instance, in North America, it is widely implemented by governmental agencies research scientists. The public believe that large predator mammals like Grizzly Bears are generally dangerous to humans; thus, they need to be controlled. This is why hunting bears is still widely accepted and why hunting predators is seen as "heroic" by the general public. However, as the authors show so impressively, Grizzly Bears can be petted and they can live well in proximity to humans, if they are treated and respected correctly. The authors show in their book that this claim is well backed up by historical facts on how Russian natives lived together with bears for over thousands of years.

Despite the well-accepted work by many zoos and circuses, by Konrad Lorenz (raising geese and ravens), J. Goodall and B. Galdikas (raising monkeys), B. Kilham and Ed Gray (raising Black Bear orphans), Terry D. DeBruyn (living closely with bears) and others, and mostly to cater to the powerful hunting (resource) lobby, this aspect of wild bear biology brought forward by the authors was never really considered, nor really allowed in classical wildlife management circles. It was an outstanding achievement of the Canadian authors to go to Russia as early as 1996; only few other western people acknowledged the opening political situation and had the vision to work and to publish in an area as remote and hidden as Kamchatka (see for instance the work by Emma Wilson and also by Ullrich Wannhoff). Using their own small plane to overcome transportation problems in remote Kamchatka is another outstanding aspect of this book. The real punch line comes when the authors basically stole three orphaned bear cubs from a local zoo and hand-raised them in a remote nature reserve, showing that such "predatory" animals can do well among humans and adjust back to nature easily.

Obviously, anti-poaching action, bear-talk and some Russian realities are other interesting themes of this book. As a reader, I am curious to see the paintings by M. Enns, which are so often mentioned in the text but not part of this publication. The fact that Russia allowed the authors to carry out their experiment over several years shows how wrong an opinionated Western World can be in its attitude and science: strict and narrow views are usually misleading, and instead, an open-minded diversity of approaches is required to study wildlife in a more meaningful way. For additional project information see the authors' website http:// www.cloudline.org/.

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Handbook of Birds of the World. Volume 8: Broadbills to Tapaculos

Edited by Josep del Hoyo, Andrew Elliott, and Jordi Sargatal 2003. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona, Spain. 850 pages. U.S. $195. Cloth.

This volume of the *Handbook of Birds of the World* covers Broadbills, Asities, Pittas, Ovenbirds, Woodcreepers, Typical Antbirds, Ground-antbirds, Gnateaters, and Tapaculos; in all just over 670 species. These include some of the world's most wildly coloured birds, the pitas, and some of the most uniform little brown birds such as the horneros. Like its predecessors this volume has great photographs and artwork, current distribution maps and comprehensive text. The editors are continuing to maintain their uniform, high standard.

With this volume the Birds of the World project has turned more than one corner. First, it is halfway through its allotted task, having covered slightly over half of the approximately 200 families of birds in the world. Second, it has finally reached the passerines. This is the last order of birds out of about 30 orders, and this will fill the remaining volumes. It includes close to half the known species. The biggest change is in the nature of the birds themselves. In the past it has dealt with birds that are relatively well known. For example, a lovely drawing of the Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta* in volume 1) can be found in Nebumum's Egyptian tomb from 3500 years ago. It is a widespread and uniform species (there are only two tiny populations of subspecies on remote islands) and has lived close to developed nations for millennia. The tapaculos, by contrast, live in remote jungles that are rarely visited by scientists or even informed travelers. They are frustratingly hard to observe and often difficult to identify. While the indigenous folks know their home turf, they have never applied the scientific discipline needed to separate subspecies or closely related species.

With this in mind I have been keenly aware that this volume represents the contemporary "bible." I looked carefully at the current state of taxonomy compared to the species accounts. While I think this volume is current I did find several points of confusion. First there is no great consistency in the English names, or even in the alternative names. Second, the splits (for in tropical small bird biology this is the trend) made pre-1997 are included. Post-1997 the record is less clear. I took a sampling of 50 species and found that the English name and scientific names were consistent with other published literature for over three quarters of the species. About 15% the birds were given as sub-species, rather than full species. For the remaining birds there were more significant differences. This is not a criticism of the *Handbook of Birds of the World* as much as comment on the state of the knowledge of taxonomy for species that typically live only in some Amazonian backwater or on top of a remote mountain. A good example of these problems is shown by the Orange-bellied Antwren (*Terenura sicki*) that is also known as the Alagoas Antwren. This volume of

the *Handbook of Birds of the World* lists a completely separate species with the same name, the Alagoas Antwren (*Myrmoherula snowi*).

