

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

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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

normally produce beautiful, crystal clear copies, I contacted them. It appears this was an isolated incident; however, you should check the particular copy you intend to buy. Lynx sent me another, perfect copy.

This will be of greatest use to non-professional avid birders who lack formal training. You can quickly resolve the occurrence of melanin, the nature of remiges, the difference between granivorous and graminivorous, mimesis and mimicry and other sources of

confusion. This book would have rapidly ended my last bird-term argument — the meaning of leucism — if I had had it handy. It may not be as valuable to professionals, but I think they will likely find it useful too. Buy this one for yourself!

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### Pioneering Women in Plant Pathology

Edited by Jean Beagle Ristaino. 2008. The American Phytopathological Society, 3340 Pilot Knob Road, St. Paul, Minnesota, U.S.A. 339 pages. 89.00 USD Cloth.

As seen by one woman, an M.Sc. graduate in plant pathology from the mid-1970s, it would appear that women scientists in this field are rapidly proving their abilities to shine with accomplishment in what was once an all male profession; moving from being seen as pretty women hobbyists picking wild flowers to serious taxonomists of vascular and non-vascular plants, many of which are plant pathogens. Agriculture has itself moved from its primitive beginnings of slash and burn to a precise science of food production in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

As the possibility that a woman may progress from a mere technician and housekeeper of the laboratory to the more stellar role of research scientist has improved, their research results have proved their abilities. The first woman plant pathologist, hired by the United States Department of Agriculture, was Effie A. Southworth, in 1887. Her most significant contribution was the description of the pathogen *Colletotrichum gossypii*, the cause of anthracnose on cotton, and the recommendation of measures of control of this disease. In 1895, Flora W. Patterson became the first woman mycologist at United States Department of Agriculture. She is remembered for the development of the U.S. National Fungus Collections, which are still of importance to mycologists and plant pathologists today. She also was very involved with the inspection of imported materials for invasive fungal pathogens, and intercepted the dangerous potato wart disease before it was imported into the United States for the first time. Another woman of importance was Edna Marie Buhner, who brought forward the importance of nematodes in plant diseases; up till 1920 the role of nematodes in crop production was considered unimportant. This led to various treatments of soils with

nematicides which results in improved crop production.

In England also the importance of women in this field was recognized at Rothamsted Research Center and among those employed there and making a valuable contribution was Mary Gwynne. She started her career in 1917, worked mainly on diseases of cereal crops, and in 1960 was awarded the Order of the British Empire for her contribution. Margaret Newton, at MacDonald College, McGill University, was a Canadian woman who made a considerable contribution to the knowledge of stem rusts of wheat, so important to the agricultural economy of Canada. At this period of time in the early twentieth century, women from European countries were also making their contributions.

It is recommended that this book be on the shelves of every plant pathology department library, not only to show the valuable contributions made by these scientists, but also to show the courage and dedication of these pioneering women in the face of the prejudices of those times. This book also highlights the importance of this field of science to the agriculture of the American continent and the safety of the world's food trade. We have here a book about pioneering women plant pathologists who have overcome prejudice to make considerable contributions to the economy of North America.

*Pioneering Women Plant Pathologists* is edited by Jean Beagle Ristaino; and the careers of 26 women scientists are outlined by 37 authors from the United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada, Portugal, Italy and the Netherlands. It is most interesting to read, and gives one a very good indication of what these plant pathologists have contributed to this field.

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### Birdwatcher: The Life of Roger Tory Peterson

By Elizabeth J. Rosenthal. 2008. The Lyons Press, Guilford, Connecticut. 437 pages. 34.95 CAD.

Roger Tory Peterson's parents could not afford to send him to college and he had no formal training in science. He moved to New York City, where he paint-

ed designs on furniture in the mornings to earn enough to attend art classes in the afternoon. He joined the Bronx County Bird Club, following the new concept of identifying birds in the field without the need to shoot any specimens for confirmation. The club's pres-