

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

**Population Ecology of the Mallard. VI. The Effect of Exploitation on Survival.**—David R. Anderson and Kenneth P. Burnham. 1976. Resource Publication 128, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 66 p. This report examines the effect of hunting mortality on the annual survival rate of Mallards in North America. Elaborate statistical analysis of contrasting hypotheses indicates that hunting mortality is largely compensated for by decreased natural mortality, when the hunting mortality is below some threshold level. Graphs, references, and appendices on biometric methods.

**Summer Birds of the San Juan Valley, New Mexico.**—Carl Gregory Schmitt. 1976. New Mexico Ornithological Society Publication No. 4. 22 p. Chiefly an annotated list of the 147 species of birds that have been found during the summer in this area of northwestern New Mexico. The avifauna is briefly analyzed and compared with that of the more southern Gila Valley. Map.

**A Further Contribution to Knowledge of the Host Relations of the Parasitic Cowbirds.**—Herbert Friedmann, Lloyd F. Kiff, and Stephen I. Rothstein. 1977. Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology No. 235. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 75 p. This report assembles a large amount of new information on the relations between the three species of parasitic cowbirds and their hosts. Data have been gathered from field observations, nest record files, egg collections, and experimental studies. Many new hosts are recorded. The findings also help to define and explore the nature of the host-parasite relationship. An important paper, not simply as a compilation, but also for pointing out interesting problems and topics on which information is needed.

**Bird Taxidermy.**—James M. Harrison. 1976. David & Charles, North Pomfret, Vermont. 67 p. \$6.95. This is a little manual on skinning and mounting birds, taxidermic materials, and the maintenance of a museum collection. It is detailed and practical, based on the author's considerable experience. Diagrams and photographs.

**Alberta Birds 1961–1970 with particular reference to migration.**—T. S. Sadler and M. T. Myres. 1976. Provincial Museum of Alberta, Natural History Section, Occasional Paper No. 1. Alberta Culture, Historical Resources Division. 314 p. \$3.25. Available: The Bookshop, Provincial Museum of Alberta, 12845-102 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5N 0M6. This book gives records for birds seen in Alberta during the decade. It discusses significant changes in the status or range of several species, and documents the new occurrence of other species. Its chief and wider value, however, is in providing much basic data on migration and weather events, a resource for comparative studies of migratory behavior. For that reason, the work should be of interest to more than Alberta birders. It concludes with a list of pub-

lications on Alberta birds during the decade and indexes to scientific and English names.

**A Guide to Bird Finding East of the Mississippi. Second edition.**—Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., 1977. Oxford University Press, New York. 689 p. \$15.95. This is an enlarged and extensively revised edition of the pioneering guidebook that Pettingill first published in 1951. Principally, it has been updated to take into account the tremendous changes in the distribution of birds and the environment. The plan of the book is the same as before but there are now separate chapters for Delaware, New Jersey, and the New York City area. Many formerly good birding places have disappeared from this edition but new ones have been added. Directions for finding them have been rewritten in light of the changes wrought by the interstate highways. The book is graced with fine pen-and-ink drawings by George Miksch Sutton, including four new ones. Thanks to a larger format and better typography, this edition is easier to read than its predecessor. Now rejuvenated, it remains an indispensable companion for birders traveling in the eastern U.S.

**The Wrens.**—Produced and narrated by John William Hardy. [1977]. 33 $\frac{1}{3}$  rpm phonograph record, ARA-2. Privately published. \$6.00. Available: ARA Records, 1615 N.W. 14th Ave., Gainesville, Florida 32605. The voices of over 40 species of wrens in the Americas are here presented in recordings by Ben B. Coffey, Jr. and other recordists. Carefully selected and arranged, they demonstrate the variety and complexity of vocal evolution in this family. Technically, the sound is generally very good but because the record is monaural, duetting is not evident. Hardy introduces the cuts, commenting on the systematic relationships of the birds and on various aspects of their singing. The album gives background information and documentation.

**Animal Communication, Second edition.**—Hubert and Mable Frings. 1977. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman. 207 p. \$9.95 hardcover, \$4.95 paperback. This book is a reliable and easily readable account of how and why animals communicate with each other. It has been revised and enlarged to take note of the growth in this field since 1964, when the first edition was published. Intended and well suited for nonspecialists, it may also give specialists in animal communication some perspective on their field. Illustrated, indexed, and furnished with an annotated list of selected references.

