

“HOOTIE” PALINDROMES

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“Too hot to hoot,” one of the more familiar English-language palindromes, is also the preeminent member of a colorful family of related palindromes hereinafter referred to as *hooties*. (Perhaps *hooters* would have been the more natural name for this owl-linked clan, but that name now seems lost to commerce.) Thanks to the researches of O.V. Michaelsen (see Note 1), we know that the first appearance of “Too hot to hoot” in print was most likely in the “In Mystic Mood” column in *Farmer’s Wife* magazine’s issue for May 1911. This was a puzzle column written by Morton Lewis Mitchell, who, as was the custom among many puzzlers of his era, masked his identity, signing his column “Molemi.” In this untitled poem with which Mitchell introduced his palindrome, the reader is challenged to supply the missing letters. It’s probably not entirely by accident that Mitchell’s verse brings to mind the first few stanzas of Edgar Allan Poe’s poem “The Raven”; one can readily imagine Mitchell thinking of Poe’s raven and smiling as he wrote

’Twas a night succeeding days
Of Midsummer’s fiercest blaze;
Silent as a graveyard ghost
Sat an owl upon a post.
“Come,” said I, “O strigine fowl!
Why so silent? Speak, O owl!”
The owl gave just one glance at me;
“*oo *o* *o *oo*, to whoo!” said he.

What, exactly, constitutes a hootie? Good question. A hootie is hereby defined as any lexically acceptable palindromic passage in which the word “too” and the unbroken trigram “oot” occur in corresponding positions in opposite halves of the passage. Due to its venerability and popularity (see Note 2), “Too hot to hoot” is often assumed to be the progenitor of the hootie family, but it was not, in fact, the first hootie ever published, or even the second. The first was “Too fat a foot,” which appeared in G.R. Clarke’s 1887 book *Palindromes*, and the second was “Too far afoot” (another palindrome attributed to Molemi), which, again according to Michaelsen, was first seen in print in the March 1, 1906 edition of *Inter-Ocean*.

This article surveys the eighteen genera known to the author of the family Hootidae with the object of identifying and displaying the more significant palindrome species in each genus. In what follows, each genus exhibit is divided into two sections: a section for previously published palindromes (if there are any), wherein the composers of the palindromes, when known, are identified, and a second section in which “new” palindromes—i.e., palindromes which were recently contrived by this writer—make their public debuts. Comprehensiveness is not claimed for the listings of previously-published hooties, as a number of potential hootie sources, such as the various Internet palindrome repositories, had to be left uncanvassed for this article.

In order to impose some limit upon the lexical latitude of this survey, its palindrome vocabulary is restricted to words listed in boldface type in *Webster’s Third New International Dictionary* or

in any Merriam-Webster collegiate dictionary, to their reasonable inflections, and to familiar or well-known proper names. Initialisms, abbreviations, acronyms and logograms are disallowed. Dialect words are acceptable, except as substitutes for common words, e.g., “fer” for “far,” “yer” for “your,” etc.; standard English *is* the standard here, where very common words are concerned.

One further detail of the listings needs explanation. By convention or just by force of habit, the word “too” is usually situated in the first half of a hootie, with its corresponding “-oot”-word thus appearing in its second half. There is no necessary reason for this, as the “too” is permitted to occur in either half. Shifting the “too” from the first to the second half does, however, alter the entire architecture of the palindrome. As it may be of interest to analytically-inclined readers to know whether a given hootie’s “too” is a lefty or a righty, whenever, in what follows, a hootie’s “too” occurs in its second half, it will be labeled with a “(2ND),” space permitting. If both a “too” and an “-oot”-word occur in *both* halves of a hootie, it will be labeled with a “(both).”

A HOOTIE FAMILY ALBUM

Each hootie genus is based on one particular “-oot”-word, after which it is named. The eighteen genera currently comprising the family Hootidae, to the best of our knowledge, are these: Afoot, Bandicoot, Boot, Bootlegger, Coot, Foot, Footsore, Galoot, Hoot, Kootenai / Kootenay, Loot, Moot, Root, Soot, Soothsaid, Toot, Underfoot and Zooty. Following is a selection of representative hootie members of each of these genera.

