

PUBLICATION NOTICES

Checklist of Birds of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo. 1996. Compiled by *Linda Burr, Rob Dobos* and *Steven Furino*. Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists. Available from *George Cassidy*, Treasurer, K-W Field Naturalists, 15 Mulberry Lane, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 5L4 at 50 cents each plus postage.

The checklist is printed on card stock and features breeding information, original artwork by *David P. Hunsberger*, a detailed map of the Region, and five columns for checking. Since its printing in May 1996, two new species have been added, bringing the current total for the Region to 285 species. All sightings of rare or unusual species have been verified and documented.

The production of the checklist was made easier with the use of the club's new computer database. This sophisticated software was developed by *Steven Furino* and his students at the University of Waterloo, and now contains about 16,000 of the club's bird records going back to the early 1900s. Plans are also to incorporate data from sources such as the *Breeding Bird Atlas* and the *Ontario Nest Records Scheme*. Thousands of records can be selected and sorted by species, observer, dates, locations and other parameters, quickly. It is also easy to produce reports and charts. The software has a broad range of uses, including plant, butterfly and amphibian records.

If you are interested in the software (which requires a MacIntosh computer), a manual and completely functional demo are available, free on the web at: <http://usjc.uwaterloo.ca/Faculty-Staff/scfurino>, or for \$10 (to cover copying and postage) from *Steven Furino*, University of St. Jerome's College, University of Waterloo, Department of Mathematics, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G3.

Wild Wings: The Hidden World of Birds. 1996. By *Michael Runtz*. Boston Mills Press, Erin, Ontario. Hardcover, 128 pages, \$39.95.

This latest book by naturalist and photographer *Michael Runtz* is "an introduction to the principles behind the myriad remarkable appearances and behaviours found in North American birds". The informative text presents an overview (based on current research) of such topics as feathers and flight mechanisms, socialization, predation, migration, mating and other aspects of avian behaviour. These subjects are beautifully illustrated through the book's many spectacular colour photographs by *Runtz* and *Jim Flynn*.