

## NEWS AND NOTES

## 1976 C.O.S. MEETING

Next year's meeting of the C.O.S. will be held at Asilomar, Pacific Grove, California, March 31–April 4.

## ALEXANDER WETMORE HONORED

Alexander Wetmore, renowned ornithologist and a former Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, was presented the National Geographic Society's Hubbard Medal on May 8, 1975. The medal is awarded for distinction in exploration, discovery, and research. The citation for Dr. Wetmore reads: "In recognition of a lifetime of outstanding contributions to geography through pioneering explorations and biological studies in the jungles of South and Central America, islands of the central Pacific Ocean, and worldwide advancement of the science of ornithology."

## PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP

The Pacific Seabird Group will hold its annual meeting December 11–14, 1975 at Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, California. In addition to a general papers session dealing with marine birds and their environment, two symposia are scheduled. These are: *Biology and Taxonomy of Marine Charadriiformes*, chaired by Joseph R. Jehl, Jr. and *Seabird Conservation Problems on the California Coasts* chaired by Daniel Anderson. For further details contact Paul R. Kelly, 816 Sutter Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94303.

## CHRISTMAS COUNT DATA BANKS

For the cost of querying our data banks, we have available all of the information in the 1962–1971 Christmas counts. For more information write C. E. Bock, Dept. EPO Biology, Univ. Colorado, Boulder 80302, or phone (303) 492-7184.

## THE CONDOR

Papers in *The Condor* are ordinarily published in order of receipt of the original manuscript in the editorial office. (This is not the same as the date of acceptance, given at the end of every article.) However, we will publish without delay any *accepted* paper for which the author will pay the page charge of \$50.00 per page. This means that such an article will appear in the next issue as soon as it has been revised, if necessary, and edited. A subsidized paper does not displace an unsubsidized one; it is an addition to an issue, not a replacement. Papers than can pay their way do not lengthen the wait for those that cannot. The Editor requests prospective authors of *Condor* articles to give thought to paying the page charges. Let us know if this may be possible for you, and we will estimate the cost of publishing your paper.

## SELECTED RECENT PUBLICATIONS

**Readings in Wildlife Conservation.**—Edited by James A. Bailey, William Elder, and Ted D. McKinney. 1974. The Wildlife Society, Washington, D.C. 722 p. \$8.00. Available: The Wildlife Society, 3900 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., Suite S-176, Wash., D.C. 20016. This is a collection of 74 papers that either present important ideas or philosophies or are good

examples of activities in wildlife conservation. They deal with not only biology, habitat, and management, but also economics, public policy, and outlook on conservation. Although the book is primarily intended for undergraduate students, it should interest all serious conservationists. By today's scale of prices, it is a bargain.

**Field Studies of the Falconiformes of British Columbia (Vultures, Hawks, Falcons, Eagles).**—Frank L. Beebe. 1974. British Columbia Provincial Museum, Occasional Paper No. 17, Victoria, B.C. 163 p. This work is chiefly devoted to in-depth accounts of the 17 species of falconiforms found in B.C. Thanks to the author's many years of field experience and his knowledge gained from other falconers, the text is highly informative. Beebe not only writes well but also is an accomplished artist; he has provided many fine pen-and-ink drawings and a color frontispiece. The list of references is classified by species. This attractive book should have more than provincial appeal.

**Utah Birds.**—William H. Behle and Michael L. Perry. 1975. Utah Museum of Natural History, University of Utah, Salt Lake City. 143 p. \$3.50. This booklet includes a revised check-list (with dates) of the birds of Utah, charts of seasonal occurrence, similar charts of habitat occurrence (novel to this reviewer), and guides for bird-finding in the state. It is well prepared and should be extremely useful for anyone seeking birds in Utah. Companion field check-list cards are available separately.

**Migration of Lesser Snow and Blue Geese in spring across southern Manitoba. Part 2: Influence of major flights.**—H. Blokpoel and Maureen C. Gauthier. 1975. Canadian Wildlife Service Report Series No. 32, Ottawa. 30 p. \$1.00 Canada; \$1.20 other countries. Catalogue No. CW65-8/31. Available: Information Canada, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0S9. Analysis of spring migration and weather permitted development of a model for predicting heavy migration of geese, a useful tool for air traffic control.

**Birds of New York State.**—John Bull. 1974. Doubleday/Natural History Press, Garden City, N.Y. 655 p. \$29.95. The avifauna of New York includes 410 species (228 breeding), an increase of 44 (38 breeding) since Eaton's "Birds of New York" (1910, 1914). Bull has compiled voluminous data on the present geographic and seasonal occurrence of birds in the state, particularly changes and trends. The species accounts are supplemented with maps of breeding distribution and banding recoveries. The nine color paintings (by well-known artists) are attractive but outmoded assemblages of birds; they are not needed and several of them are not well reproduced. Many of the 86 photographs are likewise superfluous and poorly printed. A gazetteer, a bibliography, and an index are provided. This volume will be an essential reference for future studies of New York birds.

**Emperor Penguin.**—Jean-Claude Deguine. 1974. Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, VT. 30 p. \$6.50. This slim book presents color photographs, some of them superb, of Emperor Penguins and other Antarctic animals. The text is brief and elementary, seemingly written for children.

