



BOOKS FOR BANDERS
DONALD S. HEINTZELMAN

SPECIAL REVIEW

VOGELFANG UND VOGELBERINGUNG

By Hans Bub

Published in German, by: A. Ziemsen Verlag, Wittemberg-Lutherstadt, E. Germany (Copyrighted). Four volumes @ \$20.00. Prices vary per edition.

Volume I - General aspects of banding and trapping with mesh and wicker-traps; use of live and mounted decoys.

We begin this textbook of banding, perhaps the only such volume available, with a thorough discussion on general aspects of birdbanding. The first chapter of Volume I (new edition), deals exclusively with decoys, live and artificial. Numerous illustrations, half-tones and trap-designs delight the reader, who can use this book quite adequately with even a marginal knowledge of the German language because of these illustrations.

The next major chapter deals with catching locations and times, the weather, etc. Since this is based on meteorological conditions in Europe it is less useful to Americans but nevertheless is full of practical hints which can be used everywhere.

Treatment of birds captured is the next main chapter. The topographical features of birds are described at length. Pictures show how to measure wing lengths with rulers equipped with "bend of wing" angles, and how to measure other parts of birds. Weighing is described, and photos show aluminum weighing cylinders in use at the Cedar Grove Banding Station in Wisconsin. There are numerous photos of gathering cages and other banding station paraphernalia.

Traps, discussed at length, form the main ingredient of the four volumes. In Volume one, we find described pull-string traps, pyramid traps, bell shaped traps, combination pull-string and mechanical traps, window feeder traps, tree traps, nest traps, water and tunnel traps, sparrow traps, Cohasset, Potter and Chardonnette traps, numerous mesh traps and others.

Volume II - Catching with large mesh traps, suspension nets, boxes and leg-lassoos.

Among large mesh traps we find the enormous Helgoland traps, and surrounding gardens specially designed for the purpose of catching birds. Gathering cages for these large traps are described in great detail. We find large Decoy-traps, drop-net traps, falling nets, duck-run traps, floating traps, panel nets, and Japanese Mist and Italian Tammel nets. It shows mechanisms such as pulleys which control aerial

nets and their construction, fulcrum nets (nets which are in a frame which can be swung over a brook and pulled back for emptying). There are nets which work like a curtain, with or without decoys, and with or without traps.

Mechanical traps are discussed here in great detail, with construction and application being shown. We find endless variations of chardonnette and potter traps, top opening, side opening, mesh, glass, wood enclosed. Bal-chatrri's are discussed: how to build them, how to knot the nooses, how to select noose strengths for use with different species of birds of prey.

Volume III - Catching with cannon and canyon nets. Catching at night or in the evening and at the nest or over water.

Bow nets are extensively discussed here, nets which work with springs, and how to construct them. Nets which are released with electromagnets or solenoids and cannon nets, showing construction of the firing mechanism. Nest box shutters to entrap a bird are extensively discussed and pictured. Nest traps for colonial species (gulls, terns, etc.) also are covered in this chapter. The dangers of trapping during incubation and dangers to birds and bander are fully discussed.

Volume IV - Mass banding is discussed here, and the fundamentals of scientific use of banding, aging and sexing forms the major part of this volume. The chapters in this volume deal with incubation patch (illustrated), cloacal sexing techniques, internal sexing, ossification, preparation of skins, and many other very useable techniques.

In closing, this work is undoubtedly the most extensive banders' textbook published to date. Volume I through IV appeared in 1967-69, Volume I and IV appeared in a new edition in 1970, and Volume II and III should appear soon. It is recommended that those versed in German purchase it. An English edition is in preparation (will probably be a single volume) and is not expected to be available until after 1973. When this edition comes out, it should be made required reading for every licensed bander. This book was written by a bander, from first-hand experience. It is being prepared in English by the reviewer. My good friend Hans Bub is employed at the Vogelwarte Helgoland and is an EBBA/IBBA member. He is further co-editor of The Ring in Germany.

German summary of the review

Vogelfang und Vogelberingung durch Hans Bub geschrieben und zusammengestellt ist das beste Lehrbuch der Beringungs-Technik verfuegbar. Schon viele Buecher sind ausgegeben, aber niemals so umfangreich, ausgezeichnet erkluert und illustriert als in diesem Fall. Fast alle verfuegbaren Fangmittel sind beschrieben und jeder Beringer soll dieses Buch taeglich waehrend seiner Beringungs-Arbeit neben sich haben. Wir hoffen dann auch das eine englische Uebersetzung so schnell wie moeglich ausgegeben wird, solange soll jeder der sich auch nur einigermaßen mit der deutsche Sprache behelfen kann, dieses Buch gebrauchen.

--Reviewed by Frederick S. Schaeffer

OKLAHOMA BIRDS

By: George Miksch Sutton

University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Okla., c1967, 674pp. \$9.95.

Oklahoma Birds is a thorough scholarly work. It is excellent for the scientific investigator and serious bird student, but a bit too advanced for the general birder. Probably, it was not intended for the latter.

The status of each species in the state is shown along with a count of skins taken from each of the Oklahoma counties. Literature citations are given to substantiate first, or rare occurrences. Some reference also is made to the habitat which the species occupy in the state.

