

uscripts that have variously been attributed to Andrew Graham and Thomas Hutchins, and plagiarism of Graham by Hutchins. The Houstons provide an interesting account of their research in the archives, in London and at a symposium in the Orkney Islands that brought them to the conclusion that these manuscripts resulted from collaboration. Other appendices concern the ten-year cycles of various northern birds and mammals, the effects of nineteenth century trade on Trumpeter Swans, and the naming of Canada Goose prior to the official existence of Canada. I assumed that the latter was a combined reprint of two earlier publications in *Blue Jay* (Houston 1994, 1995), but some of it presents additional findings of historical research that was stimulated by the earlier notes.

Naturalists interested in historical aspects of nature study will find plenty of interest in this volume. It is written well and researched thoroughly. I found no substantial errors, although a few references cited were either not included in the literature lists or the publication dates and/or author list in the text differed slightly from those in the literature list. One reference (Ross 1834) is listed in a footnote (page 256), but not in the references. Three references cited are not included in the literature list (Gmelin [1788 on page 140], McIntyre and Houston [1999] on page 269) and Rousseau [1969] on page 279, although enough information on the latter is included to enable a reader to track it down). The 1983 book by Peck and James should be listed as Volume 1. Footnote 39 on page 255 on William Wales should refer to Chapter 11, not 12. References to Appendix E and Figure 3.13 on page 52 apply to Appendix F and Figure 3.14; respectively.

Hunters at the Margin: Native People and Wildlife Conservation in the Northwest Territories

By John Sandlos. UBC Press, 2029 West Mall, Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 1Z2. 360 pages, 85.00 CAD Cloth, 39.95 CAD Paper

Professor Sandlos has written a very well-researched text on three major conservation issues. He examines the plight of the Bison, Muskox and Caribou in Canada's north. The author has examined the questions raised about hunting of these three key species and the development and enforcement of laws relating to them. He has done this with a very sympathetic attitude towards Canada's original inhabitants. He compares the lifestyle and requirements of aboriginals to the efforts of Ottawa's bureaucrats to control hunting and to conserve these mammals. These two philosophies are rarely compatible, and this leads to conflict.

I had a hard time reading this book. While I understand the author's sympathy with Canada's aboriginal people I found his constant innuendo very galling. When discussing the native viewpoint he writes without emphasis. When writing about the non-native people's actions he frequently uses parentheses, causing the reader to doubt the adjective's veracity. When

The abbreviated forms of the authors' names from the more usual versions that they use in publications (Timothy E. Ball, C. Stuart Houston and Mary I. Houston) provides potential confusion for bibliographers who may think that other, presumably related, authors are involved, especially as their usual publication versions are used in some appendices. As noted by Meyer (2004), some of the appendices would be more appropriate within the main text. Although the literature list is substantial, readers new to the subject who wished to follow up with further reading would have benefited from inclusion of more of Houston's previous biographies, book chapters, notes and papers on some of the subjects covered. Similarly, although biographical references are included for many people, none are included for a few (for example, William Rowan) for whom several are available. None of these criticisms detract substantially from the overall high quality of this excellent contribution to the history of nature study in North America.

Literature Cited

- Houston, C. S. 1994. How did the Canada Goose get its name before there was a Canada? *Blue Jay* 52: 141-143.
 Houston, C. S. 1995. Earlier use of the name Canada Goose. *Blue Jay* 53: 116-117.
 Houston, C. S. and M. G. Street. 1959. The birds of the Saskatchewan River Carlton to Cumberland. Saskatchewan Natural History Society Special Publication Number 2, Regina.
 Meyer, D. 2004. [Review of] Eighteenth-century naturalists of Hudson Bay. *Blue Jay* 62: 120-122.

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defending the native people Sandlos ignores much pertinent information. He proposes the natives are not the wanton killers portrayed by white policemen, wardens and travelers, but long before the arrival of the white man the natives hunted Mammoths, Giant Sloths and others to extinction. This was also before climate change pushed these creatures over the edge [as in Europe]. The latest book on Caribou (Bergerud et al. 2007) notes that after an influenza epidemic decimated native populations, Caribou increased [see review this issue]. In my own experience, two years ago at Cambridge Bay, I was informed the hunting ban on Muskox had been lifted a few months earlier and the town's residents had shot the entire local herd. I had to travel out of town for an hour by truck and an hour and a half on foot to see distant Muskox on this island.

