

Notes and references for “What’s in a name? Change may be the only constant”

Note:

In keeping with the AP style guide used by the Gazette, Earth Matters columns don’t capitalize common names of species unless they include geographical or persons’ names. In this essay, we have retained capitalized common names when referring specifically to names newly approved by scientific societies.

References:

Katie Koerten’s 2012 column about scientific names: <https://hitchcockcenter.org/earth-matters/whats-in-a-name-quite-a-bit>.

The American Ornithological Society publication *Guidelines for English Bird Names* establishes the capitalization of the official common name of each species, contrary to the conventions of non-scientific bodies: <https://americanornithology.org/nacc/guidelines-for-english-bird-names>. The source that they cite in those guidelines is a 1978 article originally published in the ornithological journal *The Auk*: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4085449>.

Here is the announcement of the renaming from Gypsy Moth to Spongy Moth: <https://entsoc.org/news/press-releases/spongy-moth-approved-new-common-name-lymantria-dispar>.

And here is a description of the Bird Names For Birds campaign: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bird_Names_for_Birds.