often gives the species a vernacular (common) name.
  - ▶ The first rule of natural history nomenclatural etiquette – you do not name a species you discover after yourself!



## ▶ The List.....

- 939 names on the ABA area list
  
- 95 have `s in their name




**Clark's Grebe**  
**Murphy's Petrel**  
**Cook's Petrel**  
**Stejneger's Petrel**  
**Bulwer's Petrel**  
**Cory's Shearwater**  
**Buller's Shearwater**  
**Audubon's Shearwater**  
**Wilson's Storm-Petrel**  
**Leach's Storm-Petrel**  
**Brandt's Cormorant**  
**Ross's Goose**  
**Steller's Eider**  
**Barrow's Goldeneye**  
**Steller's Sea-Eagle**  
**Cooper's Hawk**  
**Harris's Hawk**

**Swainson's Hawk**  
**Gambel's Quail**  
**Wilson's Plover**  
**Wilson's Snipe**  
**Temminck's Stint**  
**Baird's Sandpiper**  
**Wilson's Phalarope**  
**Belcher's Gull**  
**Heermann's Gull**  
**Thayer's Gull**  
**Bonaparte's Gull**  
**Franklin's Gull**  
**Ross's Gull**  
**Sabine's Gull**  
**Forster's Tern**  
**Kittlitz's Murrelet**  
**Xantus's Murrelet**

**Craveri's Murrelet**  
**Cassin's Auklet**  
**Chuck-will's-widow**  
**Vaux's Swift**  
**Xantus's Hummingbird**  
**Anna's Hummingbird**  
**Costa's Hummingbird**  
**Allen's Hummingbird**  
**Lewis's Woodpecker**  
**Williamson's Sapsucker**  
**Nuttall's Woodpecker**  
**Hammond's Flycatcher**  
**Say's Phoebe**  
**Nutting's Flycatcher**  
**La Sagra's Flycatcher**  
**Couch's Kingbird**  
**Cassin's Kingbird**

**Sprague's Pipit**  
**Bewick's Wren**  
**Bendire's Thrasher**  
**Le Conte's Thrasher**  
**Townsend's Solitaire**  
**Bicknell's Thrush**  
**Swainson's Thrush**  
**Middendorff's Warbler**  
**Steller's Jay**  
**Clark's Nutcracker**  
**Bell's Vireo**  
**Cassin's Vireo**  
**Hutton's Vireo**  
**Cassin's Finch**  
**Lawrence's Goldfinch**  
**Bachman's Warbler**  
**Virginia's Warbler**





**Lucy's Warbler**  
**Townsend's Warbler**  
**Grace's Warbler**  
**Kirtland's Warbler**  
**Swainson's Warbler**  
**MacGillivray's Warbler**  
**Wilson's Warbler**  
**Pallas's Bunting**  
**Abert's Towhee**  
**Bachman's Sparrow**  
**Botteri's Sparrow**  
**Cassin's Sparrow**  
**Brewer's Sparrow**  
**Worthen's Sparrow**

**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow**  
**Le Conte's Sparrow**  
**Henslow's Sparrow**  
**Baird's Sparrow**  
**Lincoln's Sparrow**  
**Harris's Sparrow**  
**McCown's Longspur**  
**Smith's Longspur**  
**McKay's Bunting**  
**Brewer's Blackbird**  
**Bullock's Oriole**  
**Audubon's Oriole**  
**Scott's Oriole**


# But.....

Delete Chuck-will's-widow

Add Calliope Hummingbird

Add Lucifer Hummingbird

Add Blackburnian Warbler

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- ▶ Chuck-will's-widow is not named for the wife of the late Chuck Will
  - ▶ Calliope is named for Calliope the Muse of Epic Poetry in Greek Mythology. Calliope is known for taking a fancy to Achilles and having taught him to cheer his friends by singing at banquets. Named by Gould in 1847
  - ▶ Lucifer is named for the fallen angel Lucifer of the Judeo Christian tradition. Named by Swainson in 1820
  - ▶ Blackburnian Warbler is named for Mrs. Anna Blackburn. A 18<sup>th</sup> century English Botanist. She never married but preferred to be called Mrs. Blackburn because it gave her more standing and authority.

