



BIRDS OF THE ANTARCTIC

By Edward Wilson. Edited by Brian Roberts.

Humanities Press, Inc., New York, N.Y. 1968. Pp. 191 \$17.50

This splendid volume is an ornithological memorial to Edward Adrian Wilson (1872-1912), one of the most important and productive members of Captain R. F. Scott's Antarctic expeditions. It was during the return to their main camp on Scott's second expedition, after reaching the South Pole a month after Amundsen beat them to it, that Wilson, Scott and several others died in the bitter cold at the bottom of the world. The text of this book is based largely upon Wilson's original notes, skillfully woven together by editor Brian Roberts. The narrative makes extremely fascinating reading, and I highly recommend Birds of the Antarctic to all EBBA members of that basis alone.

However, there is much more. The heart of the volume is a collection of more than 307 sketches and color plates of Antarctic birds, each drawn or painted by Wilson. The bulk of these are of penguins, albatrosses, and petrels, but various other species also are included. Wilson was an exceptionally gifted bird artist, and it is an ornithological triumph that many of these pictures are published for the first time. Indeed, the sketches and paintings of the penguins are among the finest and most accurate in existence.

If you relish adventure, coupled with good ornithological art, you'll be delighted with this book.

Donald S. Heintzelman

BIRDS OF THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC

By Ernst Mayr

Stechert-Hafner Service Agency, Inc., New York, N.Y. 1968. Pp. 316. Soft covers. \$9.25.

Originally published in 1945, this is a reprint of Mayr's classic field guide to the birds of the Samoa-New Caledonia-Micronesia area of the southwest Pacific. It is still the only available field guide to the birdlife of that part of the world. The text, which contains numerous identification keys, is detailed and excellent, but the illustrations leave much to be desired. Three plates by Francis Lee Jacques, which

appeared in color in the original edition, are poorly reproduced in black and white in this reprint. The 16 line drawings by Alexander Seidel are adequate.

Although greatly overpriced, and lacking the superb illustrations characteristic of modern field guides, EBBA members planning to visit the Southwest Pacific nevertheless will want to take this book with them.

Donald S. Heintzelman

A PORTFOLIO OF AUSTRALIAN BIRDS

By William T. Cooper and Keith Hindwood

Charles E. Tuttle Co., Rutland, Vt., Pp. 64. 1968. \$17.50

Tuttle has recently published beautifully illustrated art books, printed in Japan, in which the reproductions themselves were more than worth the purchase price. This book upholds the beauty and quality of the color illustrations and makes one wish Tuttle would continue with a series of fine bird-art books illustrating color plates by some of our great American bird artists as well.

The 25 color plates (14 x 11") are superb! Some of the birds illustrated I had the opportunity to see and collect while in the Pacific Islands some years back and the memory is sweetened by his exquisite paintings. Cooper, born in 1934, can take his place with the best of our living artists who paint in gouache and watercolor. Hindwood is a well known Australian ornithologist who publishes in scientific journals and writes lay articles as well. His written contribution here gives the reader a smattering of life history data which is so essential to one not familiar with the birds. What would an east-coast bird-watcher-bander want with a book on Australian birds? If you pick it up and look at it, you'll have your answer. It is a highly polished gem of a book that will glisten on your coffee table and make you wonder about round-trip tourist fares to the world down under.

Kenneth W. Prescott

HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN - Vol. IV.

By Salim Ali, and S. Dillon Ripley

Oxford University Press, Bombay, New York, 1970. Pp. 265. \$17.00

The speed with which this major ornithological reference work is being written and printed is impressive, but by no means has the work suffered in quality. This volume is excellent, just as are the preceding three volumes.

Volume four of the Handbook covers the frogmouths to the pittas, in all 228 forms, representing the orders Caprimulgiformes, Apodiformes, Trogoniformes, Coraciiformes, Piciformes and the beginning of the largest of all avian orders, the Passeriformes.

The same format used in previous volumes is retained here. Eleven color plates are included in the volume, with 88 forms illustrated.

