

about it in a balanced way, and do not promote a truly international Arctic.

Many relevant Russian references are not cited, e.g., F. Shtilmark. Celebrating a western economically motivated view of Russia, as practised for centuries, is not necessarily a good objective or a healthy one. For instance, the folly of continuing to invest in the carbon industry in the year 2009 is not mentioned, and the role of China as a main player for Russia, for the Arctic and globally, is virtually not represented. The same can be said for tropical nations that are tightly linked to the poles through climate and resource questions. It gets rather annoying when the book does not mention Norway's bad role in global carbon pollution and climate change or that Norway has already overharvested some of its own fish stocks (as publicly recognized by the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, CAFF). Norway's treatment of indigenous people is not always appreciated by all stakeholders either.

The authors easily condemn the Russian (radioactive) pollution in the Kola region and the Barents Sea, but they are surprisingly quiet on the subject of whether traded Norwegian fish stocks are contaminated (a fact that is well documented in Polar Bears, for instance, which are an inherent part of the same Arctic food chain). Also, this book leaves out the peculiar fact that Norway does not support the EU but its approximately 4 million citizens benefit greatly from many aspects of the nearby EU market and EU funding schemes. Not surprisingly, I find that the dramatic problem of a ruthlessly applied economic growth

policy in the Arctic gets entirely ignored by the authors (it is suggested that the audience read Czech (2008), for instance).

I conclude that this book is helpful in understanding modern Russia, as well as the one-sided Norwegian Arctic, oil and gas and fisheries views, and the North overall. But together with books like Chaudhary et al. (2007), it just makes for one more Norwegian-biased publication that promotes strategic and one-sided western resource extraction views to a global audience which is not given all the facts to differentiate correctly, see all impacts, and understand the complete picture. Such attempts will not be helpful for building trust if all global citizens ought to live together peacefully and for sharing the global wealth for mutual benefit beyond the time when Norwegian oil and gas, fish, and related money run out, and when adjacent Russian resources and global influence as a military superpower will become even more dominant.

#### Literature Cited

- Chaudhary, R. P., T. H. Aase, O. R. Vetaas, and B. P. Subedi. 2007. Local Effects of Global Change in the Himalayas. Tribhuvan University, Manang, Nepal, and Uniforskning Bergen, Norway. 199 pages.
- Czech, B. 2008. Prospects for reconciling the conflict between economic growth and biodiversity conservation with technological progress. *Conservation Biology* 22: 1389-1398.

FALK HUETTMANN

EWHALE lab, Biology and Wildlife Department, Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA

#### MISCELLANEOUS

### Arthur Carhart, Wilderness Prophet

By Tom Wolf. 2008. University Press of Colorado, 5589 Arapahoe Avenue., Suite 206C, Boulder, Colorado 80303 USA. 294 pages, 42.92 USD.

"The smartest landscape architect is the one who is clever enough to fit the use pattern deftly to the existing conditions with the least physical change needed to adapt site to use." So wrote Arthur Carhart in 1961 near the end of his career as a planner and landscape architect. His career began in 1917 with a Chicago landscape architectural firm, and he went on from there to become the first landscape architect in the US Forest Service (1919-1923). During this time he married and moved to Denver, Colorado, where he made his home for the rest of his life. He followed his formative years in a career as a wilderness writer with at least eight novels as well as many hunting and fishing guides over a period of 45 years. He also wrote numerous articles for magazines. His career embraced landscape, conservation, and recreation issues associated with the American forests. He was an advocate,

political activist, planner, and defender of wilderness land-use issues. He also gained popularity as a radio personality for about 15 years in the Denver area.

Carhart (1892-1978) lived in the unique time when the United States wilderness emerged from visits by aboriginal people, trappers, hunters, and pioneers to the time of vacationers travelling by automobile. One of his first projects and one which shaped his perspective throughout his career was a wilderness area assigned to him by the Forest Service at Trappers Lake, Colorado. Trappers Lake was an ancient Ute Native sacred site at the head of a watershed. Early unrestricted development had made its shores unsightly, and the limited water access made sewage pollution a problem as the number of visitors increased. Over a 30-year period, he studied, advocated for and developed detailed plans for the preservation and recreational

use of the lake. In 1983, a trail which bears his name was established on the site where his original plans have been implemented, largely unchanged.

