

## **BIRD NOTES by Rick Pyeritz**

This contest is a challenge to correctly name all the endemic bird species which occur in the continental United States. The first question that may spring to mind, in relation to the contest, is what is meant by the term endemic? The definition I will use was one supplied by Ernst Mayr, a famous evolutionary biologist and ornithologist, in 1946:

**ENDEMIC:** *In ornithological usage, a bird that is restricted to a given region;  
Not found elsewhere.*

The term endemic is usually used when talking about birds found only in a particular country. A little extra effort is usually given by birders to find an endemic species, since one may visit that country only once. I still regret not trying harder to see the Black-hooded Sunbeam in Bolivia or the Woodpecker Finch in the Galapagos. For this contest, we will be concerned with birds found only in the continental United States. This excludes Hawaii, but includes Alaska. To be called an endemic species of the 49 states, birds must not travel to the tropics for the winter season or journey to the boreal forests of Canada to breed in the spring. They must spend their entire lives in the geographic area as defined above.

The list of endemics was reviewed by Simon Thompson and me. A few hints: two of the species are “double endemics”, meaning that they occur not only in the continental United States, but also in only one state. Another bird is a subspecies endemic.

The entries will be reviewed and a winner decided. Just in case there is more than one correct submission, please include the answer to this tie-breaker question: *WHICH COUNTRY IN THE WORLD HAS THE MOST ENDEMIC SPECIES?* If there is more than one entry with all correct responses, the winner will be selected by random drawing.

The correct answers will be revealed in the November issue of the Raven's Nest.  
ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 19<sup>th</sup>. SEND YOUR LIST OF ENDEMIC SPECIES AND THE COUNTRY WITH THE MOST ENDEMIC SPECIES TO  
[epyeritz@gmail.com](mailto:epyeritz@gmail.com).