I did a less intensive check of the notorious woodcreepers and did not find any taxonomic problems. I did note that the authors had split the Buff-throated Woodcreeper (primarily Brazil) to give the Cocoa Woodcreeper (Costa Rica and north). I have been adding notes on specific details to my Birds of Costa Rica (*A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica*, by F. Gary Stiles and Alexander F. Skutch, Cornell University Press, 1989) to verify during my visit to that country in February 2004.

Another important difference between this volume and the others is that the authors have used a far higher proportion of unpublished material. Despite the lack of a formal peer review, I am sure the authors were judicious in the selection of material. Such unpublished data are identified in the text.

Handbook of Birds of the World Volume 8 opens with an essay on the history of bird classification by Murray Bruce. This provides a useful background to the taxonomic difficulties that will follow with the passerines. In places the text is somewhat dry and biblical in that it moves from one master to student after another, but this is part of the process of understanding the history of taxonomy.

The quality of the artwork is consistent with the other volumes. I did my usual scan for errors and could find none. The almost 500 colour photographs are quite remarkable. The quality is similar to other volumes. We need, however, to remember it is easy to photograph a large, unafraid Blue-footed Booby (*Sula nebouxii*), but it is a real challenge to achieve the same quality with skulking understory birds. Any one who has visited the rainforest will know how hard it can be to see these birds clearly for more than a few seconds. There is one photograph of a Scalloped Antbird (*Myrmeciza ruficauda*) that exemplifies these problems. The bird is barely visible; only its round eye and the fact it is likely in the centre of the photograph gives it away. Another innovation is the English names in the photograph captions are now in bold font, making them much easier to find. A typical photo caption is one to two paragraphs long and I found the English name was difficult to pick out when scanning for a particular species in previous editions.

The range maps are similar to previous editions with one important change. These maps now include the major rivers. Thus it is much easier to judge a bird's range. For example, it is easy to pick out the Rios Napo, Negro and Salimoes as Amazon tributaries, which in turn allows the reader to estimate the position of Belem, Manaus and the Ecuadorian border. The book ends with about 4000 bibliographical references that include some text changes to make them easier to use.

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Important Bird Areas in Africa and Associated Islands: Priority Sites for Conservation

By L. D. C. Fishpool, and M. I. Evans. 2001. Newbury and Cambridge, UK. Pisces Publications and BirdLife International (BirdLife Conservation Series Number 11).

This publication is by no means a booklet. While I was reading it during connecting flights from Seattle to Vancouver, the U.S. customs officer asked me whether I stole the local phone book. Instead, this book presents the major large-scale conservation data source for African birds and their habitats. It's the first and urgently needed consistent data collection of its kind for Africa. Therefore, the authors presented a milestone publication of international importance for global biodiversity and conservation management.

The Important Bird Area (IBA) concept is already well established, and carried out world-wide. This book deals in 1144 pages with descriptions of 1228 IBAs in 68 African countries and associated islands. Approximately 100 authors contributed to this unique publication, most of them with an English or anglophone background. This cultural bias is obvious throughout the entire book. For instance, the countries with the longest text sections, the best information, and with most of the IBAs, are usually the ones with a European, and specifically British, colonial history: Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Madagascar and South Africa. Yes, it's true that countries with the highest biodiversity usually carry the richest natural resources and therefore, historically attracted European countries. However, less than 3% of the cited literature comes from African contributors, confirming the anglophone bias in African avian investigations and conservation. From a truly "global village" perspective and treating its citizens fairly and equally, African readers might be concerned. Summaries in Swahili, French, Portuguese or in any other language are not provided either.

The data collection and IBA process is well described in this book. Four data sources were used to derive the IBAs for all of Africa: information from *Birds to Watch 2*, The BirdLife Biodiversity Project, atlases of Afrotropical bird distributions, and Wetlands International data. Many international conservation agencies contributed as well, but I am not sure if all the information and publications on Africa available world-wide were used, e.g. Russian ones. The book has 30 descriptive photos of African biomes; 2313 species of birds are covered (referred to by their scientific names) and their population estimates are provided. Readers interested in seabirds will like the great