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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

A Birder's Guide to Eastern Colorado (East of the Continental Divide).—James A. Lane and Harold R. Holt. 1979. L & P Press, Box 21604, Denver, CO 80221. 125 p. Paper cover. \$5.00. Source: publisher. Detailed guides to bird-finding for eight regions of North America (guide to Florida noticed in *Condor* 83:191) have now been produced by Lane (in some cases with collaborators). This is a second revised edition of one that was previously revised in 1975. Following now-familiar format, it describes good birding areas, tells where to look for the avian specialties of eastern Colorado, tabulates the status and migration data for all birds of the region, and lists other vertebrates to be found. Maps, photographs, chart, references, index. A practical and invaluable aid to birders, especially those from out-of-state.

A Birder's Guide to Churchill.—James A. Lane and Bonnie Chartier. 1983. L & P Press, Denver, CO. 62 p. Paper cover. \$5.50. Source: as above. Situated on the west side of Hudson Bay above latitude 58°N, Churchill is the most accessible and most famous locality for low-Arctic birds in North America. This booklet, similar in plan to the above, gives directions to birding sites and much other useful information. Notable is a full list of plants of the region. Maps, photographs, chart, references, index. To be fully equipped, visiting birders should also have Jehl and Smith's *Birds of the Churchill Region, Manitoba* (1970. Spec. Publ. No. 1, Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, Winnipeg).

The Birds of Africa, Volume 1.—Leslie H. Brown, Emil K. Urban, and Kenneth Newman. 1982. Academic Press, London. 536 p. \$99.00. This is the first of four volumes in a comprehensive, definitive handbook on the birds of the African continent and its offshore islands; a fifth volume on the Malagasy region is under active discussion. The series will give the essential information for every species in the region (some 1,850), whether resident, migrant, or vagrant. In so doing, it will assemble data that hitherto have been dispersed through many books, journals, and unpublished sources, as well as gathered through the authors' considerable field experience. This volume opens with a valuable introduction on the main features of African bird faunas, some possibilities for research, the scope, content, and layout of the text, and a list of references. Following are the species accounts, from the Ostrich through the falcons. Varying in length from one-half to five pages, they are organized into the usual topics, concisely written, and crammed with information where known; each is furnished with a continental range map. It is intended that the series will illustrate nearly every species in color; this volume contains 32 plates and many line drawings by Martin Woodcock and Peter Hayman. Bibliography, indexes. This authoritative work becomes the primary reference for information and entry into the literature on African birds. One must applaud Urban for having assumed leadership of the project after Brown's death, and encourage him toward its completion.

agement and support. We are also grateful to Ken Francis for help with lodging and transportation in Biella, and to Jared Diamond, Ronald Orenstein, and Bruce Beehler for their comments on an earlier draft of this manuscript.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Report of the 1979 Greenland White-fronted Goose Study Expedition to Eqalungmiut Nunât, West Greenland.—Edited by A. D. Fox and D. A. Stroud. 1981. Greenland White-fronted Goose Study, Aberystwyth. 319 p. Paper cover. £ 9.50 postpaid. Source: National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, Dyfed, Wales, U.K. One subspecies of White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) breeds on the west coast of Greenland and winters in Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. A decline in one of the Welsh populations during the 1960's, coupled with virtual ignorance of the summer ecology of the geese, motivated an expedition from the University College of Wales. This volume is its complete report, including not only all the scientific investigations but also a full narrative of the expedition and detailed reports on its logistics, supplies, and equipment. Nearly one-third of the pages are devoted to the studies of the geese: breeding biology, food, predation, plumage variation, migration, et al. Brief reports treat other breeding birds, and investigations of mammals, fish, land arthropods, plants, and meteorology. In total, the document offers a wealth of new information about the geese and their arctic ecosystem. While the scientific findings carry the flag, one may also enjoy the account of the expedition itself and gain much invaluable advice on provisioning similar ventures. Maps, photographs, charts, drawings, references.

