

## REVIEWS

The Florida Scrub Jay. Demography of a Cooperative-breeding Bird. By Glen E. Woolfenden and John W. Fitzpatrick. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, 1984: 406 pp., graphs, tables, line drawings, black-and-white photographs. \$45 (cloth), \$14.50 (paper).

This book is the fruit of a decade of exhaustive research and observations of a population of Florida Scrub Jays. This subspecies is interesting in that overcrowding and habitat loss have apparently forced the birds to adopt cooperative-breeding behavior. That is, adult non-breeding birds aid the breeding pair in the raising of young and defense of the territory for up to several years until they themselves become breeders. In their long-term study, the authors came to know the lives and ways of a stable group of these jays in intimate detail.

"The Florida Scrub Jay" is not a "picture book." The only color plate is the cover/frontispiece, and only a few black-and-white habitat shots adorn the pages. Instead, this is a serious, well-organized account of the characteristics of a population of Scrub Jays. Chapters of the book deal with such subjects as pair bonding, territory, dispersal of young, and the evolution of sociality in Florida Scrub Jays. Each chapter begins with a brief synopsis of its contents. I found these introductions to be extremely helpful encapsulations of the chapters' findings. They are well-written and, although thorough, entice the reader to investigate the details of the subject. Chapters are broken down into sub-topics, which are illustrated with graphs, drawings, and tables where needed. The book is mostly written in a style easily read by the layman; only the authors' discussion of jay sociality and its evolution (Chapter 10) did I find difficult to understand. Several appendices, a literature cited section, and indices conclude the book.

I found this book to be a delightfully in-depth look into the behavior of a fascinating species. There is little the authors didn't know about their Scrub Jays--one wishes all research could be so comprehensive. I think "The Florida Scrub Jay" has something to offer all lovers of birds, especially those who wish to delve deeper into bird behavior. I recommend it highly.--Malcolm F. Hodges, Jr.

Nest Building and Bird Behavior. By Nicholas E. Collias and Elsie C. Collias. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, 1984:336 pp., 14 drawings, 64 black-and-white photographs. \$45 (cloth), \$16.50 (paper).

As a husband and wife team, Nicholas and Elsie Collias have spent many years studying the breeding biology of birds, particularly the African weaverbirds. The complexity of woven nests of various weaverbird species led them to look at the nest-building behavior of other species. This major work delves into the variability found in construction of bird nests, how the variability is distributed among the birds of the world, and the significance such variation has on the family lives of birds. The Collias' discuss such problems as which sex chooses the nest site, and how nest construction relates to climatic differences. They also discuss the complex adaptations and coadaptations of brood parasites and their hosts, and bird predators and their intended victims.

The Collias' rely heavily on their own work, but they have also drawn together a very thorough review of the literature dealing with bird nests. Their bibliography of over 500 references will be a goldmine for future researchers! Although this is a book that will be of most use to the professional, it is so clearly written and includes such fascinating material that it could certainly be enjoyed by any serious naturalist, amateur or professional, backyard birder or full-time researcher. This is a must for any good college or university library.--Jerome A. Jackson.