Before the arrival of whites, there were few natives in the north; it was too hostile a climate. Living was easier on the plains with its abundant Bison. In fact the author provides evidence for this concept when he quotes a convicted poacher, Joseph Wakwan, as preferring to hunt the larger Bison over the legal Moose.

The natives moved north after they found they could make money for guns and supplies by trapping Beaver. The demand for Beaver hats was purely European.

I do not know if the author has been involved in creating laws, but I suspect not. This a long and complex process where nobody wins everything they want. At the conclusion you achieve compromise regulations that all can accept, more or less. To constantly criticize the Ottawa law-making bureaucrats, who were trying their best with the information and attitudes of the day, is a futile process. Trying to judge past events with today's understanding is fun, but useless. National committees have learned long ago not to react too quickly to the latest reports and studies. It takes time and careful study to be certain any new data are valid. There have been many reports that claimed something was bad, only to be followed by another that said it was good. We do not want our laws flip-flopping with every new announcement.

If we applied Sandlos's logic that white man's laws do not match aboriginal situations and therefore really do not apply, then I could ignore the laws of England as I am Welsh, a true English aboriginal. [The Welsh inhabited all of Britain before they were conquered by the Angles and Saxons. These in turn were reduced to serfdom by the Norman French.] I, like all those in England, have to obey today's laws. Such is history. The Canadian native people actually fared reasonably well for a conquered community. Compare their fate to that of the Inca after the arrival of the Spanish or the original inhabitants of the Amazon after the Portuguese took over. The arrival of the white man brought white-man's laws, as well as welfare, modern

The Ornithologist's Dictionary

By Johannes Erritzoe, Kaj Kampp, Kevin Winker and Clifford B. Frith. 2007. Lynx Edicions, Montseny, 8, 08193 Bellaterra, Barcelona, Spain. 290 pages, 19 EUR Paper.

This is a great little book that will be handy for all who study birds. I can easily slip out of my depth when reading a book or article because I do not understand some terms. Typically I stick a mark in the page and later go to my computer for help. Google searches are normally wonderful ways to fill in your knowledge gaps. But this also disrupts the continuity of your reading and lowers the value you can pull from the text. Having a resource that can sit by your side is a big advantage.

So how accurate and comprehensive is the text? First, let me say the authors use the English spellings [colour etc.] This does not mean a European bias as there are plenty of references to purely North American terms [National Audubon, AOU etc.] and the U.S. spellings are included [spishing vs pishing!]. I looked up several definitions of words which are frequently misused and could only find one significant error. Parameter is not "any variable" but a *constant* in an

medicine and current technologies. Whether these are good or bad is a moot question. When I wrote my last report on people of the north, the data sets I accessed on diet used by northern residents showed that a high proportion of junk food had replaced food gathered from the wild. In my view, this represents a poor choice; on the other hand, I do not recall any native village starving or freezing to death [as happened in the past, before the arrival of the white man]. We need to remember we all live in today's conditions, which includes a plethora of laws which we must all obey [Whether we agree with them or not. Ask me about CITES. A well-meaning idea, whose concept I support. In practice it is often counterproductive to conservation and frequently punishes those who are promoting conservation.]

Do not let my criticisms put you off reading this book. There is a lot of useful and thought provoking material embedded in the text. The questions and issues surrounding the native people and wildlife in the north are not easy to deal with and I doubt there will ever be "an" answer. This book makes a significant contribution to the continuing research and debate required to make rational decisions. I just wish it was written in a more balanced and critical style.

Literature Cited

Bergerud, A. T., Stuart N. Luttich, and Lodewijk Camps. 2007. *The Return of Caribou to Ungava*. McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal, Quebec.

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equation that varies in other equations of the same general form [the classic example is the force of gravity — always constant in Ottawa but different yet constant in Banff.] This is an incredibly common error, even among scientists who should know better. I have a few other less significant comments, such as the needless use of *interrelationship* [relationship is fine, particularly in a dictionary] and I would not say the use of "mirrors" for the white tip of a gull's wing is *uncommon* as it is used in most of my books. I thought, too, that the authors could have included newer terms like sahel [note the lower case s] — A region having characteristics of a savanna or a steppe and bordering on a desert — as well as the classic definition of Sahel — a transition zone between the Sahara and the tropical forests to the south.

Each letter of the alphabet starts with a neat black-and-white drawing of a bird. These are not identified, but I could easily determine the species in all but X and Y. Also I could not find the identity of the artist.

Several pages in my original copy were greyed. As this is totally unlike the publisher, Lynx Edicions, who