

**The meat of this scientific investigation rests not just on names but more centrally on values...family values...and the real issue before us is what sort of family lives these birds maintain.**

**T**HE PROBLEM with all the ranting this summer about family values is that no one has injected any ornithological science into the debate. So I turned on my computer and started to ask some questions.

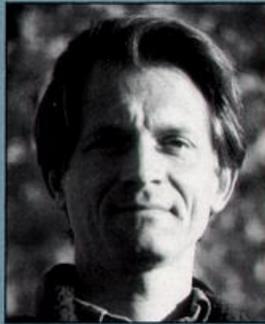
To get the lay of the land, it seemed a reasonable place to begin was to find out about likely political biases in the bird body politic. And readers... this is hot. There is not one bird named for Clinton. There is not one bird named for Gore. Nor even one for Perot. But of the 9,000-odd species of bird in the world, fully 106 are named for Bush and another 78 are named for Quail. Look it up!

Maybe that's why Clinton keeps saying "People first." No wonder the National Science Foundation's ornithology budget is so lush. It strikes awe in my heart to know how prescient were Linneaus, Wilson, Vieillot and other ornithological name barons in past centuries, to anticipate their efforts would converge upon the 1992 election with such devastating unanimity.

And the names! The attached tables give you an inkling of what powerful spin-doctors these taxonomists really were. Not just the Smoky Bush-Tyrant, not just the Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant, but a whole genus of Bush-Tyrants, *Myiotheretes*, inhabiting the humid forests and open country of Andean South America. [Would that they could talk to us about the President's war on drugs!

J. P. Myers

## **FACTS, INFERENCES AND SHAMELESS SPECULATIONS**



## **Bird Family Values**

Alas, the Smoky Bush-Tyrants vocalizations are described by Fjeldsa and Krabbe as but a monotonous "pew-pew-pew" sung at dawn.]

Then there is the Japanese Bush-Warbler (how life imitates nature...), the Rufous-breasted Bush-Robin, and the Singing Bush-lark...the Stub-tailed Bush-Warbler...the Many-colored Bush-Shrike. Natural history observations do not yet tell us whether this last species, *Telephorus multicolor*, switches its colors depending upon what it has to do to get a mate—or indeed, dear readers, how many mates it has...more on this below.

The names are so rich with political hot-buttons it's a wonder that Nancy Reagan used an astrologer at all. She needed a taxonomist! Who else foretold so clearly the tone of the 1992 campaign than the scientist who named *Perdic-*

*ula asiatica* the Jungle Bush-Quail, or put life in perspective with *Turnix sylvatica*, the Little Button-Quail and *Geotrygon caniceps*, the Gray-headed Quail-Dove?

But the meat of this scientific investigation rests not just on names but more centrally on values...family values...and the real issue before us is what sort of family lives these birds maintain.

A few examples. All the well-studied North American quail species are monogamous. The males do most of the post-hatching parental care. Bushtits breed as pairs, probably monogamous, although they live in

flocks year-round and sometimes up to three birds can be found around nests with super-normal clutch sizes. Some evidence indicates that the Common Quail indulges in bigamy or successive polygamy (eerily, the display call of the male Common Quail has been described phonetically as "wet my lips." I'm not making this up! See Uby, Fry and Keith 1986 *The Birds of Africa*, Volume II, page 15).

The African Harlequin-Quail fits the general trend a little less comfortably: it forms temporary pair bonds for mating and the female then incubates alone. Sometimes two females have even been known to lay in the same nest. Will TV imitate nature? Will Murphy Brown begin to share her apartment with *another single mother*???

And then there is the Little Button-Quail, *Turnix sylvatica*. This species is going to need some spin control. It's got a polyandry problem, but proba-

## Will Murphy Brown begin to share her apartment with *another single mother*???

bly nothing a competent campaign can't handle—there are useful contradictions in the evidence. In one recent study captive females laid clutches for two to three males. Another study reports, however, that females use an advertising call to attract males. When one appears she then chases the male around attempting to fight, and then they pair. Another wrinkle that may need attention is that males nest up to seven times a year. That may not leave much time for politics or fulfilling the public's trust.