AFOOT

Previously published:

TOO FAR AFOOT. ~ *Molemi*, in *Inter-Ocean*, *March 1, 1906*

TOO FAR, EDNA, WE WANDER AFOOT. ~ *By either Leigh Mercer or Dmitri Borgmann. This palindrome was not among the 100 palindromes that Mercer contributed to Notes & Queries between 1946 and 1953, but it was among those that he passed along to Howard Bergerson in the 1960s, and it was also among those that Dmitri Borgmann gave to Martin Gardner for Gardner’s notes to Dover’s 1961 reissue of C.C. Bombaugh’s Oddities and Curiosities. Apparently, at some point in the 1950s or early 1960s Mercer and Borgmann shared their collections of palindromes.*

TOO FAR AWAY...A WAR AFOOT. ~ *Leigh Mercer, in Bergerson’s Palindromes and Anagrams, 1973.*

New:

TOO FAST ARE RATS AFOOT. / TOO FAST *ARE* WE RATS AFOOT! / TOO FAT: A BAT AFOOT.

TOO FAR IS WASSAMASSAW, SIR, AFOOT. / TOO *FAR*, AFTON? O, NO, *NOT* FAR, AFOOT.

AY, NOT TOO FAST — IT’S AFOOT, TONYA! / AY, NOT *TOO* FAST — FAT TAFT’S *AFOOT*, TONYA!

TOO FACILE! RON, SIR, IS NO “RELIC” AFOOT! / AS LI SAW, TOO FADED, AFOOT, WAS ILSA.

TOO FALLIBLE, MAC SAW, WAS “CAMEL BILL,” AFOOT. / A RAT AFOOT’S TOO FAST, ARA? (2ND)

****, IT’S TOO FAMILIAR, TAN OWEN — NEW ON A TRAIL, I’M AFOOT *STILL*, EH?

AY! NOT TOO FAR AWAY, A PAPA ASSAYER — FREYA’S — SAW A *PAPAYA* WAR AFOOT, TONYA!

BANDICOOT

The name “bandicoot” has been applied to two quite different kinds of mammal. More commonly, it refers to any of several related small rodent-like marsupials of Australia which are characterized by long snouts. The other “bandicoot” is a very large eutherian rat native to south and southeast Asia, now usually called a “bandicoot rat.” (Cf. Arthur Conan Doyle’s “giant rat of Sumatra.”)

New:

DID I, TOO, CID, NAB A BANDICOOT? I *DID!* / DID I BANDICOOTS TOO, CID, NAB? I DID! (2ND)
MAY A BANDICOOT, TOO, CID, NAB A YAM? / MAY A BANDICOOT RAT STAR TOO? CID, NAB A
RATS STAR *TOO*, CID! NABLUS, OMAHA, MOSUL — BANDICOOT RATS *STAR!* YAM!

BOOT

Previously published:

TOO BAD I HID A BOOT. ~ *Contributed by Leigh Mercer to the Notes & Queries issue of 30 August, 1952.*

New:

NO, 'TIS TOO BOT-GNAWN (A LOT ROT!) A FAT ORTOLAN, WANG, TO BOOT! SIT ON...
TOO BAD ILSA SLID A BOOT. / TOO BAD A HOBO HAD A BOOT. / TOO BAD EDA FADED A BOOT.
TOO BAD EVA WAVED A BOOT. / TOO BAD ELI, FED, DEFILED A BOOT / TOO BAD EMIL SLIMED
A BOOT. / TOO BAD, EH? SARA SHED A BOOT. / NO, TOO BAD EMMA JAMMED A BOOT *ON!*
TOO BAD EVA RAVED “A BOOT!” / TOO BASIC IS A BOOT. / TOO BASILAR, AL, IS A BOOT.
TOO BAD EDNA LANDED A BOOT. / TOO BAD, ED — I, “OVAL AL,” AVOIDED A BOOT!
TOO BOTTLE-FED A “CADE” WAS ALLEN, ELLA SAW EDA CADE FELT, TO BOOT.
NORA BOOTED A GENERAL — A RENEGADE, TOO, BARON! / TOO BAD! I, BRO, *FORBID* A BOOT!
SPAM! NO, TOO BASIC, IVY! LATIN ITALY, VIC, *IS* A BOOT — ON *MAPS!* / BO *BOOTS* US BOOBS?
— US *TOO*, BOB? (2ND)

