

and their habitats range across state and national boundaries, and this book will aid greatly in that realization. The black-and-white range maps allow one to see quickly where and when the species occurs and how common it is, whereas the text offers specific suggestions about where to look for the birds. One can then find directions to suggested sites in Appendix 2. It is gratifying to see a variety of locations throughout the regions described, even those not normally listed on prime birding itineraries. Areas such as the valleys of the lower Colorado River and the Pecos River and the Colorado Plateau (to name a few) are ecologically significant and fragile and add greatly to the avian diversity of the region.

Sections on habits, voice, and similar species are useful, although presumably nearly all readers would also have several standard field guides at their disposal as well. The author does not intend his book to supplant state birding guides, and the latter would be useful for phone numbers, hours of operation, cost, local birding hotline numbers, directions to adjacent birding areas, etc. Such detailed information would be particularly useful for birders with a specific target list and a limited amount of time.

A minor complaint is that the ecologically important southeastern corner of Arizona and southwestern corner of New Mexico were left off the map (even though covered in the text). In addition, it is somewhat difficult to browse the site listings because they are not grouped regionally within states. A map showing their locations would have been useful.

The real strength of this book lies in its description and evocation of the tremendous variety of birds and habitats in the montane forests and woodlands, grasslands, deserts, chaparral, rivers, and coastlines of the southwestern United States. This book should encourage exploration of the Southwest, and may entice nonbirders to do some birding. Birders living in or near the Southwest or planning trips there will likely want this book, and it is also recommended for public and college libraries, especially those in the region.—TIMOTHY BRUSH, *Department of Biology, University of Texas-Pan American, 1201 West University Drive, Edinburg, Texas 78539, USA. E-mail: tbrush@panam.edu.*

& h.—This 5th edition is a major revision of the 4th edition (reviewed in *Auk*, 109:403–404). Along with the expected newly described or taxonomically revised species, the basic classification has been changed from previous editions to mirror that of the *Handbook of the Birds of the World* series (Lynx Editions, Barcelona, 1992 ff.), sponsored by BirdLife International. *Handbook of the Birds of the World's* base sequence is essentially that of Morony, Bock, and Farrand (*Reference List of the Birds of the World*, 1975, American Museum of Natural History). In *Handbook of the Birds of the World*, Morony, Bock, and Farrand has been modified to reflect widely accepted newer treatments of avian relationships and more liberal species limits while still basically adhering to the Biological Species Concept. Although no exact number is given, *Birds of the World* is said to list ~9,800 species. It is designated as the “official world checklist” of the American Birding Association.

Added to this edition of *Birds of the World* are subspecies (scientific names and approximate ranges) of polytypic species; a list of extinct species; a gazetteer; lists of countries sorted by number of recorded species and (separately) by number of endemic species in each; and an English-name index. English names generally follow American orthographic conventions and are largely based on *Handbook of the Birds of the World*, when possible, or other widely used references which mostly are listed in the bibliography. The main list has been spread out considerably, so that the volume now is particularly attractive and easy to use. Outright lapses seem relatively few but can readily be found, for example, interchanged ranges for the two subspecies of *Aechmophorus clarkii*, and locations missing from the gazetteer for the stated range of *Calyptophilus f. frugivorus*. *Birds of the World* weighs over 2 kg and is approximately the same size and bulk as *Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World* by Sibley and Monroe (Yale University Press, 1990). Unlike Sibley and Monroe, however, it contains virtually no explanatory text and seems primarily intended to serve as a standardized tick-list for globe-trotting birders.

Any undertaking of this nature is an effort to compile and present detailed ornithological (primarily avifaunal) information to a largely nonprofessional audience. These are contentious times in avian taxonomy and nomenclature. By selecting the lavishly descriptive, intellectually robust, and widely acclaimed *Handbook of the Birds of the World* as a flagship, users potentially are offered their best contemporary opportunity to view the world's birdlife in a simplified manner but through professional eyes. There are problems, however. One of the foremost results from the fact that only about a third of the world's bird species, through the Apodiformes in *Handbook of the Birds of the World's* sequence, had been covered when this edition of *Birds of the World* was published. For the remaining two-thirds, this edition

The Auk 118(4):1114–1115, 2001

Birds of the World: A Checklist (5th edition).—James F. Clements. 2000. Ibis Publishing Co., 3420 Freda's Hill Road, Vista, California 92084-7466. xx + 867 pp. ISBN 0-934797-16-1. Cloth, \$39.95 + \$8.00 s

is based largely on the increasingly outdated Peters' *Check-list of Birds of the World* series (Harvard University Press, 1931, ff.), and popular modern family monographs or handbooks where available, sequenced at the family level and above by an "in litt." from *Handbook of the Birds of the World's* editors. This higher-level sequencing convention results in some strange and eye-catching placements, such as the kinglets between bulbuls and leafbirds, or the vireos between whydahs and fringillids. Because it has for some well-documented situations in the volumes already published, the Morony, Bock, and Farrand sequence is likely to be updated by the *Handbook of the Birds of the World* team as future volumes are prepared, based upon then-current, widely accepted criteria. Meanwhile, it would have seemed wiser for *Birds of the World* to follow some published hypothesis of relationships, such as that used by Morony, Bock, and Farrand.

