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.