BOOTLEGGER

New:

“REG, GEL TOO BASE LES, A BOOTLEGGER!” / “ROGER, GREG! GEL TOO BOOTLEGGER GREGOR!”
SAID “LIS, A BOOTLEGGER” AUTHOR EDIN SNIDER, “OH, TUAREG, GEL TOO BASIL DIAS!” (2ND)

COOT

Previously published:

“TOO COOL,” GINA NIXED DEX, “IN AN IGLOO, COOT!” ~ *J.P. in “Kickshaws,” Word Ways, Aug. 2012*

New:

TOO “CASINO–DRAWN–IN,” IN WAR, DON, IS A COOT? / ON IS A “COOTS–TOO” CASINO? (2ND)

“HE’S TOO CERISE–DOTTED A CADET TO DESIRE COOTS, EH?” (Question asked at West Point amid a siege of measles?)

TOO CAESAR–EIDETIC, ERDOGAN, A “GOD,” RECITED “I ERASE A *COOT!*”
(Recep Tayyip Erdogan, imperious president of Turkey)

A NEW ORDER CAN TOO CARE! VOTE GOD, LAW AND *EDNA*, WALDO! GET OVER A COOT —
NACRED ROWENA!

FOOT

Previously published:

TOO FAT A FOOT! ~ *G.R. Clarke*, *Palindromes*, 1887 / NEVER A FOOT TOO FAR, EVEN. ~ *Leigh Mercer*, in *N&Q*, 16 October, 1948

TOO FLAT! A FATAL FOOT. ~ *John Connett*, May 1996

New: O, NAY! *NOT* TOO FAT A FOOT, TONYA, NO! / NO, “STEEL–FOOT SID” IS TOO *FLEET*, SON.

NO, *STILL* IT’S TOO FLAT! A FATAL FOOT — *STILL* IT, SON! / TOO FALLEN, NELL, A FOOT?

“OGDEN! RAW SIR, I RECAP: TOO *FLAT* A FOOT’S TOO *FATAL!*” FOOT–PACER IRIS WARNED; “GO!”

WON’T I *TOO* FEEL FEAR, RAE? FLEE! *FOOT* IT, NOW! / WE FOOT–TONER AIDES, EDI, ARE *NOT*
“TOO FEW”! (2ND)

DEEPS–DOG, STIR A *FOOT* TOO FAR, IT’S “GODSPEED!” (2ND)

FOOTSORE

New: “EROS? TOO FOOTSORE!” / “NO HERO’S *TOO* FOOTSORE, HON.”

Eros, banished to Hades, reacts to being grumpily escorted beyond the river Styx by boatman Charon:

“NO, DORTY LUDDITE FOOL, DO *NOT* RAIL — I’M A FOOTSORE *DEITY!* RECROSSED, A HYBRID *ANIMAL* AM I, NADIR?” BY HADES’ SORCERY TIED, EROS, TOO FAMILIAR TO NOD, LOO–FETID, DULY TROD ON... (2ND)

(“Dorty” is a useful word employed by Scots to describe someone who is peevish or sulky.)

GALOOT

New: (Somewhat confusingly, “laggard” is both an adjective and a noun, both usages denoting dilatoriness.)

TOO LAGGARD AM I! I’M A *DRAG*, GALOOT! / NAT’S TOO “LAGER–AWARE,” GALOOT STAN?

“TOO LAGGARD,” OTTO NEEDLED IFNI–DENNED INFIDEL DEE, “*NOT* TO DRAG, GALOOT?”

