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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

A Checklist of the birds of Washington State, with recent changes annotated.—Philip W. Mattocks, Jr., Eugene S. Hunn, and Terence R. Wahl. 1976. Reprinted from *Western Birds* 7:1-24. Paper cover. \$1.25. Available: Western Field Ornithologists, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon, CA 94920. A comprehensive, up-to-date checklist, coded to show the status of every species. A separate section gives notes on species that have been added or whose status has changed radically since the treatment by Jewett et al. (1953). Hypothetical species are discussed in a concluding section.

Pelagic birds of Monterey Bay, California.—Richard W. Stallcup. 1976. Reprinted from *Western Birds* 7:113-136. Paper cover. \$1.50. Available: as above. A guide for birders to the seabirds that may be seen in Monterey Bay. Seasonal status and tips on field identification are given for each species.

Journal II, 1976-1977.—The World Pheasant Association, Davs Hall, Lamarsh, Bures, Suffolk, CO8 5EX, England. 152 p. Paper cover. £4.00. This second volume of a new series (see *Condor* 78:425, 1976) is similar in scope to the first. The articles are varied and of good quality.

Functional and causal aspects of nest distribution in colonies of the Sandwich Tern.—J. Veen. 1977. *Behaviour*, Supplement XX. E. J. Brill, Leiden. 193 p. Paper cover. 60 guilders. This monograph investigates "whether in the Sandwich Tern colonial nesting enhances reproductive success, and if so how this comes about." Opening chapters deal with various aspects of the nesting biology of the terns in the colony studied, on a small Dutch island. The study is mainly devoted to predation and anti-predator behavior. Finally, it deals with the behavior that leads to specific nest distribution patterns and to associative nesting. Maps, graphs, drawings, and excellent photographs. This is a well-prepared and important contribution to the knowledge of colonial birds.

The Birds of the Ligonier Valley.—Robert C. Leberman. 1976. Carnegie Museum of Natural History Special Publication No. 3. Pittsburgh. 67 p. Paper cover. \$5.00. Available: Publications Secretary, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 4400 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213. Ligonier Valley lies between the two westernmost ridges of the Allegheny Mountains in southwestern Pennsylvania. Records on the birds of the region, as drawn from the banding program at the Powdermill Nature Reserve and field observations, are here compiled and summarized. The booklet is attractively illustrated with color paintings by H. Jon Janosik and line drawings by Carol H. Rudy.

The California Condor—1977.—Edited by Philip P. Schaeffer and Sharyn M. Ehlers. 1977. National Audubon Society, George Whittel Education Center, Tiburon, California. 47 p. Paper cover. \$2.50. Available: Natl. Audubon Soc., 376 Greenwood Beach

Road, Tiburon, CA 94920. These are the proceedings of a 1976 Symposium on the California Condor. The papers concern life history and habitat requirements of the species, the condor survey, participation of government agencies in preserving habitat, and plans for survival of the species. An edited version of the ensuing discussion is included.

Ornithological Gazetteer of Paraguay.—Raymond A. Paynter, Jr. and Alastair M. G. Caperton. 1977. 43 p. Paper cover. \$1.75. Available: Bird Department, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138 or Bird Division, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL 60605. The third in a series (see *Condor* 78:149, 1976 and 79:397, 1977). As before, it contains an annotated list of places, a complete bibliography, a geographic map, and a map of collecting sites.

Optical Signals.—Jack P. Hailman. 1977. Indiana Univ. Press, Bloomington. 362 p. \$15.00. This fascinating book explores visual communication in animals, drawing on philosophy, physics, mathematical information theory, sensory physiology, ethology, and semiotics. The author provides background on approaches to the subject, the elements of communication, the properties of light, and the sending and receiving of optical signals. He then treats the visual principles by which an animal deceives an observer and the characteristics of signals that combat noise. Lastly, he considers how optical signals may be influenced by the message they transmit. Although high-powered, the book is not difficult, thanks to its clear writing. It is furnished with illustrations, a list of suggested articles from *Scientific American*, a list of literature cited, and indexes.

Rails of the World. A Monograph of the Family Rallidae.—S. Dillon Ripley, with paintings by J. Fenwick Lansdowne. 1977. David R. Godine, Publisher, Boston. 406 p. \$75.00. Rarely any more does one see a lavishly produced monograph such as this. It is all the more unusual for treating a family of birds that are elusive and little-known. Opening chapters describe the characteristics, distribution, evolution and speciation of rails as a group. Most of the book is devoted to the species accounts (synonymy, habits, description, captivity, measurements, distribution, and status) and the taxonomic keys. These are illustrated with 41 color plates that excel both in their execution and reproduction. Distribution maps and monochrome photographs of a few species are also given. A closing chapter by Storrs L. Olson assembles and condenses what is known about the fossil and subfossil members of the family. The scholarship of this volume is as impressive as its quarto size, handsome appearance, and fine production.

Environmental Status of the Lake Michigan Region. Vol. 14. Birds of the Lake Michigan Drainage Basin.—George J. Wallace. 1977. Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Ill. 112 p. Paper cover. \$5.50. Available: National Technical

Information Service, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161. "This report characterizes the birdlife found in 100 counties of the four states peripheral to Lake Michigan." It discusses the major habitats and their associated avifauna, special areas attractive to birds, historical considerations, and migration patterns. An annotated list describes briefly the status, distribution, habitat, and diet of the common species in the region, information that is then tabulated in a more complete list of species. Comprehensive and carefully written, the report should be a useful reference for assessing the effects of various human activities on the avifauna of the region.

