

ECOLOGICAL ISOLATION IN BIRDS

By David Lack

Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass. 1971.
Pp. 404. \$12.00.

In the preceding review, the importance of distribution maps to studies of avian speciation was discussed. In Ecological Isolation in Birds David Lack reviews the various speciation studies which have already been conducted in various parts of the world. Hence, this volume illustrates vividly the importance of raw data as presented in the African atlas to this type of sophisticated ornithological work.

Bird banders should find Lack's book of great interest. Quite aside from its considerable scientific importance, it is also extremely fascinating reading. Banders will profit greatly by reading it. Robert Gillmor's drawings add greatly to a better understanding of the major points which Dr. Lack attempts to make.

This is such a good book that it is a pity that a few obvious errors have crept into it. For example, raptor students immediately will note that Accipiter striatus is the Sharp-shinned Hawk rather than the Broad-winged Hawk as stated on page 133. However, the text at this point clearly indicates that the author meant to refer to the Sharp-shin, so no serious confusion should result. Anyone can make a few mistakes such as this when dealing with birds on a world-wide basis.

In any event, banders will find this volume a perfect companion to be used with the African atlas just reviewed. Dr. Lack deserves congratulations for producing an important and very readable book of value to amateurs and professionals alike.

--Reviewed by Donald S. Heintzelman.

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ARTICLES AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 219 FRETWELL, et al WHY ARE BIRDS' WINGS AS LONG AS THEY ARE?
 224 BURTT, et al THE AGE OF BLACKBIRDS AND STARLINGS
 227 GILLESPIE EXPERIENCES WITH BANDED COWBIRDS
 231 WARBURTON COMMON GRACKLE RECOVERIES: BIRDS BANDED
 AT WOODHAVEN BANDING STATION, MORRISVILLE.
 234 KENNARD HIGHLIGHTS OF 20 YEARS BANDING ON BELL
 HILL (Continued)
 240 RAMSAY SOMETIMES EXPERIMENTS PAY OFF
 241 DEWIRE BIRD TRAPPING WITH A TAPE RECORDER
 243 BRIGGS A NOTE ABOUT PINE SISKINS
 243 BLAKE A CURIOUS OBSERVATION

EASTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION - 50TH ANNUAL MEETING SECTION

- 245 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
 246 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
 258 ANNUAL MEETING ATTENDANCE
 259 ANNUAL MEETING FINANCIAL REPORT
 261 PRESENTATIONS TO OUR CHARTER MEMBERS
 263 REPORT ON PAPER SESSIONS AT ANNUAL MEETING
 265 REPORT ON THE WORKSHOP OF THE 1973 EBBA ANNUAL
 MEETING

DEPARTMENTS

- 239 EDITOR'S NOTES
 245 1973 ANNUAL MEETING
 252 THE MARKETPLACE
 264, 268 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
 270, 284-286 BOOK REVIEWS
 271 ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW (V)

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