SAL IS TOO “LAGGARD,” DELIVERYMEN?... EVIL LIV! ENEMY REVILED, DRAG GALOOT SILAS!

GALOOT, TOO, LAG. / “GALOOT” LAG, EH? SOMETIMES, SEMITE MOSHE, GALS *TOO* LAG!

LO! GNOMES, EBON ASGARD, DO *TOO* “LAGER UP” A “PURE” GALOOT — ODD “RAGS,” AN OBESE MONGOL!

HOOT

Previously published:

TOO HOT TO HOOT. ~ *Molemi (Morton Lewis Mitchell), in his column "In Mystic Mood" in Farmer's Wife, May 1911*

TOO "HOT-TONSILLED," NEW LWOW OWL WENDELL IS, *NOT* TO HOOT? ~ *J.P., in "Kickshaws," Word Ways, Aug. 2012*
(Lwow, once Lemburg, is now Lvov.)

New:

NO, 'TIS TOO HOT, TOT, TO HOOT! SIT ON... / TOO HOT, O BUBO, TO HOOT? ("Bubo" is a poetic name for an owl.)

TOO HOT A GASBAG GAB-SAGA TO HOOT? (The anagram "a gasbag: gab saga" is also a palindrome!)

TOO HOT, TONY RANA-CANARY, *NOT* TO HOOT? (The term "rana-canary" is meant as a kenning for a hoot owl residing on a rana's princely estate.)

"TOO HILLY, DINAH, AN IDYLL!" I HOOT. / "TOO HIP! A CANINE, MEN, IN A *CAP!*" I HOOT.

AY, NOT TOO HIP A ROTE NOTE-TONE TO RAP, I *HOOT*, TONYA. / TO HOOT, SIS, IS TOO HOT!

In ancient Egypt's underworld, the king of the owls huffily replies to a question put to him by the god Osiris:

"TO 'HOOT,' STIFF OSIRIS, *SIR*, IS OFF — IT'S TOO HOT!" (Little wonder Osiris was stiff; he'd recently been cut to pieces by Seth and reassembled by Isis.)

["...AND EDNA, *TOO!* HA!" EVA GALLED DELLA, CERNAN RECALLED; DELLA *GAVE* A HOOT. AND EDNA..."]

(A 61-letter palindromic window in running text recently discovered in S.O. Fausse's 1982 Harper book, *How Low the Moon*. Or so we're unreliably informed.)

KOOTENAI / KOOTENAY

Also "Kootenay / Kootenai." This dual-nationality river's name is spelled "Kootenai" where it loops into the U.S. and "Kootenay" where it begins and ends in Canada.

New:

A RAD ERA! DIANE TOO KOOTENAI DARED, ARA! / DI? DIANE *TOO* KOOTENAI "DID"?

YES, MA, RYANE *TOO* KNEW OWEN "KOOTENAY" RAMSEY!

(Ryane Clowe is a well-known professional hockey player.)

LOOT

Previously published:

TOO LONG, NO LOOT, ~ *Joachin and Maura Kuhn, in Rats Live on No Evil Star: the BackWords Puzzle Book, 1981*

TOO LOTH TO LOOT? ~ *Joachin and Maura Kuhn, in Rats Live on No Evil Star, etc., 1981*

New:

TOO LOTH TO “GO GOTH” — TO LOOT? / TOO LOTH, TOGAED (ILL IDEA!) GOTH, TO LOOT?

TOO “LOTTO–NEEDY,” DEE, *NOT* TO LOOT? / TOO LOTTO–NUTS, STU, *NOT* TO LOOT?

ARID, WE LOOT! TOO *LEWD*, IRA? (2ND) / TOO “LEWD,” IRA? FIE! IF ARID, WE *LOOT!*

MALE, WE’RE TOO LEWD A LOT, TONY, *NOT* TO!...LAD, WE *LOOT* ERE WE LAM!

TOO LIMITING IS ED’S “SENSUOUSNESS” DESIGN! I, TIM, I *LOOT!* / NO, LOOT TOO, LON.

