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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Avian Biology. Volume VII.—Edited by Donald S. Farner, James R. King, and Kenneth C. Parkes. 1983. Academic Press, New York. 542 p. \$69.50. Ornithology has grown markedly during the past two decades, in depth as well as in its interactions with other sciences. Since 1971, when the first volume in this series was published, some subjects have burgeoned to new importance while others have developed fresh approaches and ideas. Reflecting such progress, this treatise continues to add new volumes (noticed in *The Condor* 77:521, 85:29) far beyond the number originally envisioned by the editors. The latest contains chapters on avian postnatal development (by Robert E. Ricklefs), the ontogeny of avian behavior (Susan M. Smith), avian ecological energetics (Glenn E. Walsberg), hormonal correlates of behavior (Jacques Balthazart), the biology of avian parasites: helminths (Robert L. Rausch), and the bursa of Fabricius (Bruce Glick). The authors are experts in their fields, and their articles define the present state of our knowledge. As with the preceding volumes, chapters in *Avian Biology* are essential reading in their respective fields for information, ideas, and access to the literature. Illustrated, lists of references at the ends of the chapters, indexes.

Darwin's Finches.—David Lack. 1983. Cambridge University Press, New York. 208 p. \$39.50 hard cover, \$13.95 paper cover. This classic of evolutionary ecology, first published in 1947, here reappears in an edition with facsimile pages of the original text, tables, maps and drawings. The color plates have been rephotographed from the originals, and the monochrome plates have been either rephotographed or replaced with sharper new versions. Laurene M. Ratcliffe and Peter T. Boag, both at the Edward Grey Institute, have usefully added an introduction putting the book into context. Their extensive notes (with modern references) guide the reader and provide updated information. As they point out, Lack's view on the role of competition has been reappraised. His book nevertheless remains important, thanks to its accurate descriptions of geospizine ecology and behavior, as well as its original, cogent formulation of the adaptive radiation model. Although the present edition is more expensive than mere reprint editions, its cost may be justified to many readers because of the commentary notes.

APPENDIX. Ruby-crowned (RCK) and Golden-crowned (GCK) kinglet dimensions (average values) from Ridgway (1904) and weights.¹

| | Length (mm) | Wing (mm) | Tail (mm) | Exposed culmen (mm) | Tarsus (mm) | Middle toe (mm) | Weight (g) ± SE |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| RCK (Male) | 102 | 60.5 | 45.7 | 8.4 | 18.7 | 9.1 | 6.30 ± 0.71 |
| RCK (Female) | 100 | 57.2 | 43.5 | 7.3 | 18.4 | 8.9 | 6.11 ± 0.48 |
| GCK (Male) | 94 | 54.9 | 40.8 | 7.0 | 17.3 | 8.5 | 5.70 ± 0.43 |
| GCK (Female) | 93 | 53.5 | 39.7 | 7.9 | 16.8 | 8.6 | 5.55 ± 0.38 |

¹ Weight values represent mean weights of specimens in: Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley; Museum of Wildlife and Fisheries, University of California-Davis; and Museum, California State University-Sacramento. *N* values for dimensions: male RCK *n* = 10, female RCK *n* = 10, male GCK *n* = 17, female GCK *n* = 17; for weights: male RCK *n* = 52, female RCK *n* = 22, male GCK *n* = 24, female GCK *n* = 9.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Costa Rican Natural History.—Edited by Daniel H. Janzen. 1983. University of Chicago Press. 815 p. Paper cover. \$30.00. Perhaps the most comprehensive introduction to Central American natural history since Skutch's *Life Histories of Central American Birds*, this volume is a superb compendium of ecological and life history studies of Neotropical species. Six introductory chapters provide brief but synthetic coverage of paleogeography, climate, geology, soil and agricultural patterns in Costa Rica. Chapters 7 through 11 provide more comprehensive introductions to and checklists of Costa Rican plants, insects, mammals, reptiles and birds. Gary Stiles' introduction to Chapter 10 on birds is an expert treatment of the ecological diversity of the country's avifauna, zoogeography, including historical and contemporary distribution, distribution by altitude, habitat and season, the range of social systems and available bibliography. Species accounts, compiled by 174 field workers with extensive knowledge of their subjects, give the volume a depth to equal its biotic breadth. A uniquely valuable book for Neotropical biologists.—M. F. Lawton.

