

ECOLOGICAL ISOLATION IN BIRDS

By David Lack

Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass. 1971.
Pp. 404. \$12.00.

In the preceding review, the importance of distribution maps to studies of avian speciation was discussed. In Ecological Isolation in Birds David Lack reviews the various speciation studies which have already been conducted in various parts of the world. Hence, this volume illustrates vividly the importance of raw data as presented in the African atlas to this type of sophisticated ornithological work.

Bird banders should find Lack's book of great interest. Quite aside from its considerable scientific importance, it is also extremely fascinating reading. Banders will profit greatly by reading it. Robert Gillmor's drawings add greatly to a better understanding of the major points which Dr. Lack attempts to make.

This is such a good book that it is a pity that a few obvious errors have crept into it. For example, raptor students immediately will note that Accipiter striatus is the Sharp-shinned Hawk rather than the Broad-winged Hawk as stated on page 133. However, the text at this point clearly indicates that the author meant to refer to the Sharp-shin, so no serious confusion should result. Anyone can make a few mistakes such as this when dealing with birds on a world-wide basis.

In any event, banders will find this volume a perfect companion to be used with the African atlas just reviewed. Dr. Lack deserves congratulations for producing an important and very readable book of value to amateurs and professionals alike.

--Reviewed by Donald S. Heintzelman.

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