Japanibis und Japanische Nachtigall als Beispiel zweier Pole im Naturverständnis der Japaner.—Ulrike Thiede. 1982. *Mitteilungen* Bd. 90, Gesellschaft für Natur- und Völkerkunde Ostasiens e.V., Hamburg. 190 p. Paper cover. No price given. Source: author, Fliederstr. 2, D 428, Borken, West Germany. To the Western eye, there appears to be a discrepancy between the reputation of Japanese people as nature-lovers and their actual attitudes and practices. What does "nature" mean to the Japanese? Thiede, a German zoologist, opens her scholarly examination with a survey of the Japanese view of nature, as given in modern European and Japanese writings. She then addresses the question by way of two birds that have engendered contrasting human responses: the Japanese Bush-Warbler (*Cettia diphone*) exemplifies the traditional/literary attitude toward birds, while the Crested Ibis (*Nipponia nippon*) represents the rural attitude. Both species are considered from scientific as well as literary and cultural aspects. The drastic decline of the ibis during the past century has reversed feelings toward it, and this endangered species has become an important impetus for nature protection in Japan. Maps, references.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The birds of Saudi Arabia: a check-list.—Michael C. Jennings. 1981. Published by the author, 63, Blandford Rd., Chiswick, London W4 1EA, England. 112 p. Paper cover. £6.30. **Birds of the Arabian Gulf.**—by the same author. 1981. Allen & Unwin, Winchester, MA 01890. 165 p. Hard cover. \$25.00. Three decades have passed since the late Colonel Meinertzhagen published the basic source book on birds of the Levant, so it is time for new books, more corresponding to the needs of our time. Jennings seems well qualified to do the job for the Arabian peninsula after five years of residence and birding there. The check-list includes not only the list of birds but also four geographic maps and sketch maps suggesting the breeding ranges of 117 species. Although the distribution symbols (often interspersed with question marks) are restricted within the boundaries of Saudi Arabia, the maps suggest wider distributions in the Peninsula and its western base. It is frustrating for an avian geographer to see a distribution area abruptly ending at a political boundary, a shortcoming that could have been avoided by some signs of continuation of the range. In this admittedly non-definitive list, Jennings deals with 414 species, and has rejected records of 42 others as unreliable. Regrettably, as is the case in many other check-lists, the terms referring to the *local faunistic role*, and especially to the abundance of occurrence, are vague. As customary, “resident” and “visitor” are used intermittently, while “migrant” is Jennings’s choice for “passage visitor” or “transient” of other authors.

Birds of the Arabian Gulf is a pocket-sized manual, beginning with a general introduction to the ornithogeographical position, and with the history of exploration of the southern shore of the Arabian Gulf. There follows a brief geography of the area, noting the good birding sites. Next, over 100 breeding birds are described, with em-

phasis on their size, recognition marks, calls, social habits, nesting season and nest sites, as well as some geographic information. Since many topographic terms are not defined, this field guide section best serves birders with considerable background knowledge. The last third of the book comprises a tabulated check-list of over 330 species known from the region, with columns for the five political districts or countries of the Gulf; symbols denote the local avifaunistic role and regularity of occurrence. This check-list is useful, though the simple notations are based upon the experience of the author and his sources. Considering the state of knowledge of fluctuations in distribution and abundance of desert birds, this book cannot be considered as definitive. Nevertheless, it is better to have some information than none. C. J. F. Coombs has illustrated the book with a few simple line drawings, and 12 well-executed color plates, altogether depicting 84 species. These mostly seem to be chosen so that each characteristic taxon is shown, as well as closely similar species in some variable groups, notably terns, sandgrouse, and larks. About one-third of the species shown are common members of the European avifauna, and are shown in all common guides for that region. The illustrations of rarely depicted Middle Eastern endemics are extremely useful for quick identification.

These two books doubtless reflect the greatly increased interest in the birds of the Middle East and the Arabian region during recent years. This trend is also shown by the emergence of new natural history societies and journals, and by other books (e.g., *Oman Flora and Fauna Survey* [noticed in *Condor* 84:171]). In turn, the use of Jennings’s books by resident and visiting ornithologists cannot help but augment our knowledge of the avifauna.—M. D. F. Udvardy.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

