A FIELD GUIDE TO MEXICAN BIRDS

By Roger Tory Peterson and Edward L. Chalif - published by Houghton Mifflin
Co., Boston, 1973 Hard Cover $8.95

This book is another classic in the Peterson Field Guide Series,
number 20 to be exact. This Peterson Field Guide is brought to bear on the
birds of Mexico. This compact Field Guide is not only complete in its
coverage of the birds of Mexico but also of Guatemala, Belize (British
Honduras), and El Salvador. The total number of species treated is 1038,
and includes the majority of those to be encountered in the other Middle
American countries - Honduras 93%; Nicaragua 86%; Costa Rica 66%; and
Panama 56½%.

This guide, like its predecessors, emphasizes the distinguishing
characteristics of birds when seen at a distance. Confusingly similar
species are clearly differentiated by patternistic drawings in identical
poses with key field marks identicated by arrows. The 48 full page plates
by Roger Tory Peterson are in full color.

Reviewed by Harvey Farber

A GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

By Richard ffrench - published by Livingston Publishing Co., Wynnewood,
Pa. Feb., 1974 $12.50 Hard Cover

This book is a notable achievement. It is, first of all, an
invaluable field guide to more than 400 species. The author gives full
descriptions and habitat notes, life-history and behavior, songs and
nesting patterns. He discusses the present status of species, the effects
of expanding human settlement and cultivation, and the efforts at
conservation.

The book is also the most complete illustrated guide to the birds
of this area. It has 26 identification plates, 28 color plates by the
ornithologist artist, John O'Neill. Also, there are 8 full-page color
portraits. This book is a must for people interested in birds of the
southern caribbean because the islands of Trinidad and Tobago, politically
part of the West Indies, lie barely ten miles from the great Orinoco delta
of Venezuela, and share with their mainland neighbor a rich and varied
fauna.

Reviewed by Harvey Farber