As an annotated record of Oklahoma birds, this work is excellent. But as a general reference work, it is not suited since the records are primarily based on skins and not on sight records. The water color sketch of the Harlan's Hawk (frontispiece) by the author is excellent (as are all of Sutton's paintings!) and well reproduced; the pen and ink drawings, also by the author are most detailed and ornithologically correct. A selected bibliography is helpful to the student.

Perhaps the best way to highlight this thorough work is to quote the author's introduction: "This book is not so much a record of what has been accomplished ornithologically in Oklahoma as it is a basis and plea for further work." That further work is badly needed is obvious in view of some of the records which are scanty or lacking. The author did a fine job with the means at hand (collections) and his personal birding in every county of the state.

--Reviewed by Frederick S. Schaeffer

SOUTH CAROLINA BIRD LIFE

By: Alexander Sprunt, Jr., and E. Burnham Chamberlain

University of So. Carolina Press, Columbia S.C., Rev. Ed., 1970 655pp. \$25.00

Considering that a vast array of ornithological literature is available on South Carolina birds, I find this work one of the best works I have encountered. The bander will however note immediately (with disappointment) that measurements are given in English units. Each species has a description which, in some cases, is somewhat lacking in detail but, for the most part, is satisfactory; we also find a fairly lengthy history on each bird. This historical section clearly shows that the authors are excellent writers as well as able ornithologists. Of particular interest in the species accounts is a small caption on dietary preferences. To banders, this should be most useful.

What updates this edition is a supplement by E. Milby Burton. The first edition was published in 1949. The supplement adds field notes to 1970.

Illustrations consist of many original oil paintings and watercolors by Francis Lee Jaques, Roger Tory Peterson, Edward von S. Dingle and John Henry Dick. There are numerous half tones by other well known photographer-naturalists. The half tones are a disappointment. For a work of this magnitude, glossy photo-prints could easily have been incorporated. The plates are attractive but the color printing leaves a lot to be desired.

Particularly attractive are the plates "Hawks", a watercolor by Peterson, "Incubating Woodcock", a half-tone by Hugh M. Halliday, "Woodpeckers", a watercolor by von S. Dingle, and "Bright Colored Group" (Grosbeaks, Buntings, Tanagers), a watercolor by Dick.

Although intended for reference use at home, this work can easily supplement as an extension to field guides. It is a work which I would heartily recommend, not only to South Carolinians, but to birders in the entire Carolina/ Georgia/ North Florida area.

-- Reviewed by Frederick S. Schaeffer

WHITEWINGS/THE LIFE HISTORY, STATUS AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WHITE-WINGED DOVE

Edited by Clarence Cottam and James B. Trefethen

D. Van Nostrand Co. Inc., Princeton, N.J. 1968 Pp. 348 \$7.50

The White-winged Dove is an important game species in the southwestern United States, and game biologists long have needed a monograph detailing its biology and management. This book fills the bill. Written by six co-authors, mainly state and federal game biologists, it is edited by Cottam and Trefethen. That in itself assures the value of the book. It is packed with information. Bird-banding, for example, plays a vital role in studying all game birds, and the White-winged Dove is no exception. References to banding, and various uses of banding data, are scattered throughout the volume. Several tables also summarize banding recoveries. Numerous black and white photographs and maps serve as illustrations. In addition, Bob Hines, the well known wildlife artist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, provides beautiful line drawings as chapter headings along with two beautiful color plates. I recommend this volume to all persons interested in banding and avian life history studies.

-- Reviewed by Donald S. Heintzelman

THE BOBWHITE QUAIL/ITS LIFE AND MANAGEMENT.

By: Walter Rosene

Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, N.J. 1969. Pp. 418 \$20.00

Most EBBA Members are not involved in banding or studying game species, but few would deny that the Bobwhite is one of the most attractive of our native game birds. Certainly, whenever I hear the call of the Bobwhite I have experienced a special ornithological treat.

This book is an important monograph of the Bobwhite, written from the point of view of a professional wildlife biologist and game manager. The book contains 19 chapters, divided into five major sections dealing with the history of the species, its habitats and requirements, its population biology, environment improvement, and the future of the Bobwhite as a game bird. A series of 11 appendices contain additional detailed and valuable Bobwhite data. The color frontispiece to the book is particularly attractive, and four color plates within the volume illustrate various stages of Bobwhite wing molt. Bird banders probably would find these illustrations quite useful.

Anyone interested in the Bobwhite, regardless if he will ever band these birds, will find this book a valuable contribution to the biological knowledge of this species and a welcome addition to a reference library.

--Reviewed by Donald S. Heintzelman

HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN

Volume III

By: Salim Ali and S. Dillon Ripley

Oxford University Press, Bombay, London, New York. 1969. Pp. 325 \$12.95.

The third volume of the handbook, covering the stone curlews through the owls, has now appeared and continues the high standards achieved in the previous two volumes. In this volume 231 forms, or subspecies, are covered using the same format which is standard in this work. The 12 color plates, illustrating 99 forms, equal the quality achieved previously in volumes one and two.

-- Reviewed by Donald S. Heintzelman

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