A Coded Workbook of Birds of the World, Volume 1, Non-passerines.—Ernest P. Edwards. 1982. Published by the author. 134 p. Paper cover. \$10.00 plus \$1.00 handling (plus 50¢ handling for each additional copy) on prepaid orders; postage extra if billed. Source: Ernest P. Edwards, Box AQ, Sweet Briar, VA 24595; if ordering from outside U.S.A., please write for proforma invoice. This is a revised and enlarged edition of the non-passerine portion of the author's *A Coded List of Birds of the World* (1974); a volume on passerines is to come. The sequence of taxa has been rearranged, following several recent authorities. At the core of the book is a systematic list of all living or recently extinct species of birds, coded for computer usage. The entry for each species gives its alphanumeric code; possibly a symbol showing that it is extinct or denoting taxonomic or nomenclatural changes; the scientific and English names; a set of distribution symbols; and a symbol designating if the species is endangered. All this is on one line, arranged in a columnar format, making the information exceptionally easy to find. Detailed taxonomic notes, keyed to the symbols, are given after most family lists. Indexes are provided for genera, scientific names, important subspecific units (taxa that have been considered full species elsewhere), and English names. There follows a cross-reference list of codes in this edition and those in the first edition. References, maps. Now improved, this manual appears to be a strong contender against the several existing lists of birds of the world, e.g., Morony, Bock, and Farrand (1975; noted in *Condor* 77:521), Wolters (1975–1982; *Condor* 84:398), Gruson and Forster

(1976; *Condor* 78:279), Howard and Moore (1980; *Condor* 83:47), and Walters (1980; *Condor* 82:141). It will soon be available in a Magtape version and possibly a Decmate diskette version also; write to the author for details and prices.

World Inventory of Avian Skeletal Specimens 1982 and World Inventory of Avian Spirit Specimens 1982.—D. Scott Wood, Richard L. Zusi, and Marion Anne Jenkinson. 1982. American Ornithologists' Union and Oklahoma Biological Survey, Norman, Oklahoma 73019. 224 p., 181 p. Paper cover. \$25.00 apiece, including surface mail postage. For instructions on ordering, see *Condor* 85:262. These two oversize, computer-produced volumes are inventories of skeletons and embalmed specimens ("alcoholics") of birds in most of the major museum collections of the world. As preliminary information, each gives a list of the museums included, addresses and names of curators, and indexes to taxa. The principal content is a running tabulation that shows the holdings of each museum for every species. A detailed description of this project, an analysis of its data, and references can be found in Zusi, Wood, and Jenkinson (1982; *Auk* 99:740–757). Researchers in need of avian anatomical specimens will be immensely aided by these documents. Certain investigations that were hindered for lack of material may now be able to proceed, knowing whence it can be borrowed. The present authors deserve thanks for their labors, plus encouragement to continue and produce supplements.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

A Celebration of Birds/The Life and Art of Louis Agassiz Fuertes.—Robert McCracken Peck. 1982. Walker and Co., New York. 178 p. \$30.00. This book was prepared in order to accompany a major exhibition of Fuertes' work, which opened at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia a year ago. As stated by Thomas Peter Bennett, President of The Academy in his Foreword, "A Celebration of Birds, both as an exhibition and a book, presents Fuertes as artist, explorer, and naturalist. It chronicles his development and maturation as an artist and illustrates his highly admired painting technique. Representative field studies, preliminary drawings, and final works, which had been previously dispersed, have been reunited here for the first time. These works, accompanied by the artist's field notes, letters, and journal entries, provide new insights into Fuertes' career and into the process of artistic creation itself." The text and the illustrations of this handsome book are equally valuable. Peck has written a comprehensive biography of Fuertes and a critical assessment of his work. Plentiful illustrations, excellently reproduced in monochrome or full color, delight the eye, show how Fuertes worked, and reaffirm his stature as *the* pre-eminent American bird artist. Roger Tory Peterson has provided an appreciative introduction. Selected bibliography, index. If you are interested in this book, watch for the exhibition as it tours American museums.

A survey of the vertebrates of Morgan Swamp, Ashtabula County, Ohio.—Timothy O. Matson. 1982. Kirtlandia No. 35, p. 1-20. **Breeding birds of Ohio's Lake Erie marshes.**—Elliot J. Tramer and Eric J. Durbin. 1982. Kirtlandia No. 37, p. 55-87. Both paper covered, \$2.00 apiece (\$6.25 for entire volume, including Nos. 36 and 38). Source: Kent State University Press, Kent, Ohio 44242. These two papers are issued with two others (on herpetology and fossil plants) in the occasional publication of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Matson gives a briefly annotated list of birds and other vertebrates inventoried in a two-year study of a large swamp in northeastern Ohio. Tramer and Durbin describe 24 marshes and report the status of the bird species found therein during a one-summer survey. Their findings are useful baseline data that should aid the management and bolster appreciation for these wetlands.