# Multiples

**Audubon's Oriole**  
**Audubon's Shearwater**

**Bachman's Sparrow**  
**Bachman's Warbler**

**Baird's Sandpiper**  
**Baird's Sparrow**

**Brewer's Blackbird**  
**Brewer's Sparrow**

**Clark's Grebe**  
**Clark's Nutcracker**

**Harris's Hawk**  
**Harris's Sparrow**

**Le Conte's Sparrow**  
**Le Conte's Thrasher**

**Ross's Goose**  
**Ross's Gull**

**Townsend's Solitaire**  
**Townsend's Warbler**

**Xantus's Hummingbird**  
**Xantus's Murrelet**

**Steller's Eider**  
**Steller's Jay**  
**Steller's Sea-Eagle**

**Swainson's Hawk**  
**Swainson's Thrush**  
**Swainson's Warbler**

**Cassin's Auklet**  
**Cassin's Finch**  
**Cassin's Kingbird**  
**Cassin's Sparrow**  
**Cassin's Vireo**

**Wilson's Phalarope**  
**Wilson's Plover**  
**Wilson's Snipe**  
**Wilson's Storm-Petrel**  
**Wilson's Warbler**

# Multiples

Audubon's Oriole  
Audubon's Shearwater

Bachman's Sparrow  
Bachman's Warbler

Baird's Sandpiper  
Baird's Sparrow

Brewer's Blackbird  
Brewer's Sparrow

Clark's Grebe  
Clark's Nutcracker

Harris's Hawk  
Harris's Sparrow

Le Conte's Sparrow  
Le Conte's Thrasher

Ross's Goose  
Ross's Gull

Townsend's Solitaire  
Townsend's Warbler


Xantus's Hummingbird  
Xantus's Murrelet

Steller's Eider  
Steller's Jay  
Steller's Sea-Eagle

Swainson's Hawk  
Swainson's Thrush  
Swainson's Warbler

Cassin's Auklet  
Cassin's Finch  
Cassin's Kingbird  
Cassin's Sparrow  
Cassin's Vireo

Wilson's Phalarope  
Wilson's Plover  
Wilson's Snipe  
Wilson's Storm-Petrel  
Wilson's Warbler

- 
- ▶ Clark's Grebe is named in honor of John Henry Clark, a mid 19<sup>th</sup> century surveyor, naturalist and collector. Named by George Newbold Lawrence
  - ▶ Clark's Nutcracker is named in honor of Captain William Clark. Clark collected the first specimen, sent it to President Thomas Jefferson, who then sent it to Alexander Wilson for description. He initially called it the Columbia River Nutcracker but in 1811 it was changed to Clark's Nutcracker.

# Multiples

Audubon's Oriole  
Audubon's Shearwater

Bachman's Sparrow  
Bachman's Warbler

Baird's Sandpiper  
Baird's Sparrow

Brewer's Blackbird  
Brewer's Sparrow

Clark's Grebe  
Clark's Nutcracker

Harris's Hawk  
Harris's Sparrow

**Le Conte's Sparrow**  
**Le Conte's Thrasher**

Ross's Goose  
Ross's Gull

Townsend's Solitaire  
Townsend's Warbler


Xantus's Hummingbird  
Xantus's Murrelet

Steller's Eider  
Steller's Jay  
Steller's Sea-Eagle

Swainson's Hawk  
Swainson's Thrush  
Swainson's Warbler

Cassin's Auklet  
Cassin's Finch  
Cassin's Kingbird  
Cassin's Sparrow  
Cassin's Vireo

Wilson's Phalarope  
Wilson's Plover  
Wilson's Snipe  
Wilson's Storm-Petrel  
Wilson's Warbler

- 
- ▶ LeConte's Sparrow is named in honor of Dr. John LeConte, a doctor who operated a gunpowder factory for the confederacy. Audubon named the sparrow.
  - ▶ LeConte's Thrasher is named in honor of Dr. John Lawrence LeConte and American entomologist and biologist. George Newbold Lawrence named the thrasher.
  - ▶ These two LeConte's were first cousins.



# Multiples

Audubon's Oriole  
Audubon's Shearwater

Bachman's Sparrow  
Bachman's Warbler

Baird's Sandpiper  
Baird's Sparrow

Brewer's Blackbird  
Brewer's Sparrow

Clark's Grebe  
Clark's Nutcracker

Harris's Hawk  
Harris's Sparrow

Le Conte's Sparrow  
Le Conte's Thrasher

Ross's Goose  
Ross's Gull

Townsend's Solitaire  
Townsend's Warbler


Xantus's Hummingbird  
Xantus's Murrelet

Steller's Eider  
Steller's Jay  
Steller's Sea-Eagle

Swainson's Hawk  
Swainson's Thrush  
Swainson's Warbler


Cassin's Auklet  
Cassin's Finch  
Cassin's Kingbird  
Cassin's Sparrow  
Cassin's Vireo

Wilson's Phalarope  
Wilson's Plover  
Wilson's Snipe  
Wilson's Storm-Petrel  
Wilson's Warbler

- 
- ▶ Ross's Goose is named in honor of Bernard Rogan Ross, an Irish trader employed by The Hudson's Bay Company. Named by John Cassin.
  - ▶ Ross's Gull is named in honor of Sir James Clark Ross who discovered the Ross Sea and the Ross Ice Shelf. Named by William McGillivray

# Ethics of Naming

- ▶ The first rule of natural history nomenclatural etiquette – you do not name a species you discover after yourself!
- ▶ Sabine's Gull – named by Joseph Sabine in honor of his brother General Sir Edward Sabine.
- ▶ Townsend named Audubon's Warbler (now Yellow-rumped Warbler)
- ▶ Audubon named Townsend's Warbler
- ▶ Gambel's Quail

- 
- ▶ William Gambel, born in Philadelphia, became a naturalist at an early age. His first major accomplishment was discovering the Mountain Chickadee in Mexico. Traveling to California from Nevada in 1842 he collected a lovely quail.
  - ▶ Believing that Thomas Nuttall had named it for him he labeled it Gambel's Quail. But Nuttall had not done that. The name Gambel's Quail stuck. In later years John Cassin claimed he named it for Gambel so who knows. Gambel named the Nuttall's Woodpecker.

