



Books For Banders

"SOMETHING OLD AND SOMETHING NEW"

Edited By Mabel Gillespie



In this issue your book editor should be properly muzzled, for readers have taken over. This is good.

First we hear from Frederick S. Schaeffer of Jamaica, Long Island. He writes: "The book I want to recommend is not really a new book" yet "I still think highly of it." This is just the answer for "something old." The following paragraphs are his contribution.

A GLOSSARY FOR BIRD WATCHERS By Michael Lister, Publisher: Phoenix House, London, England, 1962. Available from the British Book Center, Inc., 222 E. 55th Street, New York 22, N. Y. (Takes approximately three weeks.) Cost - \$2.50. For European customers, available from British Book Center, 4/5 Fitzroy Square, London W1.

This book constitutes a glossary. The glossary is based on English but gives fine translations in French, German, and Dutch.....Cross references are given in all languages, so that any word can be readily found in any language.

The story on the inside of the paper cover.....perhaps best summarizes this work: "An attempt is made in this volume to bring together, in one alphabetical glossary, English, French, German, and Dutch terms used in ornithology with their English definitions. The author, a well known authority on bird study, says: 'Time and again, when reading books and papers about birds, I have come across words and phrases whose meanings were unknown to me; or, though familiar, were difficult to pin down.'"

Mr. Schaeffer includes a list of the English words beginning with the letter A, noting that English words are in heavy print so that they stand out from the foreign words. There are terms like Abmigration, Aerophanic, Agnostic, Allelominetic, Antaposematic, and so on. I felt very uneducated and humble after reaching the end of this list. There were a few words I had heard before, such as Average. The definition of average, however, not only included an explanation of the way to find an ordinary arithmetical average, but a definition of and method of obtaining a weighted average.

Are you still with me? I'm not sure I'm still with myself.

Mr. Schaeffer concludes with the information that on weekends and holidays he bands at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary, on

the south shore of Long Island and operated by the town of Oyster Bay; and cordially invites banders to visit this banding station.

Grace Coit Meleney contributes the next review.

THE BIRDS Life Nature Library by Roger Tory Peterson and the
Time Inc. N. Y. Editors of Life

THE BIRDS is a most thoroughly and beautifully illustrated book with line drawings and black and white and colored photographs. The accompanying explanations are unusually well written and very informative not only to the layman, but to the bird student.

After an introduction by Dean Amadon, the book is composed of eight chapters. From Archaeopteryx to Sparrow explains the fossil history, the development of birds from reptiles, the scientific naming of birds and the 27 Orders of birds. What it Takes to Fly goes into feather structure and flight patterns and the light framework of birds. Birds as Food Gatherers has excellent sketches of the variety of bills and of the diet of a sparrow-hawk with a good spread of the profits of fraternization. How Many Birds? gives clear diagrams of birds to be found in certain localities, birds which are becoming extinct, a fine map showing a census of birds for each state of the U. S. A., most of Europe and parts of Asia, and shows the biggest bird colony--the Peruvian boobies and their valuable guano. The Riddle of Migration explains ancient theories, shows that a migration of 4,000 feet up a mountain is about the same as a distance of 1,200 miles north. Records and record breakers, with maps showing summer and winter ranges and the intervening migration routes are very well done. Other results from banding, navigation by sun and stars, painting of Herring Gulls to determine movements of the colony and explanation of flyway switching are also given. How Birds Communicate shows some of the methods of song notation, gives a bit of the work of Tinbergen from his "The Herring Gulls World," explains 'territory' and has interesting photographs of herons presenting twigs to one another at the nest, somersaulting antics of the Secretary Bird, and the dragging of the wing of a Piping Plover. Egg to Adult explains that nest building may have started from movements of birds during sexual excitement. Various nesting sites are described. Birds with highly specialized food requirements, such as pileated or redbellied woodpeckers need a very large territory for feeding their young. Nests and burrows, length of brooding, size and diversity of eggs and care of young, make this a most interesting chapter. One of the most beautiful pictures in the whole book is that of a Mute Swan with her two young. Toward a Balance With Man ends the book with a forward look. It first gives a brief history of the founders of ornithology, statistics of the numbers of birds that used to be bagged, the fact that diseases have made inroads upon birds and that the most lowly forms seem to be giving way to the seedeaters, perhaps because they may be the most plastic. Four species have become recently extinct and more may now be

on the way because of our use of chemicals over the landscape. The end-picture is most encouraging, showing bird watchers with their binoculars crossing a bridge on an early morning walk. It may be that in spite of our exploding population and our changing of the environment, man may yet be able to conserve many more of the places that birds may still be with us.

Winifred T. Bowers of Basking Ridge, New Jersey, writes as follows:

I have four books that I prize and have loaned again and again....
READING THE LANDSCAPE by May T. Watts is fascinating and has made the rounds of my ornithological and gardening friends.

BIRD WATCHER'S QUIZ BOOK by H. H. Collins, Jr., is outstanding also, but I'm afraid I bogged down in getting correct answers soon after the middle of the book!

ANIMAL INN by Virginia Moe I have a special interest in for I once camped with the author. She is now head of the Trailside Museum in a suburb of Chicago and has done such marvelous things there with animals and birds that other naturalists go to her for training. Her book is the story of this museum and is written with humor and experience.

I've become acquainted (by correspondence) with a British woman through my subscription to the British magazine BIRDS ILLUSTRATED. She has written two books I also cannot do without - BIRD DOCTOR and A WAY WITH ANIMALS. After reading BIRD DOCTOR I wrote Disney and said he surely should make a movie of it. He wrote in return that several others had suggested the same thing - that his schedule was planned several years ahead but that he was keeping it in mind.

Finally Ann L. Margerum of Trenton, New Jersey, writes: THE TRUE BOOK OF BIRDS WE KNOW by Margaret Friskey is an introduction to birds for the young reader. It is written for the beginning reader and provides the child with an idea of the different kinds of birds and the way they are equipped for the lives they lead.

Color plates by Anna Pistorius and also black and white illustrations are used throughout the book. The illustrations are good although the colors are sometimes too bright.

Perhaps some banders would be interested in obtaining the book for their children or grandchildren. It is published by Children's Press, Chicago (c 1954) and costs \$2.00.

313 Sharp Avenue, Glenolden, Pennsylvania