MOOT

As a noun, a “moot” was once something like a town meeting, or the place of such a meeting; now it’s a hypothetical case argued by law students. As a verb, to “moot” a topic means either to broach it or bring it up for discussion, or, oddly, to render it unimportant or academic. As an adjective, “moot” usually describes something that is open to question, irrelevant or insignificant.

Previously published:

TOO MAD A MOOT. ~ *Joachin and Maura Kuhn, in Rats Live on No Evil Star, 1981* (“moot” as a noun)

New:

TOO MOOT, DEX! INSTILL A *MANIA* IN A *MALL*? IT’S NIXED — TOO MOOT! (both) (“moot” as an adjective)

LA! *GOALS*, LAO? GET A CAVE! WE’RE TOO *MOTIVELESS* A PASSEL, EVI, TO MOOT, ERE WE VACATE, “GOALS,” LAO GAL! (“moot” as a verb.)

ROOT

Previously published:

TOO RAW A ROOT. ~ *Joachin and Maura Kuhn, in Rats Live on No Evil Star, etc., 1981*

“TOO ROTTEN, O ROCOCO CORONET, TO ROOT?” ~ *J.P., in “Kickshaws,” Word Ways, August, 2012*
(Mad King Lear, attempting to use his royal headgear to grub for roots, or root for grubs, or whatever.)

New: TOO RAPID, I SAY! NOTE, TONY, AS I DIP A ROOT... / NO, ROOT AN ANANA TOO, RON. (2ND)

“TOO ROTTEN, ROCOCO CORNET, TO ROOT?” (Irate college football fan to blasé band member?)

TOO ROTTEN — OR ABASED ON ODES — A BARONET TO ROOT? / NO, ROOT TOO, RON. (2ND)

“TOO *ROTARY*, MYRA, TO ROOT?” / “TOO *ROTATIVE*, EVITA, TO ROOT?” / TO ROOT TOO, ROT!

TOO RAW? ANGIE, I GNAW A *ROOT!* / TO ROOT, SABAS TOO ROT. / TOO ROTENONE TO ROOT?

MAY A *TOO*–REGAL AGE ROOT A YAM? / NO! ROOT NO “STUNT NUTS” ON TOO, RON! (2ND)

TOO ROTORUA-MODAL A LAD, O MAURO, TO ROOT? (If Rotoruans were noted for their restraint...)

SALAD-ONION SPINS RAP; “LET SAP ROSA GAB! A TURNIP’S TOO “RADISH,” SID, A ROOT —
SPIN RUTABAGAS, OR PASTEL PARSNIPS, NO?” I NOD, ALAS... (Spinning up a rhubarb?)

SOOT New: WE SOOT EWES *EBON*, EVE, ERE, EVEN OBESE, WE TOO SEW. (2ND)

TOO “SÈVRES,” O TIM, *AM* I TO SERVE SOOT! / NO, SOOT ST. SIMON’S “NOMISTS” TOO, SON.

ALLEN WAS WON — TOO SOTTED A CADET TO SOOT NOW, SAW NELLA. / NO, SOOT *TOO*, SON.

TOO SOTTISH TO BEWARE MAC’S CAMERA, WE BOTH SIT TO SOOT. / I SOOT SPA SAPS TOO, SI.

“AH!” (HE WETS A CIGAR.) “TO SOOT *TOO*, SOT TONY? OR, ROY, *NOT* TO SOOT TOO? SO
TRAGIC A STEW, EH? HA!” (both)

AH! AH, EVIL ... DID *I* NO EVIL? CALLED “TOO SOTADIC,” I TARRED ELI ERE I LED ERRATIC
IDA TO SOOT DELLA, CLIVE! ON *I* DID LIVE, HA, HA...

SOOTHSAID

New:

“AY, NO TREES, DI — ASH TOO SERE!” SOOTHSAID “SEER” TONYA. / “DI, ASH *TOO* SHALL EBB,”
ARAB BELLAH SOOTHSAID. / “GAD, DI, ASH *TOO* SETS A TASTE!” SOOTHSAID DAG.

