

NEW BOOKS FOR SPRING

Parrots of the World, Joseph M. Forshaw. Illustrated by William T. Cooper. Doubleday & Co., New York, 1973. 584 pp. \$65.00. This monster-size (10" x 13", 10½ lb.) volume claims to be the first comprehensive treatment of the Psittaciformes since 1867. Species write-ups include description, distribution (with maps), subspecies, and general notes on all the world's parrots. Beautifully, — often dazzlingly — illustrated with portraits of over 500 species and subspecies. Extensive bibliography. Years in the making, this may well be the bird book of the year, at the price of the year, but if the print order is limited it may well turn out to be also the bargain of the year.

The Last Eagle, Ben East. Crown, N. Y. March, 1974. \$5.75. Fictionalized story of a bald eagle's life history and struggle for survival. Illustrated. "For young and old." Not seen.

The Bird Watcher's America. Edited by Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. Illustrations by John Henry Dick. Crown, N. Y., April, 450 pp. \$4.50. Forty-four naturalists describe their favorite birding haunts and anecdotes in the U. S. and Canada.

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Spirit of Survival: A Natural and Personal History of Terns, John Hay. A Sunrise Book. Doubleday & Co., New York, \$6.95. Not seen.

How to Attract, House, and Feed Birds. Forty-eight plans for bird feeders and houses you can make. Ill. Walter E. Schultz, Macmillan, New York. Feb. \$2.95. Not seen. A Collier paperback.

A Field Guide to the Birds of New Zealand. B. A. Fuller, R. S. Gibson, and E. G. Turbott. Houghton Mifflin, Boston. March. \$8.95. Another volume in the "Peterson" series. Not seen.

The Habitat Guide to Birding. Thomas P. McElroy, Jr., Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York, March 1974. 234 pp. \$8.95. A birder's book on a new and useful system: the habitats of the U. S. and Canada, and "Probability Lists" of what birds inhabit them at the different seasons, with tips on identification, what to wear, how to buy binoculars and telescopes, and other highly useful information.

Raptors of Utah, Larry Eyre and Pon Paul, Utah Div. of Wildlife Resources, Salt Lake City, 1973. 76 pp. The owls, hawks, eagles and vultures of Utah, their value, enemies, behavior, classification, and identification. Ill. color photographs. Bibliography.

They Saved Our Birds. — The Battle Won and the War to Win, Helen Ossa. Hippocrene Books, New York, 1973. 288 pp. \$6.95. The story of conservation in America in the last 100 years, with chapters on the presently endangered species, on the art of birdwatching and other useful reference material. Includes a list of National Audubon Society chapters.

Vultures. — Ann Warren Turner, ill: Marian Gray Warren. David McKay, New York, 1973. 96 pp. \$7.95. Portraits in words and black-and-white drawings of 17 of the world's 21 vulture species, including Lammergeyer. Attractive, well written; middle school level and up.

Francis Lee Jaques, Artist of the Wilderness World. — Florence Page Jaques. Doubleday, N. Y. 1973. \$25.00. Listed *Am. Birds* 27: 924 but not seen then. This is a truly beautiful book: warm, intimate commentary, 52 of Jaques best paintings, and many handsome pen or scratchboard prints. Jaques fans will treasure this book; non-fans will be converted.

Confessions of a Bird Watcher. — Roger Barton, McGraw-Hill, New York. 1974. \$7.95. Another of those birdwatcher memoirs, with advice for beginners, that seem to be epidemic this year. Which is not to imply that this one is not entertaining. But I cannot imagine writing guidance for beginners without a single mention of bird song recordings.

Curassows and Related Birds. Jean Deacour and Dean Amadon, American Museum of Natural History, N. Y., 1973. 250 pp. \$20 plus \$1 postage. A semipopular monograph on the family *Cracidae*: 45 species of curassows, chachalacas, and guans, illustrated with 30 color plates by Al Gilbert (25) George M. Sutton (4) and D. M. Reid Henry (1). Complete bibliography. Well-written, authoritative; like many heavily subsidized books, an excellent buy.

Birding from a Tractor Seat, Charles T. Flugum, Box 30038, St. Paul, Minn. 55175. Ill. by Walter J. Brecknridge. 435 pp. 1973. \$7.95. A collection of writings on birds by the well known Minnesota "dirt farmer."



Manx Shearwater Breeds in North America

Discovered nesting on Penikese Island, Massachusetts, on June 6, 1973, by Gus Ben David, the Manx Shearwater *Puffinus p. puffinus* is thus added to the list of confirmed North American breeding birds. The nestling was photographed by Richard O. Bierregaard, Jr.

News and Notes

Announcement has been made of the formation of the Alberta Ornithological Records Committee, by the parent organization, the Federation of Alberta Naturalists. The seven-member committee, under the Chairmanship of W. Ray Salt, includes representation from Saskatchewan and British Columbia, and will henceforth serve as a repository of records of birds from Alberta, and will on request examine the validity of records of rare or unusual birds in Alberta. The committee will shortly issue a standard report form for observations. The Federation's address is Box 1472, Edmonton, Alta, T5J 2N5.

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The early Winter Range Mapping Project, suggested in these pages (*Am. Birds* 25: 514), has become one of the most important byproducts of this journal in its 27-year history. A first call for volunteers to map the winter ranges of species from data published in Christmas Bird Counts resulted in response by more than 80 volunteer mappers, who "adopted" some 220 species as their own personal projects.

A second call, in 1973 added another 80 volunteers to the roles, with over 480 species now spoken for. And during the year, an agreement was worked out between the Patuxent Wildlife

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