# Random Facts – Some names are first names

- ▶ Lucy's Warbler - Lucy Hunter Baird
- ▶ Grace's Warbler - Grace Darlington Page
- ▶ Virginia's Warbler - Mary Virginia Anderson
- ▶ Zenaida Dove - Princess Zenaida Charlotte Bonaparte
- ▶ Anna's Hummingbird - Princess Anna d'Essling

- ▶ Lucy Hunter Baird was daughter of Spencer Fullerton Baird (Baird's Sparrow, Baird's Sandpiper) Named by J.G Cooper, Jr, son of J. G. Cooper (Cooper's Hawk)
- ▶ Grace Darlington Page (nee Coues) was sister of Dr. Elliot Coues. He asked Spencer Fullerton Baird to name it after her.
- ▶ Mary Virginia Anderson, wife of a US Army Surgeon who discovered the species. Spencer Fullerton Baird named it after her.
- ▶ Princess Zenaida Charlotte Bonaparte, daughter of the eldest brother of Emperor Napoleon I. Married her cousin Charles Lucien Bonaparte. (Bonaparte's Gull) who named it after her.
- ▶ Princess Anna d'Essling, Duchess of Rivoli, wife of the son of one of Emperor Napoleon's marshalls. No one knows who "discovered" the species. It was found among several hundred specimens in a private collection in Europe. Named for her by a French naturalist.

# Random Facts – Upstanding People?

- ▶ Xantus's Hummingbird,  
Xantus's Murrelet - Louis John  
Xantus de Vesey
- ▶ Heermann' Gull – Dr.  
Adolphus Lewis Heermann

- ▶ Louis John Xantus de Versey, a Hungarian was on the staff of William Alexander Hammond the Surgeon General of the US Army.
- ▶ He was a renowned pathological liar
- ▶ "A poor but educated and ambitious man, he wrote grandiose accounts of his American exploits. They were published in Hungary where he became famous. The letters make Private Xantus sound like he was in charge. Despite the fact that he plagiarized other travel accounts of the American West, lied about himself, and always claimed to be superior to those around him, Xantus did great work for Baird and the Smithsonian. Xantus once had a photograph taken of himself as a Navy captain, which was published in Hungary. Xantus never even served in the Navy"
- ▶ -----
- ▶ Dr. Heermann was an Army Physician and naturalist. He retired from the army early and died at the age of 38 after a hunting accident. He stumbled and his rifle discharged, killing him. He looked many years older than he was, the effect, among other things, of syphilis.




# Random Facts - Never saw America

- ▶ Bewick's Wren - Thomas Bewick
- ▶ Swainson's Hawk, Swainson's Thrush, Swainson's Warbler - William Swainson
- ▶ MacGillivray's Warbler - William MacGillivray
- ▶ Henslow's Sparrow - Reverend John Stevens Henslow

- ▶ **Thomas Bewick – an English ornithologist and engraver. He never saw America but most natural history students of the time knew his work. Audubon met the elderly Bewick in 1827 and honored him by naming the wren after him. Audubon had collected the new wren 16 years before.**
- ▶ **William Swainson was an English naturalist and bird illustrator. After an extended trip to Brazil he left for New Zealand where he spent the rest of his life. Charles Bonaparte named the Swainson's hawk, Thomas Nuttall named the Swainson's Thrush and Audubon the Swainson's Warbler.**
- ▶ **William McGillivray was a Scottish artist and professor. Been called the "first ecologist". John Kirk Townsend named the warbler.**
- ▶ **Reverend John Stevens Henslow, English botanist and geologist. Audubon named it for him after he advised Audubon on booksellers in England when he was publishing the Birds of America. In 1831 Henslow was asked by Captain Fitzroy of the Beagle to recommend a naturalist to join an expedition around the world. He picked a promising student – Charles Darwin.**

# Random Facts - Young!

- ▶ Bicknell's Thrush – Eugene P. Bicknell
- ▶ Lincoln's Sparrow – Thomas Lincoln

- 
- ▶ When 21 years old, Bicknell climbed the summit of Slide Mountain (near New York City) in the Catskills on June 15, 1881. He heard an unfamiliar song, he got a clean shot and collected the bird. He thought it was a Grey-cheeked Thrush. He sent the specimen to Dr. Robert Ridgway at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. He classified it as a new subspecies of Gray-cheeked Thrush and gave it the name Bicknell's Thrush in 1882. It was elevated to a full species in 1993.
  - ▶ Eugene Bicknell went on to become a founder of the AOU.
  - ▶ At the age of 21 Lincoln went with John James Audubon on a trip to Labrador. He collected the first specimen and Audubon named it "Tom's Finch". "Lincoln's Finch" was used in Birds of America. Later became Lincoln's Sparrow. It was the only new bird discovered on that expedition. Tom was known to be "quiet, reserved, sensible, practical, and reliable".

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