I went into this investigation with some trepidation. It wasn't so long

# Bush Birds

<b>Jungle Bush-Quail</b> <i>Perdica asiatica</i>	<b>Sidamo Bushlark</b> <i>Heteromirafra sidamoensis</i>	<b>Tchagra Bush-Shrike</b> <i>Tchagra tchagra</i>
<b>Rock Bush-Quail</b> <i>Perdica argoondah</i>	<b>Rufous Bush-Robin</b> <i>Erythropygia galactotes</i>	<b>Brown-headed Bush-Shrike</b> <i>Tchagra australis</i>
<b>Painted Bush-Quail</b> <i>Perdica erythrorhyncha</i>	<b>White-starred Bush-Robin</b> <i>Pogonocichla stellata</i>	<b>Three-streaked Bush-Shrike</b> <i>Tchagra jamesi</i>
<b>Manipur Bush-Quail</b> <i>Perdica manipurensis</i>	<b>Golden Bush-Robin</b> <i>Erithacus chrysaeus</i>	<b>Rosy-patched Bush-Shrike</b> <i>Tchagra cruenta</i>
<b>Bush-Hen</b> <i>Amaurornis olivacea</i>	<b>White-browed Bush-Robin</b> <i>Erithacus indicus</i>	<b>Red-naped Bush-Shrike</b> <i>Laniarius ruficeps</i>
<b>Bushcurlew</b> <i>Burhinus magnirostris</i>	<b>Rufous-breasted Bush-Robin</b> <i>Erithacus hyperythrus</i>	<b>Luhder's Bush-Shrike</b> <i>Laniarius luhderi</i>
<b>Bushy-crested Hornbill</b> <i>Anorrhinus galerius</i>	<b>Collared Bush-Robin</b> <i>Erithacus johnstoniae</i>	<b>Gray-green Bush-Shrike</b> <i>Telophorus bocagei</i>
<b>Lark-like Bushrunner</b> <i>Coryphistera alaudina</i>	<b>Stoliczka's Bushchat</b> <i>Saxicola macrorhyncha</i>	<b>Sulphur-breasted Bush-Shrike</b> <i>Telophorus sulfurepectus</i>
<b>Black Bushbird</b> <i>Neotantes niger</i>	<b>Hodgson's Bushchat</b> <i>Saxicola insignis</i>	<b>Olive Bush-Shrike</b> <i>Telophorus olivaceus</i>
<b>Recurve-billed Bushbird</b> <i>Clyctactes alixii</i>	<b>White-tailed Bushchat</b> <i>Saxicola leucura</i>	<b>Black-fronted Bush-Shrike</b> <i>Telophorus nigrifrons</i>
<b>Rufous-webbed Bush-Tyrant</b> <i>Polioptilnis rufipennis</i>	<b>Pied Bushchat</b> <i>Saxicola caprata</i>	<b>Many-colored Bush-Shrike</b> <i>Telophorus multicolor</i>
<b>Streak-throated Bush-Tyrant</b> <i>Myiotheretes striatocollis</i>	<b>Jerdon's Bushchat</b> <i>Saxicola jerdoni</i>	<b>Kupe Bush-Shrike</b> <i>Telophorus kupeensis</i>
<b>Santa Marta Bush-Tyrant</b> <i>Myiotheretes pernix</i>	<b>Gray Bushchat</b> <i>Saxicola ferrea</i>	<b>Perrin's Bush-Shrike</b> <i>Telophorus viridis</i>
<b>Smoky Bush-Tyrant</b> <i>Myiotheretes fumigatus</i>	<b>Timor Bushchat</b> <i>Saxicola gusturalis</i>	<b>Four-colored Bush-Shrike</b> <i>Telophorus quadricolor</i>
<b>Rufous-bellied Bush-Tyrant</b> <i>Myiotheretes fusciorufus</i>	<b>Timor Bush-Warbler</b> <i>Cettia subulata</i>	<b>Doherty's Bush-Shrike</b> <i>Telophorus doherityi</i>
<b>Jeloid's Bush-Tyrant</b> <i>Myiotheretes signatus</i>	<b>Short-tailed Bush-Warbler</b> <i>Urosphena whiteheadi</i>	<b>Lagden's Bush-Shrike</b> <i>Malaconotus lagdeni</i>
<b>Red-rumped Bush-Tyrant</b> <i>Cnemarchus erythropygus</i>	<b>Stub-tailed Bush-Warbler</b> <i>Cettia squameiceps</i>	<b>Cameroon Mountain Bush-Shrike</b> <i>Malaconotus gladiator</i>