**The Sequence of Plumages and Moults of the Passerine Birds of New York.**—Jonathan Dwight, Jr. 1900 (1975). *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, Vol. XIII (2):73–360. \$8.00. Available: N.Y. Acad. Sci., 2 East 63rd St., New York, NY 10021. This is a reprint of a classic work, one that is important even though obsolete or erroneous in parts. It is furnished with an introduction by Kenneth C. Parkes that puts Dwight's work in perspective, and a species index by Katherine Gillam Price.

**Breeding Biology of the Gray Gull, *Larus modestus*.**—Thomas R. Howell, Braulio Araya, and William R. Millie. 1974. University of California Publications in Zoology, Vol. 104. Berkeley and Los Angeles, CA. 57 p. This monograph treats a species that is abundant along much of the Pacific coast of South America but is known to nest only in the barren deserts in the interior of northern Chile. Courtship and mating behavior on the coast and many aspects of the nesting biology in the desert are described. The displays and vocalizations of this species are discussed and compared with those of other gulls. The authors suggest how the darkly pigmented feathers may be adaptive for thermoregulation. In conclusion, they postulate the advantages and historical origin of desert nesting in this species. Numerous photographs illustrate this stimulating work.

**The Birds of New Jersey.**—Charles Leck. 1975. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, NJ. 190 p. \$12.50. Unlike most state bird books, this one takes an ecological rather than a taxonomic approach. Leck describes the birdlife of New Jersey as it is found in eight major habitats, emphasizing the common or dominant species. Dates of migration and breeding (to month only) are listed in tables. Data and instructions on bird counts are given. Appendices give a briefly annotated state check-list, a list of accidental birds, and a list of aids to birding. This book will help those who want to find birds in New Jersey but not those who want to do research on them.

**A Contribution to an Annotated Bibliography of North American Cranes, Rails, Woodcock, Snipe, Doves, and Pigeons.**—Compiled by Henry M. Reeves. 1975. Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel, MD. 527 p. \$12.50. Catalog No. PB-240 999. Available: National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161. This bibliography contains over 5700 entries on the birds named in its title, with emphasis on the species presently or formerly hunted for sport. Reviewed literature is chiefly limited to the English language, species indigenous to North America, and the period ending December 31, 1971. Three indexes are provided.

**Habits and Interactions of North American Three-toed Woodpeckers (*Picoides arcticus* and *Picoides tridactylus*).**—Lester L. Short. 1974. American Museum Novitates No. 2547. Amer. Mus. Natl. Hist.,

New York. 42 p. \$2.62. Information on the nesting, drumming, vocalizations, and displays of one or both three-toed woodpeckers is reported, based on field studies in northern New York. Comparison of these species leads to a discussion of their probable evolution.

**Habits of Three Endemic West Indian Woodpeckers (Aves, Picidae).**—Lester L. Short. 1974. American Museum Novitates No. 2549. Amer. Mus. Natl. Hist., New York. 44 p. \$2.50. The behavior and some aspects of the ecology of *Nesocittes micro-megas*, *Melanerpes herminieri*, and *M. striatus* are reported. Some taxonomic inferences are drawn from these data.

**A Zoogeographic Analysis of the South American Chaco Avifauna.**—Lester L. Short. 1975. Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History, Volume 154, Article 3. New York. 190 p. \$9.60. The chaco is a vast, low plain located almost centrally in South America on the border of the tropics. About 409 avian species reside or breed in this region. Short discusses the taxonomy, ecology, and distribution (or distribution and variation) of every species. These detailed accounts are accompanied by range maps. There follows an analysis of the distribution of chaco birds, which includes consideration of endemism, disjunctions in range, zones of avian interaction, and the origins of the avifauna. The treatment is comprehensive, the organization clear, and the writing concise. This study should be important for those who are interested in the history and distribution of Neotropical birds.

**Naturalist's Color Guide.**—Frank B. Smithe. 1974, 1975. The American Museum of Natural History, New York. Part I, \$9.00; Part II, 229 p., \$5.00; combined price \$12.00. Available: Amer. Mus. Natl. Hist., Publications Dept., 77 West 77th St., New York, NY 10024. Part I is a pocket-sized looseleaf binder containing 86 color swatches, each with a name, an identifying number, and Munsell notations, and a separate mask to isolate one swatch from those adjacent. The colors selected are those most often used by naturalists, with emphasis on birds, and the guide is designed for use in the field or laboratory. Part II is a supplementary book that gives the details of the colors chosen for the guide, discusses the color work of Ridgway and others, correlates the notations of color names from different systems, and cites Ridgway's descriptions of birds which exhibit those colors. Together, these books constitute a practical system that should be invaluable to all naturalists who refer to color in their work.

**Birds of Northwestern California.**—C. F. Yocom and S. W. Harris. 1975. 74 p. Available: Humboldt State University Bookstore, Arcata, CA 95521. A check-list on the birds of its region, this booklet summarizes records on the status, habitats, and distribution of each species. Dates of migration or nesting are not given, and there is no analysis of the avifauna.