

The Systematic List includes scientific name, English name, and alternative (English) name(s). Status codes (e.g. vagrant) are included where necessary, and an asterisk signifies that an explanation about the (English) name is given. A more pertinent use for the asterisk would have been to signify comments in the Taxonomic Notes section, which is a welcome and well referenced addition to the checklist. A symbol denoting treatment in the Notes on Distributional Status section also would have been useful. A short section of Omitted Species is included, along with the reasons for exclusion from the checklist. Most often dubious records or misidentified specimens were the reason for exclusion, and references to the original sight records or correct identification is included.

Beaman devotes a full 40 pages to English names, above the amount of space given to English names in the Systematic List. I personally find this extensive treatment of English names superfluous and distract-

ing. Knowing the English name, or its alternatives, and the relevant history in most cases will not be of use in the field; whereas, the scientific names contained in the Systematic List and Taxonomic Notes section would allow you to communicate with ornithologists speaking any language. Because the checklist would be of value to nonornithologists and to ornithologists dealing with laypersons in a non-English speaking country as well, I think a more complete work would have eliminated the alternative English names column and included several columns with common names from languages that cover large areas of the checklist (perhaps Russian and Arabic).

My few criticisms aside, I find this to be a useful volume that should be considered for college and museum libraries, or to anyone working closely with Palearctic birds.—GARY VOELKER, *Burke Museum, Box 353010, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195, USA.*

Announcement



New Editor Selected.—Thomas E. Martin has been selected as the new Editor of the *Auk*. All new manuscripts should be sent to: Editorial Office, *The Auk*, Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, NS 205, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana 59812,

USA. Submit five hard copies of the manuscript and include an ASCII version and a wordprocessor version (preferably Word or WordPerfect; identify the software and the type of computer used) on floppy disk (3.5-inch disk preferable).