

Nisbet suggested that some species have a tendency to home to points between their breeding and wintering areas where they fatten up for long migratory flights. My data do not support this idea. Of the 43 Northern Waterthrushes captured in Spring 1971 only one was recaptured on a later date, indicating that they did not remain in the area. On the other hand, 32 has no subcutaneous fat at the time of capture, so they may have remained in the general area, but left the netting area.

Northern Waterthrushes are common migrants through Hughes Hollow. Prior to spring 1971, 16 had been banded there (6 in spring 1969, 7 in spring 1970, and 3 in fall 1970). With a greatly expanded netting effort 42 were banded in spring 1971. I look forward to the spring of 1972 when I may again catch one of these transient Northern Waterthrushes.

--1856 Mintwood Place N.W., Washington, D. C. 20009

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We regret that we were unable to insert a chapter of "Nine Years of Bird Banding at Four Areas in New Jersey" in this issue. We simply ran out of room. After some correspondence with the authors, we are pleased to learn that the remaining chapters may be published somewhat shortened. Although the articles are well written, we felt that some of the tables often repeated what could be read in the body of the text. As such, some of these long tables shall be omitted. In the August issue of EBBA NEWS, Chapter V on Certhiidae, Troglodytidae, Sylviidae, Vireonidae and Thraupidae, will be presented. Editor.

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Edited by Donald S. Heintzelman, Review Editor

AVIAN BIOLOGY (Volume One)

Edited by Donald S. Farner and James R. King

Academic Press, Inc., New York. 1971. Pp. 586. \$30.00

The appearance of the first volume of this multivolume work is a major ornithological event. Prior to the beginning of this series, the only similar reference in the English language was A. J. Marshall's Biology and Comparative Physiology of Birds which still remains a valuable work. However, great advances have occurred in ornithology since the publication of Marshall's volume and a good deal of the material he presented needed updating and revision in the light of new knowledge. Thus Farner and King have set about to prepare a current summary of ornithological knowledge covering a broad variety of topics related to the roughly 8,600 species of living birds. They have been aided in their efforts by Kenneth C. Parkes who serves as taxonomic editor for the series.

The first volume contains 11 chapters, each written by specialists. They are: Classification of Birds by Robert W. Storer, Origin and Evolution of Birds by Pierce Brodkorb, Systematics and Speciation in Birds by Robert K. Selander, Adaptive Radiation of Birds by Robert W. Storer, Patterns of Terrestrial Bird Communities by Robert MacArthur, Sea Bird Ecology and the Marine Environment by N. Philip Ashmole, Biology of Desert Birds by D. L. Serventy, Ecological Aspects of Periodic Reproduction by Klaus Immelmann, Population Dynamics by Lars von Haartman, Ecological Aspects of Reproduction by Martin L. Cody, and Ecological Aspects of Behavior by Gordon Orians.

Some of these chapters seem somewhat esoteric, particularly to appear in the first volume of a new series; but it is difficult to judge their overall relevancy since we are not informed as to the total number of volumes to be expected or the topics to be covered in future volumes. Nevertheless, most of the authors seem to have covered their subjects carefully although it is a little annoying to have European authors select as examples of points discussed nearly all European species or material from the foreign literature. In a broad summary of basic ornithological advances one would expect a diversity of examples from many parts of the world and from the worldwide literature. It seems to me that the editors should have insisted upon such representation, and I hope that they will do so in future volumes.

Bird banders seriously interested in ornithology will want to own this and future volumes since there is much valuable information of direct relevancy to field study projects involving banding. And, bird-banding records have been utilized in various ways in this book, e.g. Pettingill's record of a 36 year old Herring Gull.

Despite the limitations present in certain of the chapters, this volume and its successors will remain a standard reference work for many years. Banders would be well advised to secure a copy for home use or at least to have their local institutional libraries purchase the series.

--reviewed by D.S.H.

## FAMILIES OF BIRDS

By Oliver L. Austin, Jr.

Golden Press of Western Publishing Co., Inc., New York. 1971.  
Pp. 200. Soft covers. \$1.95.

