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Birds of the World Recommended English Names

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believes that there are enough independent reports of open twig nests to suggest that an early much-dismissed report by Brewster of such nests may have been valid. On the other hand, Snyder includes suggestions that Carolina Parakeets may have hibernated and/or migrated, but expresses doubt for either. The final four chapters consider the possible and probably roles of various human and natural factors in the extinction of Carolina Parakeets, the possibility that the fondness of these parakeets for cocklebur fruit (highly toxic to most species) may have made the parakeets toxic to potential predators, lessons that can be learned from the human failure to conserve this species, especially in relation to saving other parrot species from extinction, the significance of various types of historical data, the future of Florida and the overall influence that cockleburs may have had on this species.

As Snyder does not mention banding and no detailed study of its biology was conducted before the Carolina Parakeet became extinct, few if any were likely banded. However, banders will be interested in the sections on plumage and banding of closely related parrot species would aid research on some of the biological questions discussed.

This book is written well with few grammatical or factual errors. Reference (p. 84) to Imperial Ivory-billed Woodpecker does not match the currently accepted taxonomy of the American Ornithologists' Union (American Ornithologists' Union 1998), but could suggest that Snyder supports the "lumping" of Imperial and Ivory-billed woodpeckers. However, none of the four check-list supplements published between 1998 and 2004 announced such a decision. Reference to "animals and birds" (caption to Fig. 34) implies that birds are not animals. The hyphen is missing from *Bird-Lore* in a reference by Baker. The book is entertainingly written and should be of interest to any researchers of small parrots, to all naturalists interested in extinction and causes of declines and to all historians of natural history. Its many biographical notes apparently include some details of the career of Ludlow Griscom that were not covered in the thorough account of his life by Davis (1994). Coverage of the details of the life history of this species is more thorough than was possible in its *Birds of North America* account (Snyder and Russell 2002).

LITERATURE CITED

- American Ornithological Union. 1998. Check-list of North American birds. 7th edition. Amer. Ornithol. Union, Washington, DC.
- Davis, W.E., Jr. 1994. Dean of the birdwatchers. A biography of Ludlow Griscom. Smithsonian Inst. Press, Washington & London.
- Snyder, N.F.R. and K. Russell. 2002. *Conuropsis carolinensis* Carolina Parakeet. No. 607 in A. Poole and F. Gill (eds.). The birds of North America. The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.

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BIRDS OF THE WORLD RECOMMENDED ENGLISH NAMES. By Frank Gill and Minturn Wright on behalf of the International Ornithological Congress. 2006. Princeton Univ. Press, Princeton and Oxford. xii + 260 pp. + CD. \$19.95.

This book amounts to a progress report on an approximate 20-year attempt to standardize the English names of all bird species. Globalization of bird-seeking travel and of environmental threats to birds have both led to an increased interest in standardizing names for better communication. The increased pace in revising avian taxonomy has also increased the chances of confusion as to exactly what species are being observed and/or discussed.

After the usual publisher's pages and a table of contents, the text of the book consists of a brief (11-page) introduction, a list of all species recognized by the committee at the time of compilation (pp. 12-211) and an index. The introduction covers the need for more standardization, the history of the project, the process of generating the list and process followed, a section on spelling [including capitalization, single vs. compound names, uses of hyphens, British vs. U.S. spelling, nouns vs. adjectives in names based on geographical terms, single vs. compound names, etc.), a section on ranges, and several other very brief sections. The species list is arranged by order, family and species. Each

species entry consists of the proposed English name, current recognized scientific name, and an abbreviation indicating broad geographical range. A CD included in a package attached to the inside back cover consists of three species lists (Nonpasserines, Suboscine Passerines and Oscine Passerines) containing the same information on names, but adding more details on ranges.

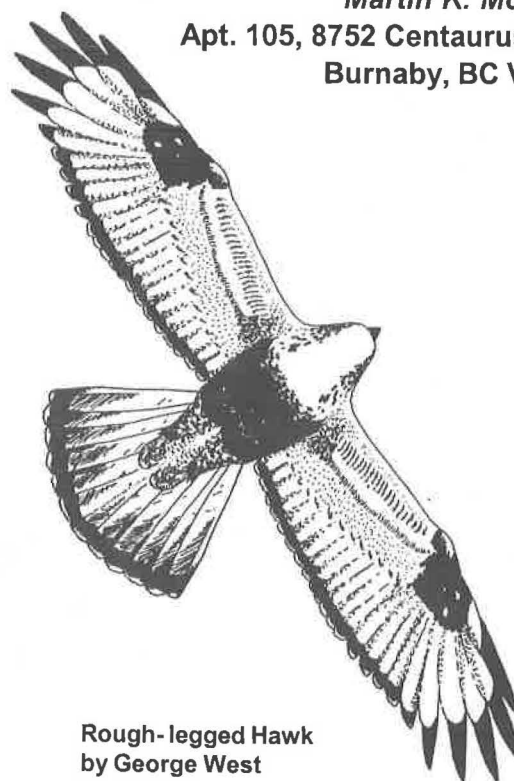
Banders will be interested to see former WBBA Vice-President Stephen M. Russell among the committee members, but the main interest of banders in this book will be in the proposed names themselves. Since American, Australian, and Eurasian nomenclatural and taxonomic committees accept and reject proposed changes at different paces, the list agrees with several recent North American decisions, but differs from others. For example, like the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) this committee lists Canada and Cackling geese as two species, still lists Brant as one species, lists Common and Wilson's snipe as two species, and still lists Hoary (Arctic) Redpoll as one species, whereas unlike the AOU, they still list Blue Grouse as one species, list five species of scoter and retain Caspian Tern in the genus *Sterna*. Where different names are used currently for the same species on different continents, the committee recommends using the American version for some (e.g., Horned instead of Slavonian Grebe, murre instead of including them among guillemots, Barn instead of European or "the" Swallow, Horned instead of Shore Lark), the Eurasian version for others (e.g., Black-necked instead of Eared Grebe, Grey instead of Black-bellied Plover, Little Auk instead of Dovekie, Sand Martin instead of Bank Swallow, Common instead of European Starling and Two-barred instead of White-winged Crossbill), and completely new names for others (e.g., Great Northern Loon instead of Great Northern Diver or Common Loon, American White Ibis, Pomarine Skua instead of Pomarine Jaeger or Pomatorhine Skua, Roughleg instead of Rough-legged Buzzard or Rough-legged Hawk, Angel Tern for *Gygis* instead of Fairy Tern, White Tern or White Noddy and Buff-bellied instead of American Pipit).

As this book amounts to a progress report, rather than a definitive document, it will be of interest primarily to readers who follow nomenclatural and taxonomic changes. Inclusion of the current American, Australasian, and Eurasian names of those species with more than one current name would have added to its usefulness. I did not notice any spelling or other "typographical" errors, but one reference by Rasmussen and Anderson (p. 2) is missing from the list of literature cited and at least one geographic code (AU for Australasian) is incorrect for at least one species (the Abyssinian Roller of Africa) (Serle et al. 1977). As the AOU's committee has already rejected the proposals on hyphens outlined in this document (Anonymous 2007), I doubt that progress on this project will accelerate in the near future.

LITERATURE CITED

- Anonymous. 2007. Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of Birds (North and Middle America) policy on English names of birds. *Auk* 124:1472.
- Serle, W., G.J. Morel and W. Hartwig. 1977. A field guide to the birds of west Africa. Collins, London.

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Rough-legged Hawk
by George West