



BOOKS FOR BANDERS
 Edited by: Donald S. Heintzelman



ORNITHOLOGY IN LABORATORY AND FIELD, 4th Edition

By Olin S. Pettingill, Jr.

Burgess Publishing Co., Minneapolis, Minn., 1970. Pp. 524. \$11.95

Here is a book dealing with the fundamentals of ornithology, written especially for the student. Yet, it is not a textbook in itself. It is more of a reference book designed to guide the student through his zoology or biology textbooks, or the bander, through the "classics".

Although the author claims not to make any pretense of covering the entire ornithological field, this opus makes a very valuable "exploded view" of ornithology. New to this edition is an introduction to ornithology as a science, which should be required pre-course reading for students and banders alike. The niche each bird occupies in ecology is further defined in a capsule review of: Distribution, Behavior, Migration and Orientation, The Reproductive Cycle, Longevity, Numbers and Populations and Evolution.

Especially valuable for student and bander alike are the illustrations and reference sections after each chapter. There is a fine section on topography, although I am somewhat dismayed that no reference has been made to Blake's The topography of a bird (Bird-Banding 27:22-31; see also EBBA Workshop Manual III, 1964).

As in the "Introduction", the "Topography" chapter delves deeply into "Feathers and Feather Tracts", not only from the angle of identification but from the biological approach. "Pigmentation" is covered in detail. This is a topic most banders seems to know little about. "Plumage and plumage coloration" explores, in depth, the subjects of molt, color phases, sexual, age and seasonal differences in coloration. "Distribution", seasonal distribution and very importantly, the ecological distribution are treated in detail, showing the species of birds inherent to the various biotic communities.

The "Field Identification" chapter forms another important essay on optical equipment needed for the proper and precise identification of birds in the field. A carefully illustrated section on bird profiles while perching or overhead is provided.

What is behavior?...a question so often posed by banders and students! Up to now, there were relatively few texts which were "basic" enough to provide an understandable, point-by-point explanation. Ornithology in Laboratory and Field does just that.

The chapter on migration, supplies the student with definitions which will help him wrestle through the "classics" on migration. This is probably more valuable than a lengthy definition because there are so many different approaches to migration study which will greatly confuse the student without the aid of Pettingill's treatise on the subject.

Other chapters deal with Territory, Song, Mating, Nests and Nest building, Eggs and Egg Laying and Incubation, Young, their development and Parental Care. After reading these sections, the student will have enough of a basic knowledge to take to the field and do a detailed study of any phase of breeding biology.

New to the fourth edition, is a lengthy treatise on "Ancestry, Evolution and Decrease in Birds". What can be a more timely subject in this world of pesticides and chemical pollutants? In my recent trip to the Netherlands, I was amazed at the general lack of song birds. When I questioned my hosts, they explained that a sharp rise in industrialization and commercial exploits has killed millions of birds over the last five years in Europe. This problem is so bad, that it is noticeable even to the casual observer. What more timely reading can there be than a treatise on the decrease of birds? Nine fact-filled appendices also are featured in Pettingill's book.

The work is illustrated very nicely by Walter J. Breckenridge. Every serious student of ornithology should have a copy. The cost is not excessive, and it is well worth your money.

--Reviewed by Frederick S. Schaeffer.

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THE WILD TURKEY/ITS HISTORY AND DOMESTICATION

By A. W. Schorger

University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma. 1966. Pp. 625. \$10.00.

Those of you who have been around the ornithological world for a while may recall that in 1955 Professor Schorger published a superb monograph on the extinct Passenger Pigeon. Well, he has done it again! This time he turned his formidable talents to the greatest of American game birds, the Wild Turkey. What has resulted is an extremely detailed and comprehensive volume covering nearly every important aspect of the life history of this fine bird. In 19 fact-filled chapters, historical, biological, commercial and aesthetic aspects of the Wild Turkey are considered in depth. For example, the bibliography alone contains 114 pages!

Scattered throughout the text are numerous well-reproduced black and white photographs, sketches, and maps as well as a beautiful color frontispiece showing two Wild Turkeys painted by Owen J. Gromme.

If you are interested in the Wild Turkey, either as America's greatest game bird or as the focal point of interest on your Thanksgiving

Day dinner table, and you want to avoid searching through about six thousand published references dealing with this species, buy this book. It's well worth the relatively modest price!

--Reviewed by Donald S. Heintzelman.