This little volume is a superb and highly valuable contribution to ornithology written by the editor of The Auk. Nowhere else can one find so complete a summary of the birds of the world in so compact and delightful a volume. Pocket size, it should be required reading by all bird-banders and bird-students. It would be ideal to have handy in the net lanes when banding activity ceases.

The "thumbnail sketches" of 172 living and 36 fossil families of birds contain a mine of information on phylogeny, distribution, characteristics and habits. In addition, very valuable introductory material, including evolutionary trees, also adds to the book's value. Equally important, artist Arthur Singer has produced magnificent color illustrations of representative species of the families. Anatomical sketches also accompany many families when appropriate.

This volume is not without its faults, however. The author places the New World vultures in the family "Vulturidae" rather than in the customary Cathartidae of long standing, and even goes so far as to replace the traditional order of Falconiformes with a new order "Accipitriformes". I doubt seriously if a popular book is the place to introduce departures from long established taxonomic arrangements. I note also that the scientific name of the Oilbird in the monotypic family Steatornithidae, is spelled incorrectly. Too, I would not agree with the statement that the Oilbird is distributed "in semiopen country."

It is primarily a bird of remote caves in dense rainforests where it roosts and nests. The species may feed in more open country but one would hardly look for it there. Indeed, one normally searches for Oilbirds in caves in some of the wildest and most remote sections of the neotropics. Doubtless there are more faults in the volume, but they do not seriously lessen the value of the book.

This book would be ideal for use in college and university classes and should also form part of the backbone of the references which every bander should have in his library. The modest cost of the volume is within reach of every bird-bander. I urge you to buy this book. You cannot afford to be without it.

-- Reviewed by Donald S. Heintzelman

## INFECTIOUS AND PARASITIC DISEASES OF WILD BIRDS

Edited by J. W. Davis, R. C. Anderson, L. Karstad and D. O. Trainer  
Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa. 1971. 344 pp. \$12.50

This book summarizes and correlates available knowledge in infectious diseases of wild birds. It is the first book wholly devoted to avian diseases.

The reviewer cannot make an objective analysis of this work because it is written for the scientist. Nevertheless, many chapters form an introduction for those not well versed in animal medicine to material which previously was only discussed in technical journals. The results add to the overall general knowledge of the researcher in this field.

The book consists of five major parts: (1) Viral Diseases (2) Bacterial, Rickettsial, and Mycotic Diseases (3) Parasitic Infections (4) Neoplastic Diseases, and (5) Toxins. Chapters within these parts are authored by twenty-eight scientists.

Many of us have assisted in the field by collecting ticks. Strangely, there is no mention in this book about their role as vectors of disease or the possible importance of birds as disseminators of ticks harboring rickettsial agents (Clifford, C.M., et al. 1969. Tests on ticks from wild birds collected in the eastern U.S. for Rickettsiae and Viruses. Amer. J. Trop. Medicine and Hygiene, 18:1057-1061).

Similarly, no reference has been made to Cnemidocoptiasis (Scaly Leg Disease) which is a mite infestation. Numerous biopsies were submitted by various bird-banders to Dr. Lars Karstad in Guelph, Ontario. Pox, however, is discussed at length. This is a viral disease with which some banders are familiar.

I would not recommend this book to the average bander because it is simply too technical. However, it is a valuable book. For banders who have wrestled through the groundwork of zoology, it is a valuable reference work.  
--Reviewed by Frederick S. Schaeffer

## EDITOR'S NOTE--

At this time, we wish to thank Mr. Donald S. Heintzelman for the fine reviews he has presented us with in a period of approximately one year. The EBBA Publications Committee and the Editors have however decided to stop the "Books for Banders" column at this point. Correspondence from many of you has indicated that the interest of the members in these book reviews is dubious at best. As such, the reviews by Mr. Heintzelman in this issue will be the last to appear in this column.

From Mr. Forrest Bogan, of the Publications Committee of the New Jersey Audubon Society, we heard that Mr. Heintzelman will be Book Review Editor for that organization. We wish him the best of luck in this position.

From time to time, EBBA News will print book reviews from interested members who will contribute same. If you plan to do a review, please contact the undersigned. Thank You.

F.S. Schaeffer, Editor

An additional review by Raymond J. Middleton, may be found on page 145