<b>Bush Wren</b> <i>Xenicus longipes</i>	<b>Pale-footed Bush-Warbler</b> <i>Cettia pallidipes</i>	<b>Gray-headed Bush-Shrike</b> <i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>
<b>Singing Bushlark</b> <i>Mirafra javanica</i>	<b>Japanese Bush-Warbler</b> <i>Cettia diphone</i>	<b>Uluguru Bush-Shrike</b> <i>Malaconotus alius</i>
<b>Madagascar Bushlark</b> <i>Mirafra hova</i>	<b>Brownish-flanked Bush-Warbler</b> <i>Cettia fortipes</i>	<b>Bushy-crested Jay</b> <i>Cyanocorax melanocyanea</i>
<b>Kordofan Bushlark</b> <i>Mirafra cordofanica</i>	<b>Large Bush-Warbler</b> <i>Cettia major</i>	<b>Stresemann's Bush Crow</b> <i>Zavattariornis stresemanni</i>
<b>William's Bushlark</b> <i>Mirafra williamsi</i>	<b>Aberrant Bush-Warbler</b> <i>Cettia flavolivacea</i>	<b>Bush Petronia</b> <i>Petronia dentata</i>
<b>Latakoo Bushlark</b> <i>Mirafra cheniana</i>	<b>Yellow-bellied Bush-Warbler</b> <i>Cettia acanthizoides</i>	<b>Common Bush-Tanager</b> <i>Chlorospingus ophthalmicus</i>
<b>White-tailed Bushlark</b> <i>Mirafra albicauda</i>	<b>Gray-sided Bush-Warbler</b> <i>Cettia brunnifrons</i>	<b>Tacarcuna Bush-Tanager</b> <i>Chlorospingus tacarcunae</i>
<b>Monotonous Bushlark</b> <i>Mirafra passerina</i>	<b>Victorian's Bush-Warbler</b> <i>Bradypterus victorini</i>	<b>Pirre Bush-Tanager</b> <i>Chlorospingus inornatus</i>
<b>Rufous Bushlark</b> <i>Mirafra candida</i>	<b>Spotted Bush-Warbler</b> <i>Bradypterus thoracicus</i>	<b>Dotted Bush-Tanager</b> <i>Chlorospingus punctulatus</i>
<b>Friedman's Bushlark</b> <i>Mirafra pulpa</i>	<b>Large-billed Bush-Warbler</b> <i>Bradypterus major</i>	<b>Dusky Bush-Tanager</b> <i>Chlorospingus semifuscus</i>
<b>Red-winged Bushlark</b> <i>Mirafra hypermeira</i>	<b>Chinese Bush-Warbler</b> <i>Bradypterus tacsanowskii</i>	<b>Volcano Bush-Tanager</b> <i>Chlorospingus zeledoni</i> = pileatus
<b>Rufous-naped Bushlark</b> <i>Mirafra africana</i>	<b>Brown Bush-Warbler</b> <i>Bradypterus luteoventris</i>	<b>Sooty-capped Bush-Tanager</b> <i>Chlorospingus pileatus</i>
<b>Fawn-colored Bushlark</b> <i>Mirafra africanoides</i>	<b>Russet Bush-Warbler</b> <i>Bradypterus seaboehmi</i>	<b>Yellow-whiskered Bush-Tanager</b> <i>Chlorospingus parvirostris</i>
<b>Rufous-winged Bushlark</b> <i>Mirafra assamica</i>	<b>Neumann's Bush-Warbler</b> <i>Hemitesia neumanni</i>	<b>Yellow-throated Bush-Tanager</b> <i>Chlorospingus flavigularis</i>
<b>Rusty Bushlark</b> <i>Mirafra rufa</i>	<b>Bush Blackcap</b> <i>Lioptilus nigricapillus</i>	<b>Yellow-green Bush-Tanager</b> <i>Chlorospingus flavovirens</i>
<b>Red-winged Bushlark</b> <i>Mirafra erythroptera</i>	<b>Bush Tit</b> <i>Psaltiriparus minimus</i>	<b>Ashy-throated Bush-Tanager</b> <i>Chlorospingus canigularis</i>
<b>Dusky Bushlark</b> <i>Mirafra nigricans</i>	<b>Blackcap Bush-Shrike</b> <i>Tchagra minuta</i>	<b>Gray-headed Bush-Tanager</b> <i>Cnemoscopus rubrirostris</i>
<b>Singing Bushlark</b> <i>Mirafra cantillans</i>	<b>Black-headed Bush-Shrike</b> <i>Tchagra senegala</i>	<b>Black-backed Bush-Tanager</b> <i>Urothraupis stolomanni</i>