Once A River: Bird Life and Habitat Changes on the Middle Gila.—Amadeo M. Rea. 1983. University of Arizona Press, Tucson. 285 p. \$24.50. This ethnoecological study of the desertification of riparian forests in the southwestern United States is jarring and ingenious. In addition to ornithological reports dating from the turn of the century, Rea, Curator of Birds and Mammals at the San Diego Natural History Museum, employs accounts of Spanish explorers, the oral history of the Pima Indians and two decades of careful field and museum work to document

changes in the avifauna of the Middle Gila River. In detailed and complete treatment of species present, he presents ethnographic accounts, including Pima information and nomenclature dating back over 300 years, scientific accounts from historic records and accounts of modern species' status. Well illustrated with maps, habitat and air photographs, this is an unusual and thought-provoking book.—M. F. Lawton.

A Natural History of British Birds.—Eric Simms. Illustrated by Robert Gillmor. 1983. J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., London. 367 p. \$24.95. Source: J. M. Dent & Sons, % Biblio Distribution Center, 81 Adams Drive, Totowa, New Jersey 07512. This is a book about birds and birding, aimed for birders and other lay naturalists in Britain. Contrary to what the title suggests, it does not go into detail about each species but uses British birds as familiar examples for introducing ornithology. The usual aspects of avian biology (e.g., evolution, classification, morphology, food habits, breeding habits, voice) are followed by considerations of birds in human affairs, which lead into instructions about where and how to watch birds. Although the treatment is clear, highly informative, and nontechnical, it tends to be a rather dry array of facts, lacking spark from the author's ideas or experiences. The book is attractively illustrated with many line drawings and 16 color plates. In closing, it gives a list of the birds of Britain and Ireland plus a selected bibliography. Overall, it is fine work for its intended audience but does not appear to offer any advantages to novice bird students in North America over books such as those by Pasquier (noted in *The Condor* 79:397) and Kress (noted in *The Condor* 83:309).

foraging behavior. Further studies are needed to determine if these minimum (stabilized) samples are widely applicable.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Vulture Biology and Management.—Edited by Sanford R. Wilbur and Jerome A. Jackson. 1983. University of California Press, Berkeley. 552 p. \$35.00. Sparked by concern for the decline of several species of Old World and New World vultures, an International Symposium on the Vultures was held in 1979. This book presents a number of papers from that meeting, plus others that were invited in order to provide a more comprehensive picture of these birds. They are grouped topically as follows: paleontology and systematics, status of species according to region, biology of OW and NW vultures, research and management techniques, effects of environmental contaminants, and human relationships with vultures. The final part is a bibliography of the vultures, supplementing the lists of references at the ends of the papers. This volume outlines most of our present knowledge about vultures, and will therefore be an important reference for anyone who works with them. Ecologists too, might find it worthwhile to give more thought to the role(s) of these scavengers in terrestrial ecosystems. Illustrations, indexes.

Working Bibliography of the Golden Eagle and the Genus *Aquila*.—Maurice N. LeFranc, Jr., and William S. Clark. 1983. Scientific & Technical Series No. 7, National Wild-

life Federation, Washington, DC 264 p. Paper cover. Source: Raptor Information Center, N.W.F., 1412 16th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Eagles are acclaimed as inspiring birds, so it is no wonder that they have inspired more bibliographies than other species. The present one covers a different subject than that by Lincer, Clark, and LeFranc, Jr. (noticed in *The Condor* 81:257) and it overlaps only in small part with those by Knight (*The Condor* 82:290) and Allen, Knight, and Stalmaster (*The Condor* 83:91). Its Foreword by the late Leslie Brown is followed by introductions to the bibliography itself and to the nine or ten species in the genus *Aquila*. The master list then presents more than 3,400 citations culled from North American and major foreign journals up through September 1982. This can be entered by way of a permuted list of keywords (aided by a glossary in the appendix), or by species and geographic indexes. Finally there is a list of citations of occurrences of the Golden Eagle in North America, arranged by provinces and states. This book will certainly be a useful reference for researchers and biologists responsible for managing *Aquila* eagles. A casual check by this reviewer, however, disclosed the omission of several non-obscure references, a reminder to exercise caution in trusting bibliographies to be complete.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Weather and Bird Behavior.—Norman Elkins. 1983. T & A D Poyser, Colton, England. 239 p. \$32.50. Source: Buteo Books, P.O. Box 481, Vermillion, SD 57069. Birds are affected by weather not just during migration but at all times. These effects have received much attention from ornithologists but in this book they are considered from the standpoint of a meteorologist (and amateur birder). Elkins begins with an explanation of the basic features of atmospheric circulation, emphasizing the interrelationships of meteorologic processes. Subsequent chapters survey the effects of weather on flight, feeding, breeding, comfort, and most of all, on migration. The closing chapters treat the consequences of extreme weather and the special problems faced by seabirds. The book uniquely brings together a great deal of material about birds' habits and interprets it in the light of weather conditions. Although most of the examples cited concern birds of the western Palearctic in Eurasia and Africa, their meaning can easily be applied to birds of the Americas. The writing itself is clear and nontechnical, so the book should catch the interest of ornithologists in diverse fields and at several levels of expertise. It is illustrated with diagrams, weather maps, photographs, and nice pen-and-ink drawings by Crispin Fisher. Selected bibliography, tables of supplementary information, and indexes.

