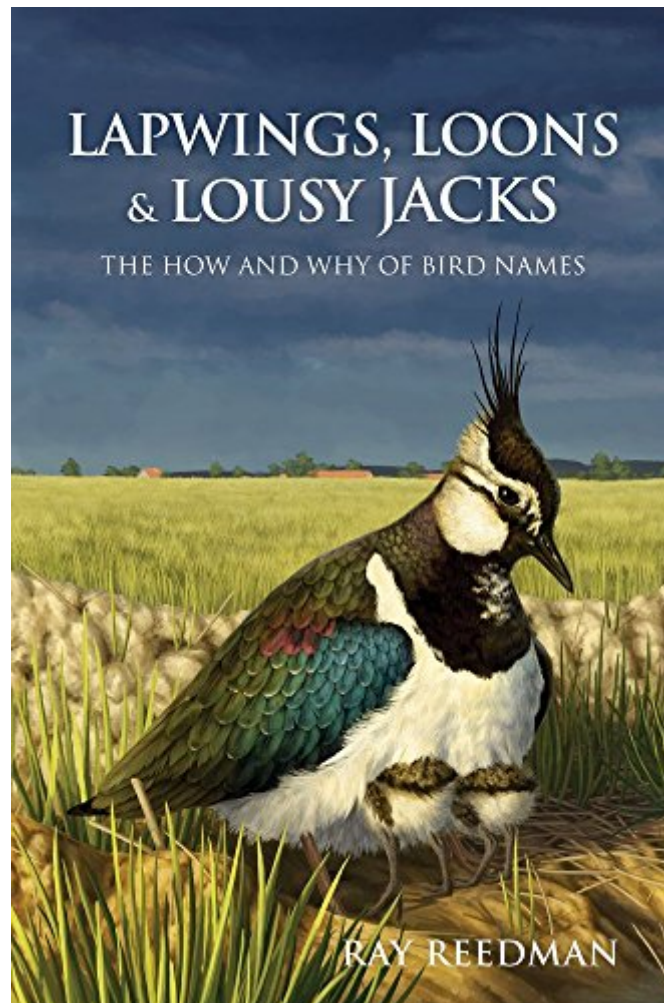


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Lapwings, Loons And Lousy Jacks: The How And Why Of Bird Names



Synopsis

The Lapwing once had many regional names; the Loon has a British-American identity crisis and the respectable-sounding Apostlebird is often called a Lousy Jack. Why do bird names, both common and scientific, change over time and why do they vary so much between different parts of the English-speaking world? Wandering through the scientific and cultural history of ornithology takes us to the heart of understanding the long relationship between birds and people. Lapwings, Loons and Lousy Jacks uncovers the stories behind the incredible diversity of bird names, explains what many scientific names actually mean and takes a look at the history of the system by which we name birds. Ray Reedman explores the natural history and folklore behind bird names, in doing so unlocking the mystery of the name Scoter, the last unexplained common name of a British bird species.

Book Information

File Size: 36685 KB

Print Length: 521 pages

Publisher: Pelagic Publishing (August 15, 2016)

Publication Date: August 15, 2016

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01IS7S5B2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #661,886 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #45

inÂ Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Taxonomic Classification #615814 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks

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