

ASSORTED BOOK REVIEWS

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF MEXICO

By Ernest P. Edwards

Sweet Briar, Va. 24595. 1972. 300 Pp. \$8.50

This beautiful book continues where the Peterson field guides end, at the U.S.-Mexican border. It takes into account all birds occurring from the northern border of Mexico to the southern border of Nicaragua, and species of birds accidental in Mexico. It includes nearly 500 non-U.S. species illustrated in color, and a detailed description of all Mexican species, close to 1000, including range, habitat, behavior and markings, plus a short Spanish description of all birds.

Rather than have the color plates along with the text, the author has grouped the birds by families on 24 beautiful plates at the end of the book. It makes it much easier to look up and identify species that may be strange to the Mexican visitor.

I strongly recommend this comprehensive field guide for the Mexican and even the Central American visitor, as an important part of his luggage.

Reviewed by Harvey Farber

BIRDS OF THE WEST INDIES (Second Edition)

By James Bond

Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. 1971. 256 Pp.

This is a revised and updated edition of the standard field guide to the birds of the islands of the West Indies except Trinidad, Tobago and the Netherlands Antilles. It is essentially the same as the preceding edition except for new distributional records and the addition of one new color plate by Don R. Eckelberry. There are now nine color plates in the second edition. Equally important are the 186 superb pen and ink sketches of birds by Earl L. Poole.

Since the West Indies is a very popular birding area, persons planning a visit to these tropical islands will be happy to see Bond's excellent field guide back in print again. We all owe this fine scientist many thanks for devoting a lifetime of study to West Indian ornithology and making his knowledge available to a popular audience.

Reviewed by Donald S. Heintzelman