Behavior of Fledgling Peregrines.—Steve K. Sherrod. 1983. The Peregrine Fund, Inc., Ithaca, NY. 202 p. Paper cover.

\$10.00. Source: The Peregrine Fund, 1424 N.E. Frontage Rd., Fort Collins, CO 80524. The period immediately after a young bird leaves its nest and starts learning to fend for itself is one of the most critical times in its life, yet scientifically the least known. Such ignorance is of more than academic import in the case of endangered species in which young birds raised in captivity are released into the wild. Sherrod therefore conducted a study to document and describe the activities of fledgling peregrines, to determine the roles of the parents in these activities, and to examine the ontogeny of the falcons' hunting behavior. Using radio telemetry as well as direct observation, he monitored four families of wild peregrines (two each in Greenland and Australia) plus three broods of falcons hatched in The Peregrine Fund's eastern release program. This book presents his findings, organized into chapters on: leaving the nest, behavior in flight, the act of killing, food transfers, aggression, and the duration of the dependency period. Copious details and data are reported, including many passages from field notes. Three long appendices describe additional behavior of the young peregrines that is outside the scope of the main story. Many drawings by Karen Lynn Allaben-Confer usefully depict the actions and postures of the birds. The book is of immediate benefit, of course, to the peregrine program, yet it will also interest falconers and ornithologists who work with other kinds of hawks. References.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Wildfowl 34.—Edited by G. V. T. Matthews and M. A. Ogilvie. 1983. Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge. 176 p. Paper cover. \$15.00. Source: Administrative Officer, Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire GL2 7BT, England. The latest issue of this annual (previously noticed in *The Condor* 85:248 and earlier) contains 21 articles about the behavior, reproduction, molt, populations, and other aspects of ducks and geese. Most of them concern wild birds and at least half deal with species that occur in the Americas. Since this series is essential for waterfowl biologists, they should note that copies of future issues will be printed only in sufficient numbers to meet known requirements. Those who wish to ensure a copy of the next year's issue should order and pay for it before 15 September 1984.

Censos de Aves en el Mediterraneo/Bird Census and Mediterranean Landscape. Proceedings of the VII International Conference on Bird Census, [International] B[ird] C[ensus] C[ommittee], León, España 8-12 IX 1981.—Edited by F. J. Purroy. 1983. Universidad de León. 196 p.

Paper cover. \$4.50 postpaid. Source: Prof. F. J. Purroy Iraizoz, Catedrático de Zoología (Vertebrados), Universidad de León, León, Spain. Studies of bird distribution and abundance are currently following a variety of approaches, choosing methods and grid scales according to the objectives, resources, and preferences of the research teams. The IBCC meets biennially in order to report information and exchange ideas on such matters as the standards for censuses, the validity and applicability of various methods, and the comparability of data from different censuses. This volume contains the 35 papers on censusing or bird communities that were given at its 1981 meeting. While the majority of them deal with mediterranean habitats, the rest range afield, having been presented by delegates from 12 European countries plus the U.S. and Canada. The papers are in English or Spanish, each with a list of references and a summary in the other language. Maps, diagrams, and graphs. Avian community ecologists and atlas directors should find much of value here, particularly at such a bargain price.