**Just what is a “species”?** Ornithologists face one dilemma after another when they try to answer the question “Do these birds represent one or two (or more) species?” We come to take field guides as gospel, but lurking behind so many of the species illustrated there are these kinds of species conundrums. Here is a short list of some field guide species for which ornithologists wonder whether they constitute two or more different species. As you travel, listen up! How do the sounds of these species vary geographically?

Red-shouldered hawk

Red-tailed hawk

Northern flicker

Olive-sided flycatcher

Bell’s vireo

Common raven

Purple martin

White-breasted nuthatch

Brown creeper

Marsh wren

Bewick’s wren

Swainson’s thrush

Hermit thrush

Purple finch

Evening grosbeak

Savannah sparrow

Fox sparrow

White-crowned sparrow

Dark-eyed junco

Orchard oriole

Common yellowthroat

Yellow warbler