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A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NEW ZEALAND AND OUTLYING ISLANDS
By Falla, R.A., R. B. Sibson, and E. G. Turbott
Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass. 1967. Pp. 254. \$6.95

Here is a book which could do for bird watching and popular ornithology in New Zealand what the first edition of Roger Tory Peterson's eastern field guide did for bird watching in the United States and Canada. Each of the more than 200 species of birds of New Zealand and its outlying islands are covered in a style patterned after Peterson's method of presenting information. Each species is treated under four headings: description, voice, habitat and range, and breeding (the latter omitted for migrants and stragglers).

Since the value of any field guide is, to a large extent, dependent upon the quality of its illustrations, it must be noted that the illustrations in this New Zealand field guide are excellent. There are 18 plates, six in color, and 63 pen and ink sketches scattered throughout the text. The artist, Chloe Talbot-Kelly, is certainly is no small measure responsible for the usefulness of this volume.

EBBA members who may be fortunate enough to visit New Zealand will unquestionably find this book an absolute necessity. The authors have made a distinctive contribution to the ornithological literature of their country.

--Reviewed by Donald S. Heintzelman.

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HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN, Volume One.
By Ali, Salim and S. Dillon Ripley
Oxford University Press, Bombay, London, New York., 1968. Pp. 380. \$13.90

Although several major works dealing with the birds of India previously have appeared, there is no doubt that Ali and Ripley's Handbook, when completed in ten volumes, long will remain the single most important reference work on the birds of India and Pakistan, along with the adjacent areas of Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and Ceylon. The authors, two of the world's most distinguished ornithologists, have begun a monumental project with brilliant success. Volume one of the Handbook covers 224 forms (subspecies) beginning with the divers and continuing through the hawks. Since the basic taxonomic unit of treatment in this work is the subspecies, persons using this Handbook should understand that positive identification of subspecies in the field generally is impossible. Bird banders do not always fully understand this.

Preceding the subspecies accounts are introductory sections dealing with a general outline of the work, migration, zoogeography of the Indian subregion including a color map of the distribution of climatic types, and systematics of birds of the Indian subregion, etc. The subspecies accounts are presented in a uniform manner with the information arranged under the following headings: local names; size; field characteristics; status, distribution and habitat; general habits; food; voice and calls; breeding; and museum diagnosis. Also included are numerous keys to facilitate the identification of species and subspecies. Additional aids to identification include pen and ink sketches of the heads, or other diagnostic features, of select subspecies, and 18 well reproduced color plates illustrating 150 of the forms treated.

Although most EBBA members may never travel to India or Pakistan, they should be aware of the progress of major ornithological publications. For those members who collect bird books, the Handbook promises to be a fine addition to one's ornithological library, and for those members who may travel to this part of the world, reference to the Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan will be an absolute necessity!

--Reviewed by Donald S. Heintzelman.

HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN, Volume Two.
By Ali, Salim and S. Dillon Ripley
Oxford University Press, Bombay, London, New York. 1969. Pp. 345. \$12.50

The second volume of the Handbook has now appeared and, in every way, continues the excellent standard established in Volume One. The same basic manner of treatment used in the first volume is continued in Volume Two, which covers the megapodes to the crab plover. In all, 211 species and subspecies are discussed. In addition, the use of pen and ink sketches of heads, and other features helpful in identification, are scattered throughout the volume. A number of range maps also add to the value of certain selected accounts. The 13 color plates appearing in this volume illustrate 133 forms. They are well reproduced and add to the charm and value of this important ornithological contribution. Drs. Ali and Ripley have once again demonstrated why they are very distinguished ornithologists and scientists!

--Reviewed by Donald S. Heintzelman

C o r r i g e n d u m

Due to an unfortunate error, the title of one of the books reviewed in the January-February 1971 issue of EBBA News (p. 20) should have read Garden Birds of South Africa.

THE PINE BARRENS/A PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL INVENTORY

By Jack McCormick

New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, N.J. Research Report 2. 1970. Pp.104
\$3.00 postpaid

The term "inventory" in the title is misleading as it brings to mind dull, dusty inanimate objects and this book is anything but that. All forms of life -- plants, insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals -- are covered with range, habits, etc., described in depth. This presents a complete ecological look at the area that "biologically speaking" is an ocean of varied and interesting life but, to too many people, appears to be one vast wasteland as they speed by, to and from the seashore playgrounds. This book has, within its 104 pages, photographs, maps, and an in depth text on all the forms of life to be found there. Within its pages, the various ecosystems are discussed and the reader has a chance to understand their relationship to the entire 1.2 million acre wildland.

In our present day involvement and concern about our total environment, here is a detailed look, from below ground to tree top level, of a vast and varied area overlooked by the average layman. This book deserves a place on any naturalist's book shelf!

--Reviewed by Raymond R. Hendrick

Donald S. Heintzelman, EBBA News-Review Editor, 629 Green Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania 18102.

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