Donald S. Heintzelman

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BUTTERFLIES OF AFRICA

By John G. Williams

Houghton Mifflin, Co., Boston, Mass. 1971. Pp. 238. \$8.95

This excellent guide illustrates in color 283 of the more common and conspicuous species of African butterflies, and what beautiful animals they are! There are also many additional species illustrated in pen and ink drawings. Vernacular and scientific names are given for each species, plus accounts on identification, range and habitat. Well known larval food plants are also listed. African visitors should find this volume of great value.

Donald S. Heintzelman

OWLS/THEIR NATURAL AND UNNATURAL HISTORY

By John Sparks and Tony Soper

Taplinger Publishing Co., New York, N.Y. 1970. Pp. 206. \$6.95.

To most people, owls represent the mysterious and the unknown. Certainly they are far less well known to naturalists than are our diurnal birds of prey. This fine book provides an excellent general overview of owls, more-or-less on a world-wide basis. No attempt is made to consider all owl species, but a considerable number are discussed in one respect or another. For example, chapters discuss designs for the darkness, owl homes, populations; man's relations with owls, morphology, and lore and literature dealing with these birds. A series of appendices add to the usefulness of this book and present information on eyesight and hearing, management and related topics, and a systematic list of the owls of the world.

The book is illustrated with a series of attractive pen and ink sketches showing various aspects of owl biology. These are by Robert Gillmor. Far more interesting, however, are the truly magnificent black and white photographs of 18 species of owls representing the finest work of some of the world's leading bird photographers. The photographs alone are worth the price of the book, and I find myself admiring them again and again. A full color frontispiece of the head of a Long-eared Owl is equally handsome.

This book certainly can be recommended to students and adults alike for a general overview of this remarkable and interesting group of birds.

Donald S. Heintzelman

A DEAD WHALE AND A STOVE BOAT

By Robert Cushman Murphy

Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, Mass. 1967. Pp. 178. \$8.50

Whaling, in the old style under sail as conducted early in this

century and before, is the subject of this picture book. But, in a curious sort of way, the book nevertheless is an ornithological publication even though it contains only two pictures of birds! Let me explain.

In June 1912, a young naturalist named Robert Cushman Murphy boarded Daisy, the last of the Yankee square-riggers engaged in whaling without mechanization, on a year of exploration and scientific research in the South Atlantic. The scientific results of that voyage were reported in numerous technical papers and in one of the most important ornithological books ever printed, the two volume Oceanic Birds of South America published in 1936. In 1947, Dr. Murphy published another book, Logbook for Grace. It was a popular account of the daily adventures, pleasures, and hardships which he and his fellow crew members experienced while aboard Daisy. Unfortunately, it contained few illustrations. A Dead Whale or a Stove Boat is a book of exceedingly rare photographs, taken by Dr. Murphy during the Daisy voyage, developed at sea using seawater under primitive conditions, and hidden away for over half a century. Carefully restored, they depict the whaling operation aboard Daisy from start to finish and may well be the only such historical photographs in existence. Essentially, they are the illustrations which could have accompanied Logbook for Grace. Thus, at long last, the complete popular and scientific account of one of the most productive ornithological explorations ever conducted has been completed.

Anyone interested in ornithological exploration will find each of Dr. Murphy's volumes a joy to read and own. A Dead Whale or a Stove Boat is no exception.

Donald S. Heintzelman

FAR AFIELD IN THE CARIBBEAN

By Mary Wickham Bond

Livingston Publishing Company, Wynnewood, Pa. 1971. Pp. 142. \$4.95

This is a book of adventure to savor by your fireside when wintry winds howl. Mrs. Bond writes understandingly and amusingly of adventures experienced while accompanying her husband, James, on Caribbean collecting trips. The scientific results of Bond's many visits to the Antilles are included in his Birds of the West Indies (review pending publication, FSS). His wife tells of the non-scientific experiences: encounters with assorted characters, human and featured; sojourns at incredible hostels, passages on assorted sailing craft; as well as observations of the tropical plants and wildlife.

The author's descriptions of sunrises and sunsets rouse impulses that tempt you to rush to the nearest travel bureau to emplane for this fascinating region of islands.

Since the main object of the various expeditions was to study and collect birds, there is plenty of ornithological lore to interest the reader. There are also attractive drawings by Elizabeth R. Leydon.

Reviewed by Mabel Gillespie

--Donald S. Heintzelman, Book Review Editor, 629 Green St., Allentown, Pa.