

NEWS AND REVIEWS

Hawks by William S. Clark, illustrations by Brian K. Wheeler. Peterson Field Guides. Houghton Mifflin Company. Boston, 1987. 200 pp. Cost \$13.95 U.S.

Thirty-nine species of North American diurnal raptors are covered in this handy field guide. The species covered include those that the careful and persistent observer would expect to see and, surprisingly, a few very uncommon ones [i.e., Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*) White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) and Stellar's Sea Eagle (*H. pelagicus*)]. Despite some misspelled words, and inconsistencies between the text and the Table of Contents, the Introduction does a good job of instructing the reader how to use the guide.

The "Topography of a Hawk" section is complete, quite useful, and can be used with the "Anatomy of a Raptor" on the front endpaper (although it is listed as "Topography of a Hawk" on the back endpaper).

Each species is covered in more detail than can be found in any generic bird guide, and addresses: common and scientific name; description; field marks (using the Peterson Identification System of arrows); plumages; reference to similar species; mode of flight; behavior; occasional reference to call; status and distribution; clear, but fairly generalized, range maps; fine points; unusual plumages; a listing of subspecies (all races north of Mexico); etymology; measurements; plates; and photographs. These points are covered nicely and, with the possible exception of range map errors (e.g., for *Buteo swainsoni*; J. Parrish, pers. comm.), appear to be accurate.

The 26 (not 27 as indicated in the Introduction) plates are grouped in the center of the guide which provides ready access to both the artwork, which is of comparable quality to that in the better bird guides, and informative legends on the facing pages. The 42 pages of black and white photographs are variable in quality and usefulness. Some photos are of exceptional clarity, while others are so dark or out of focus as to be of limited value.

The Reference section is particularly impressive, providing both the amateur and professional a useful bibliography. Complementing the Reference is a valuable Index to References by Species and Topic. Topics include: natural history; behavior; plumage; migration; status and distribution; identification; albinism; bibliography; and taxonomy. For quick reference to the "right" species an index is provided. Finally the classic raptor silhouettes are provided on the back endpaper (although it is listed in the Table of Contents as being on the front endpaper).

Despite some poor editing, which should be clarified in subsequent editions, the layout and contents of "Hawks" make it a very useful inclusion for anyone's back pocket or field bag. This Peterson guide has accomplished the goal of simplified field identification and is worth the \$13.95 selling price.—**Jeffrey L. Lincer.**

Request for Assistance.—Population status and health of Snowy Owls in North America; request assistance in obtaining field observations and carcasses. Please forward the following information for each sighting: date, location, number of birds seen, age and sex of birds seen, what birds were feeding on, the observer's name, address and telephone number, and any additional information which the observer wishes to supply. Please report sightings to **Ursula C. Petersen, 436 Birge Hall, Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706.**

Birds of Prey: An Identification Guide to the Raptors of the World. Book is due for completion in 1988; published by Christopher Helm, Ltd., in the same series as *Seabirds*, *shorebirds* and *waterfowl*. Colour plates (112) will show all birds of prey in all main plumages, perched and in flight. Illustrating the underwings and some other fine details is, however, a problem for certain species where museum skins, published photographs and our field notes are all inadequate. We are, therefore now asking for photographs (particularly showing birds in flight or in the hand) of any of the following:

Afro-Malagasy Cuckoo-hawks (*Aviceda cuculoides* and *A. madagascariensis*);
Honey Buzzards (*Henicopernis longicauda*, *H. infusata* and *Pernis celebensis*);
the African Banded Snake Eagles (*Circaetus fasciolatus* and *C. cinerascens*);
any island (not mainland) species or race of the Asiatic Serpent Eagles (*Spilormis*);

the Afro-Malagasy Serpent Eagles (*Dryotriorchis* and *Eutriorchis*);
 any species of *Accipiter* (in which we include *Erythrotriorchis* and *Megatriorchis*) EXCEPT FOR *tachiro*, *novaehollandiae*
 (Australian nominate race), *nisus*, *rufiventris*, *striatus*, *bicolor*, *cooperii* and *gentilis*;
 the Old World hawks *Butastur* (all species);
 the African Long-tailed Hawk (*Urotriorchis macrourus*);
 the New World hawks *Leucopternis* (all species) and *Buteogallus subtilis*;
 the two Central and South American Solitary Eagles (*Harpyhaliaetus*);
 the buzzards/hawks *Buteo ridgwayi*, *B. brachypterus*, *B. regalis* (dark adult and juvenile) and *B. auguralis*;
 the Crested Eagle (*Morphnus guianensis*) and the harpy eagles (*Harpia* and *Harpyopsis*);
 the Indian Black Eagle (*Ictinaetus malayensis*);
 Wahlberg's Eagle (*Aquila wahlbergi*);
 Gurney's Eagle (*A. gurneyi*);
 the hawk eagles *Hieraaetus dubius*, *H. kienerii*, *Spizastur melanoleucus*, *Spizaetus africanus*, *S. cirrhatu* (race *floris*), *S. nanus* (race *stresemanni*), *S. tyrannus*, *S. bartelsi* and *S. philippensis*;
 and Isidor's Eagle (*Oroaetus isidori*).