# Quail Birds

<b>Mountain Quail</b> <i>Oreortyx pictus</i>	<b>Snow Mountain Quail</b> <i>Anurophasis monorthonyx</i>	<b>Red-chested Quail</b> <i>Turnix pyrrhonorax</i>
<b>Scaled Quail</b> <i>Callipepla squamata</i>	<b>European Quail</b> <i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	<b>Little Quail</b> <i>Turnix velox</i>
<b>California Quail</b> <i>Callipepla californica</i>	<b>Japanese Quail</b> <i>Coturnix japonica</i>	<b>Quail Plover</b> <i>Oryzelos meiffrenii</i>
<b>Gambel's Quail</b> <i>Callipepla gambelii</i>	<b>Black-breasted Quail</b> <i>Coturnix coromandelica</i>	<b>Purplish-backed Quail-Dove</b> <i>Geotrygon laurencii</i>
<b>Elegant Quail</b> <i>Callipepla douglasii</i>	<b>African Harlequin-Quail</b> <i>Coturnix delegorguei</i>	<b>Buff-fronted Quail-Dove</b> <i>Geotrygon costaricensis</i>
<b>Reichenow's Quail</b> <i>Lophortyx leucoprostopon</i>	<b>Stubble Quail</b> <i>Coturnix pectoralis</i>	<b>Russet-crowned Quail-Dove</b> <i>Geotrygon goldmani</i>
<b>Banded Quail</b> <i>Philortyx fasciatus</i>	<b>New Zealand Quail</b> <i>Coturnix novaezelandiae</i>	<b>Sapphire Quail-Dove</b> <i>Geotrygon saphirina</i>
<b>Marbled Wood-Quail</b> <i>Odontophorus gujanensis</i>	<b>Brown Quail</b> <i>Synoicus ypsilophorus</i>	<b>Gray-headed Quail-Dove</b> <i>Geotrygon caniceps</i>
<b>Spot-winged Wood-Quail</b> <i>Odontophorus capueira</i>	<b>Blue Quail</b> <i>Excalfactoria adansonii</i>	<b>Crested Quail-Dove</b> <i>Geotrygon versicolor</i>
<b>Rufous-fronted Wood-Quail</b> <i>Odontophorus erythropus</i>	<b>King Quail</b> <i>Excalfactoria chinensis</i>	<b>Olive-backed Quail-Dove</b> <i>Geotrygon veraguensis</i>
<b>Black-fronted Wood-Quail</b> <i>Odontophorus atrifrons</i>	<b>Jungle Bush-Quail</b> <i>Perdicula asiatica</i>	<b>Lined Quail-Dove</b> <i>Geotrygon linearis</i>
<b>Dark-backed Wood-Quail</b> <i>Odontophorus melanotus</i>	<b>Rock Bush-Quail</b> <i>Perdicula argoondah</i>	<b>White-throated Quail-Dove</b> <i>Geotrygon frenata</i>
<b>Chestnut Wood-Quail</b> <i>Odontophorus hyperythrus</i>	<b>Painted Bush-Quail</b> <i>Perdicula erythrorhyncha</i>	<b>Key West Quail-Dove</b> <i>Geotrygon chrysis</i>
<b>Rufous-breasted Wood-Quail</b> <i>Odontophorus speciosus</i>	<b>Manipur Bush-Quail</b> <i>Perdicula manipurensis</i>	<b>Bridled Quail-Dove</b> <i>Geotrygon mystacea</i>
<b>Gorgeted Wood-Quail</b> <i>Odontophorus strophium</i>	<b>Indian Mountain Quail</b> <i>Ophrysia superciliosa</i>	<b>Violaceous Quail-Dove</b> <i>Geotrygon violacea</i>
<b>Tacarcuna Wood-Quail</b> <i>Odontophorus dileucos</i>	<b>Little Button-Quail</b> <i>Turnix sylvatica</i>	<b>Ruddy Quail-Dove</b> <i>Geotrygon montana</i>
