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WANTED—Check-list of Birds of the World, volume 5, by James L. Peters. Please state price and condition.—ARTHUR ARONOFF, M.D., *University Hospital, Ann Arbor, Mich.*

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WANTED—The Condor, vol. 1, nos. 3-4; vol. 2, no. 6; and vol. 3, no. 2.—JACK C. VON BLOEKER, JR., *Los Angeles City College, Los Angeles 29, Calif.*

LIFE HISTORIES OF CENTRAL AMERICAN BIRDS

FAMILIES FRINGILLIDAE, THRAUPIDAE, ICTERIDAE, PARULIDAE and COEREBIDAE

By ALEXANDER F. SKUTCH

The Cooper Ornithological Society has recently published the Life Histories of Central American Birds as Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 31.

This volume contains life histories of 40 species of birds of Central America belonging to the higher families of song birds—the finches, tanagers, troupials, wood warblers, and honeycreepers. The accounts are the work of a skilled, sensitive and patient naturalist who has devoted a quarter of a century of outdoor work to the intensive study of the varied and complex bird life of the mountains and lowlands of Latin America. All but two of the accounts are heretofore unpublished and for each of the five families a summary and a comparison of the highlights of the breeding biology of the species are given.

Dr. Skutch, the author, was trained in botany at Johns Hopkins University. In 1928 he first visited the American tropics in Panama. There soon grew in him a determination to devote his life to learning all he could of the habits of the birds of Central America. Botanical jobs and finances were always adapted to the fullest possible pursuit of this goal in bird study. After work in Honduras and Guatemala, Dr. Skutch settled in Costa Rica in 1941 on his own farm in the wild and isolated section of El General. In support of this particular writing he received a fellowship from the Guggenheim Foundation, and in 1950 he was awarded the Brewster Medal of the American Ornithologists' Union for his publications on Central American birds.

The book consists of 448 pages, and it is illustrated by Don R. Eckelberry. A group of four tanagers is shown in color and all the other species are represented by line drawings. Thirty-two photographs show nests and habitats of tropical America.

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