

Die Greifvögel der Erde.—Theodor Mebs and Wolfgang Fisher. 1976. Tier und Umwelt, Nr. 13/14. 40 p. DM 17,00. Available: Verlag Detlev Kurth, D-2202 Barmstedt, Germany. This booklet offers a review of the systematics and biology of falconiform birds. Worldwide distribution, food habits, ecological roles, and relationships are discussed briefly. Photographs and maps.

Collected Papers in Avian Paleontology Honoring the 90th Birthday of Alexander Wetmore.—Edited by Storrs L. Olson. 1976. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 211 p. Eighteen papers on various aspects of avian paleontology. They are preceded by a historical sketch of Dr. Wetmore's contributions to avian paleontology and a list of his 155 publications in this field alone. The present papers are arranged in chronological order from *Archaeopteryx* to species that became extinct in recent centuries. They include functional and evolutionary interpretations of structure, studies of significant early fossils, and reviews of taxa or avifaunas. Photographs and drawings. The editor and con-

tributors have produced an exceptionally interesting and important volume about fossil birds.

The Life & Lore of the Bird/In Nature, Art, Myth, and Literature.—Edward A. Armstrong. 1975. Crown Publishers, Inc., New York. 272 p. \$15.95. This is a book about the various ways in which birds have been regarded and treated by mankind. It is a curiously mixed bag, perhaps at the publisher's behest. Two opening chapters give a cursory sketch of the evolution, flight, song, and display of birds. The meat of the book lies in the more original and authoritative chapters on birds in prophecy and magic, mythology, personal adornment, art, and literature. Other chapters deal with birds used for sport, food, and other human purposes, and with endangered species. Lavishly illustrated with photographs and works of art, both in monochrome and full color. Seventeen selections of writings about birds are appended, ranging from Alexander von Humboldt on oilbirds to Sigurd Olson on geese. A fascinating book for general readers yet containing much that will be new to ornithologists.

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