

several years experience and great interest look in the index of a standard field guide, instead of opening the guide to the approximate page almost automatically. The more experienced observer can occasionally recapture this feeling if he has the opportunity to go afield in an area so new to him that many families and genera are unfamiliar; then he too may resort to the index at times. All in all, there is more scope for a non-systematic guide than the expert birdwatcher may appreciate.

However, just how good is this one? What limitations does it accept in order to put its special approach into practice? First, it deals only with the eastern land birds from South Carolina west to the Rocky Mountains (with some high-plains species omitted), and north to the Arctic. Next, if you look in the section on brown birds for the ♀ Rose-breasted Grosbeak or Purple Finch, you will find neither, as the key doesn't include ♀ ♀. Once you find a reference to the ♂ of the species, you will find a few words describing the ♀ — the preface comments that during spring and summer you can usually identify the ♀ by its association with the ♂! Third, the key omits immature or winter plumages, with the comment: "Almost all birds whose plumage changes in the fall go south in winter and so are of no concern to people in the Northeast" (the authors would have done better to acknowledge that this restriction sharply reduces the value of the guide during the last half of the year). Beyond these three major limitations, the guide has difficulty with some of the less obvious or striking plumages — for example, the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher appears under the heading "Blue combinations," while the Tufted Titmouse appears under "Gray, Olive-gray, or olive-green combinations" in quite a different part of the guide. It passes up most of the obvious field marks based on shape, such as the bill difference between the vireos and wood warblers. If the guide were to cover even this geographical area more thoroughly, by including ♀ and immature plumages, the user would have even greater difficulty in finding his bird under the headings shown.

The new guide is not to be recommended to anyone (including children) with a really active interest in bird-watching, as it doesn't cover the whole subject as the standard guides do, and doesn't give the reader an easy transition to more technical guides. However, it may prove useful to the numerous people with a casual interest in birds, who are likely to be looking more at spring plumages than the full range of avian variety.—E. Alexander Bergstrom.

NOTES AND NEWS

NEBBA will absorb the appreciable increase in U. S. parcel post rates which became effective this spring. Purchasers who need nets in a hurry should keep in mind that most handling of parcel post on Saturday has been ended — just a month after the rates went up! — and allow for "special handling" charges if necessary.

We are receiving limited supplies of a new type H net, 4-shelf, 12-meter, with 30mm. (1¼" - stretched) mesh, halfway between present types A (36mm.) and F (24mm.). It is clear that many netters would like a mesh smaller than 36mm. to minimize tangling of smaller birds, but some object to the lower percentage of birds captured (of those hitting the net) in the 24mm. mesh. Price: same as type C (see the July, 1963 issue of *Bird-Banding*, p. 176). Inquiries for type H, or for the other seven types stocked by NEBBA, should be addressed to: Mr. E. A. Bergstrom, 37 Old Brook Road, West Hartford, Conn. 06117.

The *Proceedings* of the 13th International Ornithological Congress is in two volumes, of more than 1,250 pages, bound in hard covers. It includes 110 of the papers presented at Ithaca in 1962, to give a broad cross-section of contemporary world research on birds. The price of \$20.00 for the two-volume set includes postage if remittance accompanies the order. It may be obtained from the Treasurer, American Ornithologists' Union, Museum of Zoology, Drawer MU, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La. 70803.

Applications for the 1965 Student Award of the Eastern Bird-Banding Assn. should be sent, before January 1, 1965, to: Mrs. Stanley S. Dickerson, EBBA Memorial Award Fund, 1490 Long Road, Somerville, N. J. 08876. The award, of \$100 in memory of deceased members of EBBA, is open to college juniors or seniors

majoring in zoology or biology, maintaining at least a B (or 3) average, and using bird-banding in their studies. It is also open to graduate students using bird-banding in working on a thesis. The applicant's resume, indicating how he is using banding, should be signed by the head of his department.

Save the weekend of October 10 and 11, 1964 for the NEBBA annual meeting, which will be held on Nantucket Island (Mass.).

MIGRANTS MARKED FOR SIGHT OBSERVATIONS

A further step in the investigation of migratory birds as potential disseminators of arboviruses was undertaken in March and April by a field and laboratory team from the Arbovirus Unit of the USPHS Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta, Georgia. With Walter P. Nickell of the Cranbrook Institute of Science as Consultant, the team, consisting of Rexford Lord, Herbert Maxfield, and Telford H. Work, set up initial operations in the Stann Creek Valley of British Honduras to net, band, bleed, feather mark, and release migrants in Stann Creek Valley from March 14 to April 3.

White feathers were attached to the backs of 1052 birds, predominantly orchard orioles, catbirds, and indigo buntings, but including other species in small numbers.

On April 5, similar activity was initiated in the Delta Wildlife Refuge of Louisiana, where yellow feathers were used to mark 458 birds released.

One objective of the study is to make as many observations and/or recoveries of these marked birds in the United States as possible. If you observe any of these birds, your finding, including all the usual data on location, date, habitat, weather, etc., should be reported to the Arbovirus Unit, Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta, Georgia 30333 (telephone 404 634-5131). More important, if you learn of the whereabouts of a residential marked bird which might be investigated, immediate notification will be appreciated.

Your cooperation in notifying competent ornithologists (both amateur and professional) in your region of this study would likely increase greatly the probability of success for this project.