

REVIEWS

Birds of the Nashville area. Fourth edition. By H.E. Parmer, D.F. Vogt, C.G. Drewry, P.B. Hamel, and S.J. Stedman. 1985. Nashville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, P.O. Box 24573, Nashville, Tennessee. 64 pp. \$4 (paper).

This annotated checklist was originally published in 1966. The area covered has gradually been expanded, so that the present edition covers most of the nine counties of the greater Nashville area.

The book begins with brief summaries of the history of Nashville birding, and local environmental conditions. Also included here are a list of frequently birded spots and a discussion of changes in the Nashville avifauna since the last edition.

The species accounts follow, covering 306 confirmed and hypothetical species. The accounts give information on seasonal occurrence and abundance; for birds not permanently resident, records of extreme and extralimital dates are listed. Highest recorded numbers are given for some species, and notes with additional information supplement many accounts. The species accounts are separated at the centerfold by a map of the area covered. A bar graph concludes the book.

The introductory section of the book is very helpful -- especially interesting is the part dealing with recent changes in the local birdlife. One wishes there were more information on locales, such as directions or even addresses; however, this book was not meant to be a bird-finding guide, and no one unfamiliar with the Nashville area should expect to use it as such.

The species accounts are the heart of the book, and the compilers can be congratulated on bringing together a wealth of useful information in succinct form. The accounts could have been made even more concise by the exclusion of cited records. Including an observer's initials, locations, and dates seems cumbersome for a book of this size and scope, and only tends to

make the accounts less easy to read. High numbers might have been given for more species -- for instance, none is given for most of the herons, or for any of the transient warblers. The accounts seem very current when one sees the note that Western Grebe has been split into two species. However, some archaic information on identification is given: that the scaups are only reliably distinguished by wing-stripe length, and a note at the dowitchers implying that the two species are only certainly identified in the hand!

The map appears well-drawn, and suffers only from the unfortunate omission of part of the key which explains areas covered in different editions of the book. The bar graph is only of limited use. Hopefully a more detailed version will appear in the next edition, with at least four categories of abundance rather than two. This detraction is offset by the use of exact dates, which helps make the often ambiguous bar-ends more precise. Finally, uneven placement of the different bars makes the graph unattractive.

Despite these flaws, this book should prove a useful tool not only to Tennessee birders, but to all with an interest in bird distribution. Hopefully such handy references will soon become more commonplace for frequently-birded areas.--Malcolm F. Hodges, Jr.

A Bird-Finding Guide to Ontario. By Clive E. Goodwin.
1982. University of Toronto Press, Toronto, Ontario.
248 pp., 12 maps. \$12.50 (paper).

This guide joins the ranks of dozens of regional birding guides and is a fine addition. Brief introductory chapters describe how to use the guide and the nature of Ontario's avifauna. At publication, 417 species had been recorded in the province and 276 had been found nesting. Most of the book is devoted to very well written and very detailed site guides - even ferry schedules are included. This book would be extremely useful to any birder visiting Ontario. The main problem with the book is the poor quality of paper it is printed on.--Jerome A. Jackson.