

## BRIEFLY NOTED

**Population Dynamics in Ecological Space and Time.**—Edited by Olin E. Rhodes, Jr., Ronald K. Chesser, and Michael H. Smith. 1996. University of Chicago Press, Chicago. viii + 388 pp., numerous graphs and figures. ISBN 0-226-71057-2. \$17.95 (paper), \$50.00 (cloth).

This is the first book in a new series called the Savannah River Symposia on Environmental Science and it is based on a two-day symposium that occurred in May 1993. The book consists of 10 chapters, each written by well-known ecologists, divided into 4 parts, plus an introduction and a short synthesis chapter at the end. Each section has an introduction written by Rhodes. Topics covered include metapopulation dynamics, sources and sinks, life cycles, and population genetics. One chapter by Nichols discusses statistical inference of migratory movements by birds and a plethora of references to bird studies occur throughout the book. Most chapters are liberally illustrated with output from models, and mathematical models are presented and discussed in nearly all chapters. This would be an excellent book for a graduate seminar and should be read by any student interested in population dynamics.

**The Food Web of a Tropical Rain Forest.**—Edited by Douglas P. Reagan and Robert B. Waide. 1996. University of Chicago Press, Chicago. xi + 616 pp., numerous black-and-white photographs. ISBN 0-226-70599-4. \$39.95 (paper), \$110.00 (cloth).

This book characterizes what is known about 40 ha of forest around the El Verde Field Station in Luquillo Experimental Forest, Puerto Rico, from 1963 through 1993. A rather complicated food web is the theme of the book and each chapter highlights one part of the web. The chapter by Robert Waide on birds summarizes their role as primary, secondary, and higher-order consumers within the forest. The treatment within the chapter is rather pedantic, with much information that has been published previously. However, taken in the context of the book as a whole, it is similar to chapters on other vertebrates. The emphasis is on natural history and not on data synthesis. This volume will be of interest to anyone working in the Neotropics and would be a perfect book for a graduate seminar on ecology of the Neotropics. Because it deals with organisms in all trophic levels, it is a great reference for interactions among organisms in a tropical environment.

**The Lost Birds of Paradise.**—Errol Fuller. 1995. Swan Hill Press, Shrewsbury, England. 160 pp., 60 black-and-white illustrations, 50 color plates. ISBN 1-85310-566-X. \$55.00 (cloth). (Available from Voyageur Press, 123 North Second Street, Stillwater, MN 55082)

This is an intriguing book about Birds-of-Paradise that are either rare, probably extinct, or possibly hybrids. Following a brief introduction, there are discus-

sions of 19 "species," or what people have described as 19 species. Each account starts with a listing of the taxonomic history, a detailed description of the species, measurements, place of origin, and location of specimens. This is followed by a narrative that traces the history of the species, some of which are quite short whereas others go on for several pages. Colored prints accompany each species account and black-and-white historical photographs accompany each narrative. This book details with some real esoterica, but it will be fun reading for anyone interested in 19th and early 20th Century ornithology.

**Field Guide to the Birds of the Middle East.**—R. F. Porter, S. Christensen, and P. Schiermacker-Hansen. 1996. T. & A. D. Poyser, London, and Academic Press, San Diego, CA. 460 pp., 112 color plates. ISBN 0-85661-076-3. \$29.95 (cloth).

This book covers the region of Turkey, Iran, Oman, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and a few other countries. A total of 722 species are dealt with. In the first section, all species are illustrated, with status and habitat descriptions and range maps for the more common species. In the second section, each species is described in detail in terms of plumage for age and sex classes. For most, there is a description of the song or "voice." The format is quite similar to a Peterson field guide and it will almost fit in your back pocket. It should be very useful for anyone interested in birding in those areas covered.

**Birds of Forest, Yard, & Thicket.**—John Eastman. 1997. Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA. 328 pp., 90 black-and-white illustrations. ISBN 0-8117-2680-0. \$18.95 (paper).

This book discusses primarily the natural history of 68 species of common North American birds. Although the author states that he has relied heavily on the primary literature, there are no citations in the accounts. Most discussions are in general terms, but many of the author's personal observations made primarily in Michigan are interjected into the accounts. This book is aimed at the lay reader and would be a good book to give to someone who is just beginning to become interested in avian natural history.

**A Guide to the Identification and Natural History of the Sparrows of the United States and Canada.**—James D. Rising. 1996. Academic Press, San Diego, CA. 365 pp., 27 color plates, numerous black-and-white drawing and maps. ISBN 0-12-588971-2. \$19.95 (paper). ISBN 0-12-588970-4. \$30.00 (cloth).

This book covers 62 species (and 69 forms) of "boring little brown birds," but as the author notes, they are not boring. In fact, they are a pretty interesting group of birds. Each account starts with a pen-and-ink drawing of the bird in question, followed by a section on identification, voice, habits, habitat, breeding,

range, history, geographic information, measurements, and limited references. Seasonal range maps are provided for each species and maps of the breeding density from Breeding Bird Surveys are reproduced for many species. Twenty-seven color plates at the end of the book depict each species in both adult and juvenile plumages. The taxonomy is a little creative in that it anticipates future splitting of species such as the Fox Sparrow, and several vagrant species (e.g., seedeaters and grassquits) are included as well. This work will serve as a quick reference for any member of this group and should be part of any ornithological library.

**Snipe and Woodcock.**—Colin McKelvie. 1996. Swan Hill Press, Shrewsbury, England. 217 pp., numerous photographs and drawings. ISBN 1-85310-713-1. \$34.95 (cloth). (Available from Voyageur Press, 123 North Second Street, Stillwater, MN 55082).

A curious book written about snipe and woodcock hunting in Great Britain. Topics of discussion include guns, gundogs, and the best techniques for stalking snipes and woodcock. The subtitle is "Sport and Conservation," but conservation is given short shrift. This book is clearly aimed at the hunting enthusiast.

**Metapopulations and Wildlife Conservation.**—Edited by Dale R. McCullough. 1996. Island Press, Washington, D.C. x + 432 pp., numerous tables, figures, and photographs. ISBN 1-55963-457-x. \$28.00 (paper), \$55.00 (cloth).

This volume is the result of a symposium held at the first annual meeting of The Wildlife Society in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1994. As McCullough relates in the introduction, no one had anticipated the number of people that would attend that meeting, nor how many people (> 700) would attend this symposium. Of the 17 chapters in the book, about half deal with birds and about half deal with mammals. The bird chapters are quite good: Wiens on patchy environments, Koenig on edges and corridors, Noon on conservation planning, Gutierrez on Spotted Owls, and Woolfenden and Fitzpatrick on Florida Scrub-Jay. The mammal chapters are equally well done and also are mostly authored by well-known individuals. This book would be an excellent choice for a graduate seminar in conservation biology.—KIMBERLY G. SMITH, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, kgsmith@comp.uark.edu