<b>Venezuelan Wood-Quail</b> <i>Odontophorus columbianus</i>	<b>Philippine Button-Quail</b> <i>Turnix worcesteri</i>	<b>White-faced Quail-Dove</b> <i>Geotrygon albisfacies</i>
<b>Black-breasted Wood-Quail</b> <i>Odontophorus leucolaemus</i>	<b>Black-rumped Button-Quail</b> <i>Turnix nana</i>	<b>Chiriqui Quail-Dove</b> <i>Geotrygon chiriquensis</i>
<b>Stripe-faced Wood-Quail</b> <i>Odontophorus balliviani</i>	<b>Hottentot Button-Quail</b> <i>Turnix hottentotta</i>	<b>Blue-headed Quail-Dove</b> <i>Sarmonas cyanocephala</i>
<b>Starred Wood-Quail</b> <i>Odontophorus stellatus</i>	<b>Yellow-legged Button-Quail</b> <i>Turnix tanki</i>	<b>Celebes Quail-Dove</b> <i>Gallinolumba tristigmata</i>
<b>Spotted Wood-Quail</b> <i>Odontophorus guttatus</i>	<b>Barred Button-Quail</b> <i>Turnix susciator</i>	<b>Spotted Quail-Thrush</b> <i>Cinlosoma punctatum</i>
<b>Singing Quail</b> <i>Dactylortyx thoracicus</i>	<b>Madagascar Button-Quail</b> <i>Turnix nigricollis</i>	<b>Chestnut Quail-Thrush</b> <i>Cinlosoma castanotum</i>
<b>Montezuma Quail</b> <i>Cyrtonyx montezumae</i>	<b>Spotted Button-Quail</b> <i>Turnix ocellata</i>	<b>Cinnamon Quail-Thrush</b> <i>Cinlosoma cinnamomeum</i>
<b>Salle's Quail</b> <i>Cyrtonyx salli</i>	<b>Black-breasted Quail</b> <i>Turnix melanogaster</i>	<b>Mullarbor Quail-Thrush</b> <i>Cinlosoma alisteri</i>
<b>Ocellated Quail</b> <i>Cyrtonyx ocellatus</i>	<b>Painted Button-Quail</b> <i>Turnix varia</i>	<b>Common Quail-Finch</b> <i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>
<b>Tawny-faced Quail</b> <i>Rhynchortyx cinctus</i>	<b>Chestnut-backed Quail</b> <i>Turnix castanota</i>	<b>Black-chinned Quail-Finch</b> <i>Ortygospiza gabonensis</i>



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ago that the ornithological world was riveted by studies of seemingly monogamous species engaged in wholesale philandering...by widespread variability in how birds organize their social lives...by reports of group living, communal egg-sucking, display rituals involving multiple partners, and unrepentant social parasites. What if? What if the Bush's and the Quails had similar, um, orientations? This could

be worse than Iran-Contra!

But the answer is: worry not. With few exceptions and some additional, unsubstantiated rumors fanned by the ornithologically-inclined tabloids, no smoking guns leapt out of the (perhaps blessedly) scant literature available on these species. At best, these Bush's and Quails are mostly mainstream. At worst, ignorance has saved us and intolerance once again. ➤