We have tried to keep this list reasonably short, but should like to see any other photographs that show points of special interest. For example, until recently we would have added *Accipiter badius* and *A. brevipes* to the list of accipiters excluded, but it is now clear that some Shikras are more easily confused in the field with Levant Sparrowhawks than previously recognized. All photographs should be sent as soon as possible to **P. J. K. Burton, British Museum (Natural History), Akeman Street, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 6AP, ENGLAND**. Photographs submitted will be acknowledged and later returned to the individual artists.—**James Ferguson-Lees, Philip Burton, Kim Franklin and David Mead.**

Raptours. Raptor watching tours and workshops. 1988–1989 schedule includes: Trinidad, Cape May, Israel, South Texas, Senegal, Mexico, Panama, Tikal, Whitefish Point, Ecuador and southern Arizona. Tours led by Bill Clark, author of *Hawks*. Many three-day weekends. Write for brochure and schedule to **Raptours, P.O. Box 8008, Silver Spring, MD 20907, or call Barbara Fox at (301) 565-9196.**

Reprints Wanted. Are your raptor reprints taking up too much space and gathering dust? The U.S. Bureau of Land Management would like to add them to the Raptor Management Information System (RMIS) or to its General Raptor Reprint File. In return, you receive an appropriate amount of free use of the computerized systems. For details, write **Richard R. (Butch) Olendorff, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825, Phone 916-978-4725.** Also, if you are interested just in using the extensive literature retrieval capability of the RMIS, write or call for a free brochure.

Prairie Endangered Species Workshop Proceedings. One-third of all the rare, threatened, and endangered species in Canada were once regular inhabitants of the prairie grasslands. Ploughing of native prairie for agriculture has virtually eliminated the grassland habitat on which these species depend. With this background, a 3 d workshop was held at the Provincial Museum of Alberta, Edmonton in January 1986 by the Federation of Alberta Naturalists. During the 32 sessions, 90 speakers from 30 organizations discussed the conservation and management needs of endangered prairie habitats and wildlife. Proceedings from the workshop are now available.

The Proceedings include 83 papers on endangered habitats and most threatened and endangered wildlife in the three prairie provinces. The papers on habitat confirmed that over 75% of all prairie habitats have been ploughed, grazed or urbanized. Over 95% of mixed grass prairie has been irreparably disturbed. Papers on individual species discussed the status of each species, current management, the need for a recovery plan and future conservation needs. A number of low profile species such as the Bull Trout, Leopard Frog, and a variety of insects and plants were included in an effort to stimulate more conservation activity. To order copies of the proceedings of the Workshop on the Endangered Species in the Prairie Provinces, Occasional Paper No. 9 (1987) of Provincial Museum of Alberta send \$10 U.S. per copy to **Edmonton Natural History Club, Box 1582, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2N9.**

1989 Hawk Mountain Research Award. The Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association is accepting applications for its twelfth annual award for raptor research. To apply for the **\$750 award**, a student applicant should submit a brief description of his or her research program (five pages maximum), a *curriculum vitae*, and two letters of recommendation to **Dr. Jim Bednarz, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, Rte. 2, Kempton, PA 19529. The deadline for applications is October 15, 1988.** The Association's board of directors will make a final decision early in 1989. Only students in degree-granting institutions are eligible to apply; both undergraduate and graduate students may apply. The award will be granted on the basis of a project's potential to improve understanding of raptor biology and its ultimate relevance to the conservation of North American raptor populations.

1988 Hawk Mountain Research Award. The Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association awarded its 1988 research grant to Holly Devaul, a M.S. candidate at the University of Maine. Her project is entitled "Survey of Breeding Woodland Hawks: A Comparison of Forest Mangement Practices."