TOOT

New:

TOO TOTALED, ADELA, TO TOOT? / TOO TOTALLED WAS OTTO, SAW DELLA, TO TOOT.

’TIS TOO *TAME*, LOGY GOLEM, A TOOT — SIT! / TO TOOT, I ROAM AS A MAORI *TOO*, TOT! (2ND)

MALIGN, I, TOO, TERESA LAP — *ALAS!* — ERE, TOOTING, I LAM. / TO TOOT’S A GAS TOO, TOT!

ROVER “TOOTS” *TOO*, TREVOR! / TO TOOT TOO, *HOOT* TOO, TOT! / TO TOOT, *TOT* TOO, TOT!

UNDERFOOT

New

I SAW, TOO, FRED “NULLIFY MOTION” — A HOT “DAFT FAD,” TO HANOI — TO MY FILL; UNDER-
FOOT WAS I...

IN ININI SIT I, TOO, FRED, NUDE... “DUNED” AND, EDNA, “DENUDED” UNDERFOOT IT *IS* IN ININI!

ZOOTY

New:

AS A GOD, AY, TIU’S TOO “ZOOTY” — TOO *ZOOT-SUITY* A DOG, ASA! (both)

(Still, Tiu did at least give us Tuesday.)

Those are the eighteen established hootie family genera known to us, but there are potentially several score more waiting to be established. (See Note 3 for two lists of potential hootie “-oot”-words.) All that is needed to bring a new hootie genus into being is to use some heretofore neglected “-oot”-word in a passable palindromic passage and then to publish that passage somewhere (such as in some dedicated wordplay journal like this one). Of course, novel palindromic formulations in existing hootie genera are also always of interest to hootie observers.

HOOTIE VERSE

Historically, “Too hot to hoot” came in on a verse, and it seems only fitting to conclude this article in like manner. The following end-to-end-palindromic poem was first seen in North America in Howard Bergerson’s 1973 palindrome and anagram omnibus, *Palindromes and Anagrams*. Bergerson reports that it was composed by George Marvill and first appeared in the *New Statesman* of May 5, 1967. In Bergerson’s book, it bears the title “Palindromic Conversation Between Two Owls”; whether this was Marvill’s own title or Bergerson’s addition, it’s a problematic title in that, read as a conversation between *two* owls, the poem is logically inconsistent—the two birds seem to switch sides midway in their argument. Notice, however, that if we suppose that this verse is actually a conversation between *three* owls, then there is no longer any logical inconsistency. Below, labels in parentheses identify the speaker (hooter?) of each line of Marvill’s poem in a “three-owl” interpretation of his dialog:

PALINDROMIC CONVERSATION BETWEEN [THREE] OWLS

(Owl 1) “Too hot to hoot!”
 (Owl 2) “Too hot to woo!”
 (Owl 3) “Too wot?”
 (Owl 1) “Too hot to hoot!”
 (Owl 2) “To woo!”
 (Owl 3) “Too wot?”
 (Owl 1) “To hoot! Too hot to hoot!”

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If dogs be palindrome “gods” then rats must be palindrome “stars,” and there are surely enough “rat”-infested palindromes on record to support that conclusion. Three of the more familiar ones are “Rats live on no evil star,” “Do not start at rats to nod” and “Was it a rat I saw?” Indeed, as readers may recall, this article has itself rather heedlessly introduced several new members of the palindromic rat pack, two of which are “Too fast are rats afoot” and “Too fast *are* we rats afoot!” In recognition of this mostly underappreciated rodent rout, we’ve cobbled together this mash-up quatrain of old and new palindromic prose in which the palindromic unit is the line:

A POST-APOCALYPSE DOCTOR’S DIET ADVICE

“Do not start at *rats* to nod —
 Too snide, too booted in soot —”
 “Doc, note, I diet on *cod*;
 Too *fast* are rats afoot!”

