

**24. The Birds.** Roger Tory Peterson and the editors of *Life*. 1963. Life Nature Library. Time, Inc., New York. 192pp., lavishly illustrated in color and black-and-white. \$3.95. Text by Peterson, picture essays by the editorial staff. This handsome volume should appeal to the general reader, and to most amateur birdwatchers. It is much less technical than the Gilliam book on sea-birds (see following review), for example, and yet does a solid job on the technical matters it does cover. As in the case of other compilations, specialists may find an occasional phrase to take mild exception to: for example, the picture essay on p. 90 implies that the Evening Grosbeaks which occur in winter in the eastern U. S. have wandered from the west. This was of course true of the original incursions in the late 19th century, but in recent years the source of these flights has been largely the substantial population which nests in northern New England and eastern Canada. The editors' well-merited compliments to the author (p. 4) are marred a bit by misquoting the title of his most famous book.

Chapter 1, From Archaeopteryx to Sparrow, summarizes fossil birds and the orders of living birds. The next chapter discusses bird flight; then comes one on how birds feed and what they eat. Chapter 4 reviews life zones and more recent concepts, and makes some courageous estimates on numbers of birds. A chapter on "The Riddle of Migration" includes the theories of Kramer and Sauer, and something on banding. Next come discussions of communication among birds, and of breeding, concluding with one on the various relationships of birds and man. The latter includes some forthright comments on the menace of improper use of pesticides, which should help materially in making the general reader more fully aware of this hazard.—E. Alexander Bergstrom.

**25. Sea-Birds.** Instructions to Young Ornithologists, IV. Mary E. Gillham. 1963. The Brompton Library, The Museum Press, Ltd., London. 144pp. 15s. This introduction to the subject will be helpful not only to young ornithologists but also to most amateurs of any age. Indeed, most ornithologists who are not specialists on seabirds will find some of the examples novel. Dr. Gillham has drawn on her own wide field experience with these birds, as well as on the literature; while many examples are British, she draws others from around the world, particularly the southern hemisphere. Her line drawings and photographs illustrate the book.

She includes chapters on classification, flight, moving underwater, catching fish, other types of feeding, sea-birds on land, breeding colonies, and the breeding cycle.—E. Alexander Bergstrom.

**26. Life Histories of North American Shore Birds.** Parts One and Two. Arthur Cleveland Bent. Dover Publications, Inc. New York. 420pp; 412 pp. \$2.35 each. These are paper bound reprints, "unaltered and unabridged", editions of Bulletins 142 published in 1925 and 146 published in 1929 of the Smithsonian Institution United States National Museum. The text is copied word for word but the reproduction of the photographs is decidedly disappointing. Readers should take into account that these volumes were prepared over 35 years ago and, although they contain much delightful and valuable material, they must be used with caution.—M. M. Nice.

## NOTES AND NEWS

At the August, 1963 meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, Oliver L. Austin, Jr., longtime review editor of *Bird-Banding*, was elected second vice-president.

We have an inquiry for *Bulletin of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association*, 1, 1 and 4; 2, 4; 4, 2; and *Oologist*, 57, 1-12 (1940) and 58, 1-3 (1941); to complete both sets. Any reader who knows of these issues for sale is asked to write to Robert A. McCabe, Dept. of Wildlife Management, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisc.—53706.

Many back issues of *Bird-Banding*, and indices through 1950, may be obtained from NEBBA's Treasurer, Mrs. J. R. Downs, So. Londonderry, Vt., who will be glad to send a list of those available, upon request.

While prices of mist nets handled by NEBBA are subject to change without notice, the list in our July issue is still in force as this goes to press. We have been getting very large shipments from Japan, without undue delays. However, extremely heavy demand has resulted in some delays in shipments of type A nets by NEBBA, including the filling of the largest orders in installments. Longer delays have occurred recently in filling orders for type C nets, because of a surge in demand for dove and woodcock studies. We hope that all seven types of nets handled by NEBBA will be in stock when this issue is mailed, and we have increased our orders in Japan once again, in the hope of keeping up with seasonal peaks of demand. However, if you happen to be able to anticipate your needs and order early, you may avoid some delays. Inquiries should be addressed to: Mr. E. A. Bergstrom, 37 Old Brook Road, West Hartford, Conn. 06117.

*Erratum* in the Song Sparrow note on p. 38 of this volume, line 2, for "Prince of Prussia, Pa.," read "King of Prussia, Pa.".