The Pheasants of the World. Second edition.—Jean Delacour. 1977. Spur Publications and The World Pheasant Association. 395 p. £18.00. Available: Saiga Publishing Co., Ltd., 1 Royal Parade, Hindhead, Surrey, England GU26 6TD. This is a revised edition of the standard reference on pheasants, first published in 1951. A general account of the group is followed by lengthy species accounts (description, habits, and captivity). New information on the status, habits and care of the birds has been added throughout. The original maps, diagrams, and paintings by J. C. Harrison are included; a color frontispiece by R. David Digby is new. Ornithologists and aviculturists will be grateful to have this authoritative work up-to-date and back in print.

A Bird Watcher's Adventures in Tropical America.—Alexander F. Skutch. 1977. University of Texas Press, Austin. 327 p. \$13.95. A collection of essays about Neotropical natural history and personal experiences, in which detailed descriptions mingle with observations and reflections. Skutch portrays birds, plants, lands and people in Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica and Venezuela. Thoughtfully and richly worded, this book (with its index) will aid birders in the tropics while entertaining and educating those less fortunate. Handsomely illustrated with line drawings by Dana Gardner.

The World of Roger Tory Peterson/An Authorized Biography.—John C. Devlin and Grace Naismith. 1977. Quadrangle/The New York Times Book Co. 266 p. \$14.95. The inside story of the man who has done so much to popularize bird watching in the U.S. Peterson's childhood, training, adventures and achievements are described. Admirers of Peterson will enjoy the book's breezy and anecdotal style. Fifteen color prints of Peterson's paintings and a number of his line drawings. Biographic photographs.

Ecology and energetics of contrasting social systems in *Phainopepla nitens* (Aves: Ptilonotidae).—Glenn E. Walsberg. 1977. University of California Publications in Zoology Vol. 108, Univ. Calif. Press, Berkeley. 63 p. Paper cover. \$4.50. In California, *Phainopeplas* breed in the Colorado Desert in early spring, and then in coastal riparian and oak woodlands during the summer. This study analyzes this unusual breeding system with regard to the characteristics of the two habitats, adaptations of social behavior to contrasting patterns of resources, and consequences for the birds' use of time and energy. Ecological, behavioral, and physiological findings are well presented and integrated. Maps, graphs, and diagrams.

The biological and taxonomic status of the Mexican Duck.—John P. Hubbard. 1977. New Mexico Dept. of Game & Fish, Bulletin No. 16. 56 p. Paper cover. This is a study of the taxonomic relationships between the Mexican and Mallard ducks, based on an analysis of populations. Body measurements, plumage characters, and other aspects of morphology and habits are compared. After discussing distribution, numbers, evolutionary history, and other points, the author offers his recommendations for future management. His "overall data suggest that the Mexican Duck should be regarded as a subspecies of the Mallard . . ."

Transactions of the Forty-first Federal-Provincial Wildlife Conference.—1977. Canadian Wildlife Service. 210 p. Paper cover. The conference was held in Winnipeg, July 5 to 7, 1977. The volume first gives the reports of several Canadian and U.S. agencies and groups concerned with the hunting, trapping, protection, or management of birds and mammals. Following, are the papers in a symposium on wildlife enforcement [*sic*] in Canada.

A classification of the tyrant flycatchers (Tyrannidae).—Melvin A. Traylor, Jr. 1977. Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology 148 (4):129–184. Paper cover. Available: Publications Office, M.C.Z., Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138. This systematic investigation is a preparatory step toward treatment of the Tyrannidae in volume 8 of the continuation of Peters' *Check-list*. It discusses the limits of the family, presents a new classification of the subfamilies and genera, and offers a phylogeny. An important technical contribution on a large and difficult group of birds.

Aus dem Leben der Vögel.—Oskar Heinroth. 1977. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York. 159 p. Paper cover. \$5.30. This third edition of a work first published in 1938 has been revised and enlarged by the author's widow, Katharina Heinroth. It is a brief, popular book in German that answers many of the common questions about birds. Breeding biology, feathers and molting, communication, senses, orientation, and other topics are covered. Many photographs and drawings. Indexed by German names. If this edition is not translated, the translation of the second edition (as *The Birds*. 1958. Univ. Michigan Press, Ann Arbor) will do nicely for most subjects.

Water Birds of California.—Howard L. Cogswell. 1977. California Natural History Guides: 40. University of California Press, Berkeley. 399 p. Paper cover. \$5.75. This is a hand-size handbook about California water birds, from loons to dippers. Introductory chapters treat field techniques, general behavior, and method of identification. The species accounts cover recognition, habits, range, and occurrence in California. A series of elaborately coded horizontal bar graphs summarizes the seasonal status and preferred habitat of every species. The book is generously illustrated with very nice line drawings, color paintings, and a map by Gene M. Christman. Novices who need help with basic identification may find this book less easy to use than the standard field guides. Birders with some experience, however, should find it invaluable for trickier identification and for learning about the birds they find. Although certainly a bargain, a well-bound edition would seem

to be desirable for a work that is likely to get hard usage.

Birds in boreal Canada: Communities, densities and adaptations.—Anthony J. Erskine. 1977. Canadian Wildlife Service Report Series No. 41. 71 p. Paper cover. Canada \$5.00, other countries \$6.00. Available: Printing and Publishing, Supply and Services Canada, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0S9. Cat. No. CW 65-8/41. This is a study of the ecology and geography of the birds in the northern conifer forest

of North America. The composition of the avian communities in each of the various habitats is described, including many data on densities of species. Erskine then considers the distribution patterns in this avifauna, going on to their relationship to other bird faunas of the Americas and of Eurasia. Lastly, he takes up the impact of man on boreal birdlife, with an eye toward future development of the region. This is a stimulating and well-written analysis of a relatively neglected avifauna. Maps, diagrams, and habitat photographs.