

shapes and marking patterns, and in the text he qualifies his ground rules for descriptions of color and the like. Egg dimensions are always in the metric system; for all other measurements, U.S. units are given with their metric equivalents.

This book is up-to-date, using the latest nomenclature adopted by the American Ornithologists' Union. You will not, however, find nesting information on Manx Shearwater (first U.S. breeding record, Massachusetts, 1973), for the author believes that its regular breeding status, as well as that of several other species, has not yet been established. Perhaps for the same reasons our Quabbin colony of Common Turkeys was also omitted.

The notes often contain information that might lead some birders to worthwhile projects. For example, the incubation periods are unknown or uncertain for Magnificent Frigatebird (first U.S. breeding record, Florida, 1969), Reddish Egret, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Limpkin, Yellow Rail, Black Rail, among others. Also, the entire nesting cycle of the Mangrove Cuckoo is little known, as is the number of broods raised annually by the White-crowned Pigeon. Why does the Red-cockaded Woodpecker drill supernumerary holes above and below its nesting cavity, and why is there little, if any, overlap in the breeding ranges of the Carolina Chickadee and the Black-capped, while the latter and the Boreal Chickadee overlap widely?

In all, A Field Guide to Birds' Nests is a good book, sometimes provocative, sometimes frustrating. It's on my shelf and it should be on yours, if your interest in birds goes deeper than a check mark on a field card.

Leif J. Robinson, Wellesley

WORD BIRDS -- A QUIZ

Arthur and Margaret Argue, Boston

What Bird?	Clue	Your Answers
1. Man's name	Too easy, no problem	1. Bobwhite
2. College man	Not so easy--college <u>not co-ed</u>	2.
3. Precursory to pet funeral	An oceanic bird	3.
4. Tribal matriarch	A duck	4.
5. To find a salamander	Shorebird	5.
6. Donkey game	A duck	6.
7. Shoot from ambush	Shorebird family	7.
8. Gravedigger	A duck	8.
9. Psychoanalyst	A Rocky Mountain bird	9.
10. An invoice for silverware	A Florida bird	10.
11. Omnipotent humor	Shorebird	11.
12. Royal tantrum	See Gruiformes	12.
13. Sailors know them	Shorebirds	13.
14. A widow's lament	See Caprimulgiformes	14.
15. Commode	See Caprimulgiformes (Europe)	15.
16. Crowned Prince	See Passeriformes	16.
17. Capon	See Passeriformes	17.
18. Hunter's ambition	Shorebird	18.
19. Decoy	A duck (??grammatically)	19.
20. A tousled crank	See Galliformes	20.
21. A grassland prank	See Passeriformes	21.
22. One can't	Central and South America	22.
23. Roving stool pigeon	Shorebird (West Coast)	23.
24. Brother	A finch	24.
25. Circus performers wear them	Shorebirds	25.
26. Girl's name	Easy, no problem	26.
27. Tribal bird	California	27.
28. Lame relative	Florida	28.
29. Block printing tool	Europe--Africa	29.
30. Soviet pre-school	A warbler; similar program in United States	30.
31. Venus's Fly-trap	A good bird for your list	31.
32. 16th Century collar	Shorebird	32.
33. Construction machine	You should get a lift out of this	33.



Plate by John Henry Dick from  
"A Field Guide to the Birds of India."  
(Actual plate is in full color.)

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