

A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO by William L. Murphy. 1986. Peregrine Enterprises, College Park. v + 124 pages, photos, maps; paperback. \$12.95.

Murphy's book seems to have just about everything one could ask for in a bird-finding guide. There are details on specific bird trips, keys to abundance, and annotated list of Trinidad and Tobago specialties, a 196-reference bibliography, decent maps, an information on tours, guides, hotels, and airlines. Drawbacks are the print, which is a computer print-out that is heavy in many spots, and the shortage of birdwatching sites discussed, though all the major areas are well detailed. This should go in there right next to the toothpaste when you pack for your trip to Trinidad and Tobago.

NEW ZEALAND BIRDS: An Artist's Field Studies by Raymond Ching. 1986. Reed Methuen Publishers, Ltd., Auckland (distributed by Salem House Ltd., Merrimack). 231 pages, folio, 69 paintings in water color and oil, 78 pencil studies. \$50.

Ten years ago, with the publication of the *Reader's Digest Book of British Birds*, Raymond Ching burst onto the world of popular bird illustration. Ching is an artist of immense talent and in the last decade he has published several first-rate collections of bird portraits. The present work is his first devoted entirely to the birds of his homeland, and the avifauna of New Zealand has certainly not been painted as splendidly since Keulemans' treatment nearly a century ago. With names straight out of a crossword puzzle dictionary, the Weka, Tui, Kea, and Pukeko (not to mention the Takahe, Kaka, and Kokako) are superbly presented, and the artist-author's studies of the feeding Brown and Little Spotted kiwis are unique. The overall production and specifically the color separation on the plates are very fine. You may not find this volume in your local bookstore, but if you are a student of fine bird illustration or of New Zealand birds, it will be worth searching for.

Recommended Remainder Titles

WADING BIRDS OF THE WORLD by Eric and Richard Soothill. 1982. 334 pages, 96 color photographs, maps, line drawings. \$14.95 (published at \$29.95). Over three hundred species of "wading birds" are discussed, including shorebirds, herons, storks, flamingos, ibises, spoonbills, cranes, Limpkin, and Sun Bittern. Attractively illustrated, it is a good deal at this price.

WOOD WARBLERS' WORLD by Hal Harrison. 1984. 336 pages, 55 color and hundreds of black-and-white photographs, maps. \$8.95 (published at \$19.95).

The author has spent thirty years studying and photographing warblers and presents a readable, personal tour through the Parulinae.

PARENT BIRDS AND THEIR YOUNG by Alexander Skutch. 1976. 503 pages, 116 photographs, text figures. \$19.95 (published at \$45). From the blurb: "the most complete up-to-date worldwide survey of the family life and reproductive behavior of birds. . . ." There is a 21-page bibliography.

Tribute to a Writer

I was leading a bird trip into Lost Maples State Park in Texas when I heard that Jim Lane had died. We had done what countless others before us had done, and what countless more will do -- followed Jim's advice and detailed directions and gone searching for the unusual. This time it was for Golden-cheeked Warblers and Black-capped Vireos, and both put on marvelous displays. That evening we saw millions of bats streaming forth from their cave, again led to the spot by Jim's unerring guidebook. I had the chance to co-lead a trip with Jim once, and I was looking forward to the privilege again. He was a tremendous human being, a beautiful guy. It's too bad he never made video tours, because only a small part of the real Jim came through in his books. Here is a list of his guides. May they keep his memory alive.

A BIRDER'S GUIDE . . . TO FLORIDA, . . . TO SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA, . . . TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, . . . TO EASTERN COLORADO, . . . TO THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY OF TEXAS, . . . TO THE TEXAS COAST, . . . TO CHURCHILL.

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