

REVIEWS

Sutton, George M. 1986. *Birds Worth Watching*. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma. 207 pp., 60 color photographs. \$19.95, hardcover.

Shortly before his death, Doc Sutton completed the manuscript for this excellent introduction to sixty of our birds that he felt were worth knowing a bit more about. The species singled out by Sutton include some of the most common and best loved of North American birds -- e.g., Eastern Screech-Owl, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Northern Cardinal, and Loggerhead Shrike. They also include a few lesser known birds -- such as Ladder-backed Woodpecker, White-necked Raven, and Canyon Wren. Each species is illustrated by an excellent color photograph -- mostly of adult birds, but some of nestlings (e.g., Yellow-billed Cuckoo), and some of adults and young (such as a wonderful photo of two Chimney Swifts at their nest with three nestlings).

The value of this book lies not just in the high quality of the information and illustrations, but also in the readability and usefulness of the text. This book would make a great gift for an aspiring bird student. It not only shares some little known information about the birds, but raises many questions that are fodder for further study. I highly recommend it!--Jerome A. Jackson.

Heintzelman, Donald S. 1984. *Guide to Owl Watching in North America*. Winchester Press, New Century Publishers, Inc., Piscataway, New Jersey. 193 pp., numerous black-and-white photos. \$8.95 paperback.

If you are an owl aficionado, you might well want to invest in this little guide. Heintzelman begins with a brief sketch of the distribution, characteristics, habits, and habitats of the 19 species of owls that character in North America. Information provided goes beyond basic field guides in providing identification clues and describing details of habitats and behavior. Other chapters provide information on ways of finding owls, equipment to use in owl-watching, identification of owl pellets, special adaptations of owls, and owl conservation. One large section of the book includes photographs of each species

and key identifying characteristics in outline form. The book concludes with a guide to places where one might find good owl-watching. Many of these are parks and refuges, others are special places that the author has found particularly productive for certain species. These location accounts list the owl species to be found, their season of occurrence, access information, and suggestions for finding the featured species. Some of these accounts may be useful, but those for Mississippi were quite disappointing. Only two localities were mentioned, the Harrison Experimental Forest near Gulfport, and Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge near Starkville. For both of these localities, the only owl listed as present is the Barred Owl! Accounts for other areas and more exotic species seem much more useful.--Jerome A. Jackson.