BOOK REVIEWS

Transactions of the North American Osprey Research Conference.—John C. Ogden, editor. 1977. U. S. National Park Service, Transactions and Proceedings Series Number 2. xii + 258 pp. available from Publications Program, Office of the Chief Scientist, Natl. Park Serv., Washington, D.C. 20240.—For vertebrate zoology this is the era of specialty conferences. It is not unusual to assemble 100, 200 or more biologists to discuss research centered around a group, a family or even one species. Organizing such a conference is only half the job; rapid publication of the proceedings is equally important as these conferences usually are organized around a subject of great current interest. Therefore it is unfortunate that these papers presented in Williamsburg, Virginia, on 10-12 February 1972 had to wait more than five years for publication.

The 32 papers include information on the status of local or regional populations of Ospreys from virtually every segment of the breeding range in North America except Alaska and western Canada, as well as information on migration, management techniques, eggshell thinning, and calculation of reproductive success.

John C. Oberheu's article on the status of Ospreys in National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) reveals the importance of Florida's refuges for Ospreys in the NWR system. Of 193 active nests in 31 NWR during 1971, 52% or 101 nests were located in seven Florida NWR with the majority (83 nests) in three refuges, St. Marks, Lake Woodruff and Key Deer.

Of special interest to Florida readers is John Ogden's article on the status and dynamics of a stable population of Ospreys in western Florida Bay. Florida Bay Ospreys differ in several respects from the more northern populations that have been studied. The five-year average of 0.84 young per nest in Florida Bay is less than the 0.95-1.30 rate required for population stability in more northern populations. Ogden suggests that the smaller clutch size and lack of mortality associated with long-distance migration of Florida Bay Ospreys may account for the apparent population stability despite lower productivity. Other differences include increased whiteness of the breast and head of Florida Bay Ospreys and low chemical residues in the eggs. Ogden also presents some interesting information on age-related aspects of molt and of recruitment into the breeding population. This is a preliminary analysis of data from an on-going study. We all look forward to the final analysis of the completed study.

This publication, and especially Serej Postapalsky's critical review of problems in calculating Osprey reproductive success, is required reading for those responsible for protection and management of the nation's Ospreys. Hopefully this publication will stimulate an interest in the status of all of Florida's Ospreys.—FRED E. LOHRER.

Birds of Grady County, Georgia.—Herbert L. Stoddard, Sr. Edited, with additional material, by Roy Komarek and Robert L. Crawford. 1978. Tall Timbers Research Station, Bulletin No. 21. Tallahassee, Tall Timbers Res. Sta. iv + 175 pp.—No Florida ornithologist can afford to ignore this important publication just because it concerns an area outside the state. Stoddard was an indefatigable and perceptive naturalist and this publication covers more than 40 years (1924-1960's) of extensive field work around his home in southwest Georgia along the Florida border.

Included are accounts of 223 species ranging from several lines to several pages in length. In addition to information on status and dates of occurrence, there are frequently notes on nesting, feeding, roosting, migration and intra- and interspecific behavior. One can learn of Red-tailed Hawks gathering at woods fires or following a tractor to feed on flushed prey, Fish Crow predation on a Blue Jay nest, a remarkable Eastern Kingbird roost, the never-ending battle of wits between Bobwhites and Cooper's Hawks and lots more. Furthermore, Stoddard never misses an opportunity to remind us of the long term changes in bird populations due to changes in land use.

Three appendices enhance the value of this publication. The first lists scientific names of non-avian organisms, the second lists Grady County voucher specimens, museum catalog numbers, and date of collection and the third includes results of Christmas Bird Counts conducted by Stoddard at Sherwood Plantation for 29 consecutive years (1937-1965).

This is a publication you will want to keep close at hand to dip into whenever you have the chance. Open it anywhere and start reading; you will quickly find something of interest. Ornithologists in the southeast are indebted to the editors and to Tall Timbers for publishing the work.—FRED E. LOHRER.

Papers of the symposium on the eastern population of the Greater Sandhill Crane.—Robert D. Feldt, compiler. 1977 (1978). Indianapolis, Indiana, Indiana Chapter of the Wildlife Society. 123 pp. $5.00 c/o Duane L. Shroufe, Division of Fish & Wildlife, 607 State Office Bldg., Indianapolis, IN 46204.—The eastern population of the Greater Sandhill Crane, *Grus canadensis tabida*, breeds in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ontario and Manitoba, and so far as is known all or most of these birds winter in Florida and southern Georgia. Greater Sandhills reached a low ebb in 1944 when Walkinshaw (1949, The Sandhill Crane. Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, Cranbrook Inst. Sci. Bull. 29) estimated that the total population in the Lake states was less than 260 birds. Today the Lake states population is more than 15× that number.

This recent increase has been matched by a renewed interest in the study of this migratory population, as the 18 papers in this symposium (held 24-26 October 1977) indicate. Half of the papers are concerned with the status of Greater Sandhills in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Indiana and Florida. Other subjects include migration, ecology, parasites and diseases, growth and development, behavior, management and future outlook. Unfortunately, little information exists on Eastern Greater Sandhills in Canada where about 70% of the population summers. Hopefully, future conferences on Eastern Greater Sandhills will include information about Canadian populations.

Of special interest to Floridians is Stephen A. Nesbitt's article on the current status and future of the birds in Florida. The current wintering population of Greater Sandhills in Florida is estimated at probably between 12,000 and 15,000, and cranes color-marked in Florida have been reported summering in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Manitoba. Nesbitt suggests that if wintering cranes continue to increase their reliance on agricultural areas corn depredation problems may increase.

Lawrence H. Walkinshaw addresses an important problem, namely what should naturalists eventually do with their unpublished data? Deposit them in a regional institution where they will be protected and still be accessible is his solution.

For those interested in cranes this is an important publication. Much can be learned about these birds, and the papers in this symposium point the way. Florida birders can make an important contribution to our knowledge of Greater Sandhill Cranes in Florida by noting areas of winter concentrations and by being alert for color-marked birds. Finally, share your records with Stephen A. Nesbitt.—FRED E. LOHRER.

Florida frog calls.—Richard A. Bradley, producer. 1978. Gainesville, Florida State Museum Associates, Inc. one phonograph disc. $4.50, (Fla. residents include sales tax.).—A good birder can identify many species of birds by their vocalizations alone, even down to the barely audible "tsuck" of the winter-time Brown Thrasher. Once tuned in to natural sounds, the field naturalist may wish to master identification of frog calls.

This record is "a guide to the commonly heard frogs and toads" of Florida. Although 20 species are included, some important omissions exist that will force the Florida field naturalist to consult other sources. Some species missing from the record, the endangered Pine Barrens treefrog (*Hyla andersoni*) and the river frog (*Rana heckscheri*) of north Florida and the exotic Cuban treefrog (*Osteopilus (Hyla) septentrionalis*) of south Florida, are perhaps hardly more local in Florida