

Birds of The Netherlands Antilles

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Prof. Dr. K. H. Voous

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'*Birds of the Netherlands Antilles*' is a completely rewritten English version of '*De Vogels van de Nederlandse Antillen*' published in 1955 and since long sold out and difficult to obtain second-hand. Whereas the first edition was primarily intended for use in the Netherlands Antilles and therefore was mainly written in Dutch, the present edition is meant for a wider circle of interest, including ornithologists and bird watchers from North and South America. Apart from 73 species of local breeding birds, the occurrence of 113 North American and 44 South American migrants and stragglers is described. Some of the last named come from as far north as arctic Canada and as far south as Argentina. The life of these birds under the tropical conditions of the Caribbean may be very different from that on their distant breeding grounds.

'*Birds of the Netherlands Antilles*' is actually a new book. It not only covers many more species than were known from the islands thirty years ago (252 instead of 147 species), but it also gives more details on occurrence, food and breeding habits. The book is no longer primarily intended to be a mere field guide, but is rather more a handbook in miniature of the birds of the Netherlands Antilles. In view of the great faunistic differences between the South Caribbean group of islands and the more northern Windward group, the book is divided in two parts, one dealing with the birds of Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire (236 species) and another describing the birds of St. Martin, Saba and St. Eustatius (122 species).

The original paintings for the colour plates in the first edition by the Dutch artist H. J. Slijper were again available. Together with five new ones made by the same artist, there are now 21 plates in full colour and 6 plain ones, depicting 145 of the 252 species described, among which are 35 not illustrated in current North American field guides.

About the Author

Professor Dr. K. H. Voous is a Dutch ornithologist of international reputation. His name is well known as the author of '*The Atlas of European Birds*' (1960, also published in Dutch and German), the '*List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species*' (1973, 1977) and of numerous publications in scientific journals such as '*Ardea*' and '*Limosa*', journals of the Netherlands Ornithological Union. Karel Hendrik Voous was born in 1920 and received (27 years old) his doctors degree (with honours) from the University of Amsterdam on the thesis '*On the history of the distribution of the genus Dendrocopos*'. Eight years later he was professor, still at Amsterdam. Alongside his curatorial work at the Zoological Museum of the University of Amsterdam and his educational task at the Free University, he was and still is active in many scientific organisations. He was secretary of the Netherlands Ornithological Society (1947-1957), chairman of the Netherlands Committee for the European Nature Conservation Year 1970 (1967-1970), secretary-general of the 15th International Ornithological Congress at The Hague, Netherlands (1970), chairman of the Committee for the Netherlands Avifauna (1957-1982), chairman of the Standing Committee for the Coordination of Seabird Research (1966-1982), member of the Standing Committee for Ornithological Nomenclature (since 1966), member of the World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls of the International Council for Bird Preservation (since 1976). Furthermore he is adviser to Prince Bernhard in his function as president of the Netherlands branch of the World Wildlife Fund. He is officer in the Order of the Golden Ark (1981) and received the Golden Medal of the British Ornithologists' Union (1975), the first and up till now only person outside the Commonwealth to do so. He is an honorary or corresponding member of eleven scientific and ornithological societies, including honorary fellowship of the American Ornithologists' Union.

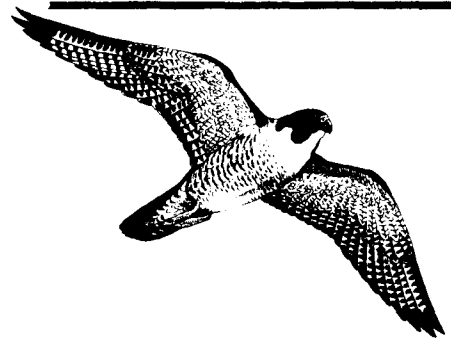
About the Artist

Henk J. Slijper (born 1922) is one of the most gifted of contemporary Dutch bird painters. He is a master of widely varying techniques, from making the finest of children's miniature portraits to painting large murals. He is an expert in the meticulous technique of Old Dutch masters. He has illustrated numerous books devoted to nature and birds and has made wall charts of common Dutch birds which have enjoyed great popularity.

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Bird Conservation

NO. 1



Stanley A. Temple, editor

Progress in the field of bird conservation has advanced at an increasingly rapid rate in recent years. With the publication of this volume, the first in a projected series of *Bird Conservation* annuals, the U.S. section of the International Council for Bird Preservation provides a review of research, and detailed discussions of key ecological topics, that help to synthesize and communicate the current wealth of information related to bird conservation in the United States. Concerned conservationists and both professional and amateur ornithologists will welcome this comprehensive guide to a burgeoning field.

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It is most appropriate that the U.S. section of the ICBP should sponsor this venture. As the world's oldest international conservation organization, one that has played a prominent role in bird conservation and has enjoyed an impressive record of success, it is well equipped to manage the ambitious project. **Stanley Temple**, editor of the inaugural edition, is Beers-Bascom Professor of Conservation at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and contributor of more than sixty articles to ornithological and ecological journals. He is the editor of *Endangered Birds: Management Techniques for Preserving Threatened Species*, published by the University of Wisconsin Press in 1978.



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