Disillusioned, Carhart quit the Forest Service in 1923. As a writer, advocate and general curmudgeon working outside of government, he had few friends in official circles. But many not-for-profit advocacy groups enlisted him as their champion, and he responded generously from his personal ideals as well as developing and presenting ideas of viable alternatives to the *status quo* or official management plans. Often his writings were severely criticized, and his attempts to contact the directors of the Forest Service and the National Park Service or to work with both of them brought only animosity from internal bureaucratic kingdoms.

Due to his advocacy and refusal to compromise the zoning principles which he had developed over the years, his final battle was with the creation of the US Wilderness Act of 1964. Currently the definitive statement on land use and the provisions for recreation,

grazing, tree harvesting, and maintenance of wilderness “primitive” areas, this act was a political document directing wilderness areas to be identified and managed by both the Park Service and the Forest Service. Carhart finally stood by and refused to support the bill.

In his final battle, Carhart showed his stature as a wilderness architect and planner. He was always on the side of nature but included people in his view of how nature would unfold. The sites he identified and planned were for people to use, not simply to be left unvisited or unrestricted. Hunting and fishing were his passions, as were camping, growing flowers, and planting trees imported to beautify urban settings or to enhance natural forest regeneration. His home in Denver was a model of city planning and suburban fit to the landscape. His priorities for the wilderness were the same: use the existing conditions, alter the site minimally, and let all enjoy the effect.

JIM O’NEILL

26095 Taft Road, Novi, Michigan 48374 USA

## Of a Feather: A Brief History of American Birding

By S. Weidensaul. 2007. Harcourt Inc., 6277 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, Florida 32887 USA. 358 pages, 24 USD Cloth.

Author Scott Weidensaul belongs to the field glass fraternity: obsessed with seeing birds, he is one of these “nerds with a binocular and an anorak”. This book explains such birders to the lay person. It summarizes a great cultural phenomenon that has the potential to help us reach global sustainability. We currently experience nothing but the Golden Age of Birding. And imagine—birding is basically free and for everyone. This book covers in its 380 pages not only famous and tight-lipped “Ueberbirders” like R. T. Peterson but also the American history of birding (and its formative stages). Naming the book a “brief history” is somewhat of an understatement, though. This book is especially strong on the early history of ornithology (bird study). But ornithology is not birding, really, and it is here where the book blurs the lines somewhat and deviates from classic definitions.

The author does a good job showing that American birding and ornithology went through three phases: collecting (shotgun ornithology), maturing, and birding. The ongoing conflict in America between invasive ornithological collectors (Weidensaul states, for instance, that R. Beck personally collected some species to extinction) and non-invasive birders is well presented. This is demonstrated by C. B. Cory, a former president of the American Ornithologists’ Union (AOU) who amassed over 19 000 bird skins and who argued strongly against the “Audubonians”. As presented in this book, these organizations became some of the most prominent forces for birds in the US and thus shaped a new (global) bird and conservation culture that

helped to set the stage for benign bird studies that advance global sustainability.

Egg collection (leading to the discipline of oology) is another recurring theme in the history of (American) ornithology. The relevance and impact of this sometimes doubtful exercise become obvious when you realize that 30 000 eggs were collected by Arthur C. Bent alone (another former president of the AOU; the collection is now stored in the Smithsonian).

With America having “Birds more beautiful than in Europe” I liked the sections that showed the English influence on American ornithology and on birding. At least in its early days, the AOU (founded in 1883) followed the British Ornithologists’ Union (founded in 1858) almost blindly. Settlers in America named species as they were used to from Europe and thus created a “nomenclatural mess”. Traditional ornithological knowledge held by North American aboriginal people was virtually lost due to warfare and disease. Therefore, most North American bird accounts came from white (male) sources. The Spaniards left during their colonial rule virtually no bird accounts for Florida or the southwestern US. But the British—often land speculators—liked to present exotic birds to make the land more attractive. Famous representatives of this period are presented in this book: G. Percy (1606), F. Higginson (1629), and J. Lawson (1709). And Lewis’s Woodpecker and Clark’s Nutcracker remind us that M. Lewis and W. Clark started a flood of new bird discoveries from the western US, “almost all of them a result of military expeditions”. The S. Long