Another disappointment for me is the general absence of citations for virtually all deviations from the underlying reference work(s) for each family. For example, *Puffinus atrodorsalis* (Shirihai, Sinclair and Colston, *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 115:75–87) is added to *Birds of the World* without reference or explanation. *Ninox ios* (Rasmussen, 1999, *Wilson Bulletin* 111:457–464) also is added to *Birds of the World* with a reference in the bibliography. *Sula granti* (Pitman and Jehl, *Wilson Bulletin* 110:155–170), on the other hand, is omitted from *Birds of the World* even though it was described a year earlier in the same journal as *N. ios*. What are the criteria for inclusion or exclusion of newly described species? Similar unevenness applies to taxonomic revisions, subspecies, detailed sequence, and choices of names. The Scaly-breasted Thrasher (*Margarops fuscus*) is treated as a monotypic species in the genus *Allenia* in volume 9 of *Check-list of Birds of the World*, the only reference mentioned for the Mimidae, but is considered polytypic in the genus *Margarops* in *Birds of the World*. Why? The usefulness of *Birds of the World* would have been greatly enhanced if all changes, inclusions, exclusions, rearrangements, and renaming at either the scientific or English-name level for all deviations from the given references were documented, even if the citation or footnote were simply "author's opinion/preference."

The relationship between *Birds of the World* and *The American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds* (American Ornithologists' Union, 7th ed., 1998) also is less well documented than I would wish. Although AOU's *Checklist* is hardly sacrosanct, it has served the ornithological and birding communities well as the foundation of North American regional taxonomy and nomenclature for more than a century. Explanations of deviations from it would avoid confusing an American audience, particularly those members not fully conversant with all the literature. Examples of unfamiliar treatments can read-

ily be found, such as the sequence and species limits within the genera *Glaucidium* and to a lesser extent *Otus*.

American birders, who probably are the primary intended audience, mostly should be pleased with the appearance and basic simplicity of *Birds of the World*. Those with a more scholarly interest in avian speciation and relationships, however, may prefer to wait. When *Handbook of the Birds of the World* is completed and back-updated, *Birds of the World* hopefully would be revised, either to conform with *Handbook of the Birds of the World*, or giving references to relevant literature for all changes. Only then would it provide the chain of evidence distinguishing science from revelation. In the meantime, for anyone who can work with its simplicity, *Birds of the World* is not only useful, but also very much a bargain.—P. WILLIAM SMITH, P.O. Box 1992, Ocean Shores, Washington 98569, USA. E-mail: birdsmiths@hotmail.com.

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The Status of Marine Birds Breeding in the Barents Sea Region.—Tycho Anker-Nilssen, Vidar Bakken, Hallvard Strøm, Alexander N. Golovkin, Vitali V. Bianki, and Ivetta P. Tatarinkova, Eds. 2000. Rapportserie nr. 113, Norsk Polarinstitut, Tromsø, Norway. 213 pp., b/w drawings by Eugeny A. Koblik, numerous maps and figures. ISBN 82-7666-176-9. Cloth. 375 Norwegian Kroner (~\$40). Can be ordered from Norsk Polarinstitut, Polarmiljøseneteret, NO-9296, Tromsø, Norway or by e-mail at sales@npolar.no—The Barents Sea is one of the most important areas for marine birds in the world, both in terms of diversity and abundance. Over 7 million pairs of marine birds of some 40 species breed there, and many of those stay to feed during the nonbreeding season. The region has suffered many environmental insults in the past, and the future holds the distinct possibility of offshore oil and gas development, and increased ship traffic if the Northern Sea Route across Arctic Europe opens up. Thus, there is much to warrant an account of this European Arctic hotspot. Thankfully, marine bird specialists from Norway and Russia have obliged. After extensive collaboration over the past 10 years, they have produced this marvelous book on the status of marine birds in the Barents Sea region, which covers the Barents Sea proper, the Norwegian Sea north of the Arctic Circle, portions of the Greenland Sea and Arctic Ocean west and north of Svalbard and Franz Josef Land, and the entire White Sea.