

stead the book mostly discusses the work of Brown and his students and collaborators.

These are minor complaints. *Macroecology* is synthetic and creative, and will appeal to all ecologists, even those who disagree with many of Brown's conclusions. Ornithologists will be especially interested in this treatise, because one of the most important data sets that Brown relies on is the North American Breeding Bird Survey.—NICHOLAS J. GOTELLI, Department of Biology, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405.

Bird Song, Biological Themes and Variations.—C. K. Catchpole and P. J. B. Slater. 1995. Cambridge University Press, 248 pp. ISBN 0-521-41799-6, \$32.95 (hardback).

The study of bird song got a late start in the emergence of modern ethology, but advances in technology around 1950, especially the invention of portable tape-recorders and the sound spectrograph, initiated a stampede of research. Bird song is now in the forefront of so many scientific disciplines that it is difficult to keep up with them all. This new book provides a good place to start catching up.

The authors cover all aspects of research on bird song, from neuroethology and environmental acoustics to sexual selection and dialects. Numerous illustrations illuminate the text, and they follow the practice now well established in the literature on bird song of including cameo portraits of the species under study. Each topic receives an easily understood summary with clearly explained examples. Even technical subjects get clear explications. Although the authors apologize for the manifest impossibility of including everybody's favorite example, in fact they do a fine job of introducing the literature on bird song through about 1993. For the novice, there could hardly be a smoother initiation into this literature.

On a few occasions the aim to be easily understood leads to over-simplification. For instance, I continue

to be frustrated by the promulgation of simplistic ideas about the acoustics of parabolas, and the quick treatment on page 14 is no better than usual. In addition, so critical a term as decibel deserves more rigorous treatment than it receives on page 22. In the discussion of harmonics, we get a correct definition on page 15, although it is not so clear that the example in the figure on that page actually shows harmonics. No mention is made of side bands. Some general issues also seem to receive less adequate coverage than others, notably brain mechanisms that control song production, learning, and perception. However, these are carpings about minor points. The pellucid summaries of topic after topic are so compelling that I defy anyone, no matter how expert in some speciality, to claim they have gained no enlightenment from reading this book.

Often the discussion goes beyond just clarity to become a sensible, and sometimes critical, review of contentious topics. I particularly enjoyed the treatments of dawn chorusing, female responses to song, adaptations for sound transmission, repertoires, and dialects in relation to genetics. Each of these topics has attracted its own specialized literature, which the authors adroitly summarize and criticize.

Perhaps the greatest disappointment of the book is its sharp boundaries. What the reader misses most are connections to larger issues in ethology, neurobiology, and evolution. No doubt, including such connections would have increased the size and complexity of the presentation. The enticing progression of topics would surely not have survived. It is a trade-off, however. For example, the reader gets a sensible discussion of songs in relation to some simple issues in sexual selection, but no hint of the potential complexities.

My minor reservations about this book should not detract from its overall excellence. Its clarity and focus on the issues are an inspiration. For bird song the only comparison is William Thorpe's slim classic from 1961. Like that volume this one presents no new hypotheses and no grand syntheses, but I predict that it will take the lead from its predecessor in steering our ideas about bird song for some time to come.—R. HAVEN WILEY, Biology Department, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3280.

NEWS AND NOTES

PITELKAFEST

The second decennial Frank A. Pitelka "fest" convened the weekend of 2-3 March 1996 at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology in Berkeley, California. The event, organized by Janis Dickinson, coincided with Frank's 80th birthday and was attended by approximately 60 of his friends, colleagues, and former students; 30 posed for the official photo (Fig. 1). A symposium honoring Frank's lifelong contributions to science, both through his own work and through the diverse careers of his

former students and postdocs, was the highlight of the gathering.

