

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 21st 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-