NOTES

Note 1: Credits where due: The author is much indebted to Faith Eckler, whose fact-finding prowess substantially assisted this article. And like anyone else sufficiently interested in palindromes to wonder about the names of their composers and their first appearances in print, he owes a debt of gratitude to O.V. Michaelsen, who has delved into “many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore” in order to illuminate the 19th- and early 20th-century roots of modern wordplay. Many of the fruits of Michaelsen’s researches, including the information in this article concerning “Too hot to hoot’s” first publication, may be found in his 1997 Sterling book *Words at Play*. Another useful source of information on palindrome attributions is Michael Donner’s 1996 Algonquin book, *I Love Me, Vol. I*. See also A. Ross Eckler’s 1996 St. Martin’s book *Making the Alphabet Dance*, wherein is reproduced Michaelsen’s listing, by year, of each of the 100 palindromes contributed by Leigh Mercer to *Notes & Queries* from 1946 to 1953.

Note 2: Following its first publication in 1911, the next appearance of “Too hot to hoot” in print known to me was in Martin Gardner’s notes to Dover’s 1961 reprint of C.C. Bombaugh’s *Oddities and Curiosities*. “Too hot to hoot” has subsequently been cited by Marvill (the *New Statesman*, May 5, 1967) Espy (*The Game of Words*, 1971), Bergerson (*Palindromes and Anagrams*, 1973), Stuart (*Too Hot to Hoot*, 1977), J. & M. Kuhn (*Rats Live on No Evil Star*, 1981), Terban (*Too Hot to Hoot*, 1985), Donner (*I Love Me, Vol. I*, 1996), Michaelsen (*Words at Play*, 1997), Lederer (*The Word Circus*, 1998), Grant (“Too Hot to Hoot” in *Word Ways*, Nov. 2011) and probably a few other works. In short, the 1911-vintage palindrome that is the hootie eponym has, over time, attained true palindrome celebrity, the only member of its family to do so.

Note 3: Although most of the shortest “-oot”-words in the language (“boot,” “hoot,” etc.) have now been used in hootie palindromes, scores more likely-palindromizable “-oot”-words remain unhootified thus far. Two lists of such words follow, the first one comprising “-oot”-words that appear as headwords in Webster’s Third, and the second one consisting mostly of “-oot”-words which are *not* headwords in Webster’s Third, but rather the plausible inflections of such words. A hootie based on an “-oot”-word from List A becomes a species within the genus bearing its “-oot”-word’s name, as does any hootie based on some inflected form of that word, e.g., most List B words. Web3 is also, incidentally, rife with other “-oot”-words which do not appear to be especially amenable to palindromization, but which might possibly, with effort, be so utilized.

List A: Probably-Palindromizable “-oot”-Words Which Are Headwords in Web3

bootee	dooted	footpace	freebooter	refoot	soothsay
booter	footage	footpath	freebooty	rootage	soothsayer
bootery	footback	footrace	hooter	rooted	sootless
booth	footband	footrail	hoots	rooter	soots
bootlace	footbath	footslog	looter	rootery	sooty
bootleg	footed	footstep	mootable	rootle	stooter
bootless	footer	footstock	mooth	roots	tenderfoot
bootstrap	footing	footstool	mooting	rootstock	tooter
booty	footle	footwalk	mootness	rootworm	tooth
cahoot	footless	footwall	mootstow	rooty	toothed
cooter	footling	footway	Nootka	sooth	toother
cooty	footmark	footy	Nootkas	soothe	tootle
doot	footnote	freeboot	poot	soother	tootling

List B: Probably-Palindromizable “-oot”-Words Which Are Mostly
Plausible Inflections of Headwords in Web3

bootees	footbacks	footrails	mooter	resooted	sooted
booters	footbaths	foots	moots	resooter	sooter
booths	footled	footsteps	mootstows	resoots	soothed
booties	footles	footstocks	poots	rootages	soother
bootlaces	footmarks	footstools	reboot	rootier	soothsays
bootlegs	footnoted	footwalks	rebooted	rootled	sootier
bootleggers	footnotes	freebooted	rebooter	rootler	tooted
bootstraps	footpaces	freeboots	reboots	rootles	toothed
cooted	footpaths	hooted	reroot	rootless	toother
cooters	footraced	looted	rerooted	rootlet	tootled
dooter	footracer	loots	reroots	rootling	tootler
doots	footraces	mooted	resoot	rootstalks	tootles

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A late addendum: A nineteenth hootie genus, “Nootka,” is heard from:

“NOT NADIA’S ANORAK — TOO ‘NOOTKA,’ RONA!” SAID ANTON.