Much of Frank's academic family, including 26 avian biologists of his 37 Ph.D. students (of which 11 are Fellows and eight are Elective Members of the AOU), was published as part of the academic family tree for Loye and Alden Miller (*Condor* 95: 1065-1067, 1993). In addition, Frank has sponsored six Master's students and 11 postdoctoral students during his career (the latter include: Tom Cade, Guy Cameron, Peter Connors, Janis Dickinson, Susan Hannon, Walt Koenig,



FIGURE 1. Participants in the second decennial Pitelkafest, 2-3 March 1996. Top row: Mark Reynolds (UC Santa Barbara), Mark Stanback (Davidson College), Louise and Bill Lidicker (UC Berkeley), Russ Greenberg (Smithsonian), George Barlow (UC Berkeley), Harry Green (UC Berkeley), and Paul Sherman (Cornell). Second row: Pam Williams (Kern River Research Center), Tom Smith (San Francisco State), Janis Dickinson (UC Berkeley), Joey Haydock (UC Berkeley), Mark Stromberg (UC Berkeley), Taye Teferi (Hastings Reservation), and Judy Gradwohl (Smithsonian). Third row: Tom Custer (National Biological Service), Scott Hatch (National Biological Service), Jeff Walters (Virginia Tech), Pete Connors (Bodega Marine Labs), Pete Myers (W. Alton Jones Foundation), Ron Mumme (Allegheny College), Bill Carmen, Walt Koenig (UC Berkeley). Bottom row: Chris Custer (National Biological Service), Charley Krebs (U British Columbia), Jerry Wolff (Oregon State), Tom Cade (Peregrine Fund), Frank Pitelka (UC Berkeley), Gordon Orians (U Washington), George Batzli (U Illinois), and Henry Childs. Photo by O. P. Pearson.

Charley Krebs, Pete Myers, Paul Sherman, Tom Smith, and Jeff Walters). A faculty member at UC Berkeley since 1946, Frank continues to participate in seminars, assist graduate students, and contemplate the evolution of avian social systems. He is an honorary member of the Cooper Ornithological Society and has served the society as Assistant Editor (1943–1945) and Associate Editor (1946–1962) of *The Condor*, editor of *Pacific Coast Avifauna* (1947–1960) and *Studies in Avian Biology* (1984–1987), and as a member of the board of directors (1988–1991). His honors include the Brewster Medal of the American Ornithologists' Union (1980) and both the Mercer (1953) and Eminent Ecologist (1992) Awards of the Ecological Society of America. Please join us in wishing Frank a very happy 80th year and the best for the future.

NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBIRD SOCIETY RESEARCH GRANTS—1997

The North American Bluebird Society announces the eleventh annual grants in aid for ornithological research directed toward cavity-nesting species of North America with emphasis on the genus *Sialia*. Presently three grants of single or multiple awards are awarded and include:

BLUEBIRD RESEARCH GRANT

Available to student, professional or individual researcher for a research project focused on any of the three species of bluebird in the genus *Sialia*.

GENERAL RESEARCH GRANT

Available to student, professional or individual researcher for a research project focused on any North American cavity-nesting species.

STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT

Available to full-time college or university students for a research project focused on any North American cavity-nesting species.

Further guidelines and application materials are available upon request from: Kevin L. Berner, Research Committee Chairman, College of Agriculture and Technology, State University of New York, Cobleskill, New York 12043. Completed applications must be received by 1 December 1996; funding decisions will be announced by 15 January 1997.

1996 NABS RESEARCH AWARDS

The North American Bluebird Society is pleased to announce the results of its 12th annual research grant's program. The following individuals are recipients of the 1996 research awards:

BLUEBIRD GRANTS

Kristina M. Hannam, University of Miami

Title: Effects of Blowfly Ectoparasites on Eastern Bluebird Reproductive Success

STUDENT GRANTS

Karl E. Miller, University of Florida

Title: Nest-site Selection and Reproductive Success of Secondary Cavity Nesting Birds in Thinned and Unthinned Slash Pine Forests in Florida

Paul Doherty, Ohio State University

Title: Metapopulation Dynamics of a Permanent Resident Forest-dwelling Bird Species Within a Fragmented Landscape: Empirical Data and Dynamic Programming Models

Elena V. Pravosudova, Ohio State University

Title: The Effect of Forest Fragmentation on Social Structure of the Tufted Titmouse

GENERAL GRANTS

Dr. Archibald McCallum, College of Charleston

Title: Reproductive Performance of Flammulated Owls in the Jemez Mountains, New Mexico