**World Conference on Birds of Prey, Report of Proceedings, Vienna 1975.**—Edited by R. D. Chancellor. 1977. International Council for Bird Preservation. 442 p. \$13.75. Available: Secretary General, ICBP, c/o British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, SW7 5BD, England. These are the papers given at the Conference under the following headings: regional and national reports on the status of birds of prey, national legislation and international agreements, research relevant to conserva-

tion, protective measures and management, and identification of the main problems facing birds of prey. Most of the papers are supplemented with tables of data, lists of references, and the discussion that they elicited. The volume closes with the Resolutions adopted at the Conference and directed toward governments and conservation organizations. An exceptionally comprehensive and up-to-date presentation, essential for those who are concerned about the conservation of falconiformes and owls.

**Finding Birds in Mexico, Second edition.**—Ernest P. Edwards. 1968. 282 p., 8 maps, 15 pls. **1976 Supplement.**—E. P. Edwards. 1976. 134 p., 6 maps. Both privately published. Two books together \$8.00. These and the next two items are available from: Ernest P. Edwards, Box AQ, Sweet Briar, VA 24595. Based on Edwards's wide experience in leading trips, these two books provide detailed instructions for traveling and finding birds in Mexico. The 1968 book first describes the regions of the country and then discusses birding places in alphabetic order. The accounts cover geography, routes, and vegetation, as well as bird life. Lastly, the book lists the species that occur regularly in Mexico, with indications of their range and seasonal status. Species not found in the U.S. are characterized in a few words and/or depicted in the plates, so that this section constitutes a brief field guide.

As with Pettingill's guidebook, some of the original information became obsolete because of extensive man-made changes in the roads, towns, and countryside. Hence the Supplement, which brings it up to date—for the time being. Taken together, the books should prove trustworthy and helpful guides.

**A Field Guide to the Birds of Mexico.**—Ernest P. Edwards. 1972. Privately published. 300 p., 24 pls.

\$8.00. For each of the nearly 1,000 species of birds that occur regularly in Mexico, this book concisely describes the range, habitat, habits, vocalizations, and appearance (this last in Spanish as well as English). The non-Mexican birds of Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua are treated separately in an abbreviated style. Nearly 500 of the non-U.S. Mexican species are shown in the colored plates by Murrell Butler and others. An 8-page leaflet giving additions to the Mexican list and major status changes as of 1976 is included.

**Finding Birds in Panama, Second edition.**—Ernest Preston Edwards and Horace Loftin. 1971. Privately published. 97 p., 2 maps. \$4.00. Birding localities are treated in geographical sequence as they are situated along the various highways, starting in Panama City and then in the rest of the country. Directions for travel and lists of birds to be expected are given for every area. A one-page update as of March 1977 is included.

**Wildfowl of Europe.**—Myrfyn Owen. 1977. Macmillan, London. 256 p. £12.00. This is a large, handsome book about anseriformes, aimed at lay readers. First come general chapters on adaptations, population, behavior, migration, and relations between wildfowl and mankind; then, the species accounts. These last cover the usual topics but emphasize distribution, migration, and ecology in a well-integrated manner. Generously illustrated with excellent range maps, drawings, and color plates. Four appendices tabulate many data; bibliography and index. Thanks to its solid text, this is not a mere coffee-table book as it first seems. As many of the species occur in the Western Hemisphere also, American admirers of wildfowl will find here much of interest.

## THE BULLETIN BOARD

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FOR SALE: *The Auk*, 1976, \$5; *The Wilson Bulletin*, 1976, \$5. Shipping extra. Write: Carl Tomasi, 158 Concord Road, Apt. G1, Billerica, Mass. 01821.

WANTED: Male Common Flickers collected as breeding birds (Great Plains area, California, Pacific north-west) and breeding Fox Sparrows of some

species (*altivagans*, *canescens*, *olivacea*, *schistacea*, *swarthi*). Will exchange exotic material (Africa, South America, Philippines), and some North Atlantic alcids and shearwaters. D. M. Scott, Department of Zoology, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada N6A 5B7.

WANT TO BUY: Fraser F. Darling's *Bird flocks and the breeding cycle*, Cambridge University Press, 1938. —Charles R. Brown, 2601 Turtle Creek Drive, Sherman, Texas 75090.

WANTED: Tape recordings of White-eyed Vireos (*Vireo griseus*) from anywhere in the range. I will pay postage and duplicate here, or send tape. Richard Bradley, Florida State Museum, Univ. of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611.