“NOT NADIA’S KAYAK — TOO ‘NOOTKA,’ YAK!” SAID ANTON.

“DIAS, LEN RODE NOOTKA YAKS — AND EDNA’S KAYAK, TOO!” NED OR NEL
SAID. (2ND)

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Another late addendum: Through an oversight, two palindromes qualifying as hooties which were composed by Jeff Grant and published in his November 2011 *Word Ways* article “Too Hot to Hoot” were omitted from this article’s main listings. They are

TOO DOTY TO DOOT and TOO SOT TO SOOT.

Hootie rules permit the use of most dialect words that appear as boldface headwords in Webster’s Third, and “doot” and adjectival “sot” are both such words. “Doot” is Scottish dialect for “doubt” and “sot,” used as an adjective, means, according to Web3, stubborn or obstinate, in English dialect. “Doty,” said primarily of timber, means partially decayed. (Alternatively, in southern U.S. vernacular, “doty” means weak-minded, said especially of old people.)

Note that “Too doty to doot” establishes a twentieth hootie genus, “Doot”; accordingly, here is a clutter of its colloquially-conversing Caledonian congeners to keep it company in its clade:

’TIS *TOO* DONE, NO DOOT — SIT. / ’TIS *TOO* DONE, VIC, I’VE NO DOOT — SIT.

TOO “DONNISH,” SARAH? OH, A RASH SIN, NO DOOT! / I DOOT STATS TOO, DI.

TOO DOTILY, LILY, “LIT” TO DOOT? / NO DOOT, WAR’S RAW TOO, DON. (2ND)

TO DOOT, “TOOT” TOO, DOT. / TOO DOTY A WAY TO DOOT! / O, *DO* DOOT TOO, DODO!
 TOO “DONATIVE,” SIR, *IS* EVITA, NO DOOT. / TOO DYNAMIC, NANCI — MANY DOOT!
 TOO DYNAMIC A “TSAR” IS IRA, STACI — MANY DOOT! / TO DOOT, “TUT–TUT” TOO, DOT.
 “TOO DONE IN,” NODS IDA, SAD, “IS DONNIE, NO DOOT.” / NO DOOTS? US TOO, DON!
 NO DOOT, DAMSON ELF LENO’S MAD TOO, DON. / (NO DOOT, *D**N* MAD TOO, DON!)
 ME TOO, DON — EVIL *IS* ABSURD DRU’S BASIL!...I’VE NO *DOOT*, EM! / O, DOOT! (I, TOO,
 DO!)
 TSETSES TEST! NAT’S TOO DOTTED A CADET TO *DOOT*, STAN — TSETSES TEST!
 TOO “DOTY,” AS RAE HAS IT, OTIS, A *HEARSAY* TO DOOT? / OMENS *TOO* DEE-DEE DOOTS,
 NEMO?
 EVEN TOO DOTY, A WRONG NIFFER — EFFING NORWAY? — TO DOOT, NEVE?

(A “niffer,” in Scottish dialect, is a trade, exchange or bargain, according to Web3.)

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“O, DINEROS WON; A TAD TOO HIP A ROTE NOTE–TONE\*  
 TO RAP, I HOOT *DATA* NOW, SÖREN — I DO!”

\* Replace the compound “note-tone” with its inverse, “tone-note,” and both the meaning and the palindromicity of the sentence will be unchanged; replace it with either “note” or “tone” alone, and the meaning of the sentence will *still* be the same, as read in either direction, but the sentence will no longer be palindromic—it will read “note” in one direction and “tone” in the other. (Another workable replacement for “note-tone” could be “mirror rime,” a kenning for a palindrome.)