



## Council Resolution on English Bird Names 10 August 2020

WHEREAS, the AOS is fundamentally committed to fostering inclusion and equity, and

WHEREAS, the AOS is the recognized authority for avian classification and nomenclature in the Americas, including the standardization of English bird names beginning with the first edition of the *Check-list of North American Birds* (1886), and

WHEREAS, this authority rests on the professional expertise and integrity that the AOS brings to issues of classification and nomenclature, and

WHEREAS, the AOS has an open and transparent process that invites broad participation via proposals to change classification and nomenclature, including those involving English bird names, and

WHEREAS, the AOS has enacted policies regarding English bird names that involve a variety of considerations related to diversity and inclusion, including new public guidelines that specifically address changes to potentially offensive or exclusionary names, and

WHEREAS, AOS classification and nomenclature affect a broad range of partners and stakeholders, including historically marginalized groups, and

WHEREAS, English names are the predominant names used by these partners and stakeholders in communicating about birds, and issues related to English bird names are often complex, multi-dimensional, and nuanced, requiring careful and deliberate consideration of proposed changes, and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council and Officers of the AOS recognize the substantial professional and voluntary service provided by the experts of the North and South American Classification and Nomenclature committees (NACC and SACC, respectively), and hereby affirm the high integrity and appropriateness of their processes regarding avian nomenclature, with commitment to transparency and inclusiveness in these processes, as outlined below:

that the AOS guidelines on English bird names continue to be made publicly available for consultation and feedback by partners and stakeholders, and that these guidelines remain open to further consideration and modification in consultation with the AOS Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Committee and other stakeholders, and

that guidelines for proposals for different types of changes, including changes to English bird names, be made publicly available, together with examples of successful proposals, and that the importance of a balanced perspective be emphasized in these guidelines in ways that continue to welcome the submission of proposals by any invested stakeholder, and

that an advisory group on English names, including members of the AOS D&I Committee and the NACC, among others, be created to provide additional perspective on proposed changes to English bird names that have D&I components, thereby formalizing an established practice, and

that the NACC, through its Early Career Systematics Group, foster a more diverse generation of scientists willing and able to contribute to the committee and to represent new perspectives, and

that the AOS and relevant committees (NACC, SACC, D&I) conduct a professional survey of stakeholder groups, including traditionally marginalized groups, to help inform consideration of English bird name guidelines, changes, and related principles, with particular attention to strategies to most effectively enhance inclusivity in birding and ornithology.