

BRIEFLY NOTED

A Passion for Birds—American Ornithology After Audubon.—Mark V. Barrow Jr. 1998. x + 326 pp., numerous black-and-white photographs. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. ISBN 0-691-04402-3. \$39.50 (cloth).

This book covers the period roughly from the 1860s though the 1930s, and is an historical account of primarily professional ornithology, such as it was, during that period in the United States. There is a heavy emphasis on the history of the American Ornithologists' Union and on other eastern groups, such as the Nuttall Ornithological Club, giving the mistaken impression that not much was happening west or south of the Eastern Seaboard during that time. While it is at times amusing to read about the bickering amongst the Fellows of the AOU and the politics associated with the officers (some things never change), the book is largely a compendium of events, places, and people. The text is only 211 pages long, with 56 pages of notes, a 43 page bibliography, and a comprehensive index. Given the amount of emphasis Barrow puts in the Introduction on the role of amateurs in ornithology, I was disappointed that more was not made of their contributions during that time period, but that may have been outside the scope of this work. This book should be part of any reference library dealing with the history of ornithology.

Cooperation Among Animals—An Evolutionary Perspective.—Lee Alan Dugatkin. 1997. Oxford University Press, New York. xvii + 221 pp., numerous figures and photographs. ISBN 0-19-508621-X. \$60.00 (cloth). ISBN 0-19-508622-8. \$29.95 (paper).

This volume is part of the Oxford Series in Ecology and Evolution, edited by Robert May and Paul Harvey. Although other volumes in this series have become classic studies, this one seems to be flawed from the start with the author's own admission that the topic is too big and that several excellent works on the subject already exist. After two introductory chapters, the heart of the book consists of chapters on cooperation in fishes, birds, non-primate mammals, non-human primates, and insects. The bird chapter starts with a disclaimer that the topic of cooperative and communal breeding is too big to be covered in a single book chapter, and will therefore be ignored. Topics covered in that chapter include territoriality and cooperation, cooperative hunting, food calls and sharing, alarm calls, and mobbing behavior. Each chapter highlights a few specific examples, so not much synthesis is presented. The author seems to focus on studies with which he is most familiar, particularly those of his former mentors (but, of course, we train our students to make us famous!). Nonetheless, this book would be useful for introducing the topic of cooperation among animals, particularly to advanced undergraduates.

Current Ornithology.—Val Nolan Jr., Ellen D. Ketterson, and Charles F. Thompson, eds. 1997. Vol. 14. xi + 303 pp. Plenum Publishing, New York. ISBN 0-306-45739-3. \$89.50 (cloth).

The editors state in the Introduction that chapters in *Current Ornithology* should fall into 3 general categories: overwhelming topics that need to be organized and put into perspective, newly emerging fields, or topics with a broad-range interest to biologists in several disciplines. This volume, the second edited by Nolan and Ketterson, however presents an eclectic collection of topics which are hard to pigeon-hole into those three groups. Topics include birds and chemical irritants, temporal flexibility in avian reproduction, sexual selection and song repertoires, social dominance, non-breeding season energy management, and motor correlates of vocal diversity. They all deal specifically with birds, none would appear to be that overwhelming, and most are not about newly emerging fields. Rather, I would characterize them as up-to-date reviews on topics within main-stream ornithology. Nothing wrong with that, although I find it hard to believe that the Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) has a vocal repertoire size nearly 10 times that of any other species in the world, as suggested by the appendix of the sexual selection chapter.

The Field Guide to the Birds of New Zealand.—Barrie Heather and Hugh Robertson. 1997. Oxford University Press, New York. 432 pp., 74 color plates, numerous range maps. ISBN 0-19-850143-3. \$95.00 (hardback). ISBN 0-19-850145-5. \$39.95 (paper).

This book is apparently an up-date of a series of books, the last of which was published about 20 years ago. The book is really a major make-over, however, and is in the format similar to that of the *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia* by Simpson and Day (1996, Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ), which also recently was revised. The first section of the book has color plates on the right page and detailed identification information and range maps on the left page. The second section of the book has species accounts that include a wealth of information on all aspects of bird biology, including geographic variation, population sizes, behavior, conservation, feeding, etc. For most species, there also is a further reading section at the end of the account for those who want to go to the primary source for information. If you are actually going to New Zealand, I would still recommend Chambers' *Birds of New Zealand Locality Guide* (1989, Arun Books, Hamilton, NZ) to find and identify birds, but I would also bring this book along. It is undoubtedly the most comprehensive book on all the birds of New Zealand and should be part of any general ornithological library.—KIMBERLY G. SMITH, Department of Sciences, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, e-mail: kgsmith@comp.uark.edu