

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT: BOOKS

Recent and forthcoming books on birds

Our annual review of recent and forthcoming books on birds would seem to reflect the current economic situation. Prices are up, and the number of new books, or books announced for publication during the next six months are down. Last year's October issue of *American Birds* listed 46 titles, and the following February we added a supplement with an additional 13 titles, for a total of 59. The review notices that follow are for just 25 books, or about half the number for 1973-74.

We would like this supplement to be as complete and up-to-date as possible, and we therefore ask all publishers, authors, and book publicists to keep us posted—well in advance of projected publication. Advance notice, even for manuscripts that are only half completed, may even help to prevent more than one author from duplicating work well advanced by another.

A Coded List of Birds of the World.—Ernest Preston Edwards. Privately printed, Sweet Briar, Virginia. 174 pp. \$9.00. 1974. The first published list of all the world's bird species, with vernacular names for each. Each species has its own code, a number for the family, a letter for the order, followed by a number for the species. Thus, Inca Dove code is 2P123, P standing for Order Columbiformes, 2 standing for Family Columbidae, and Inca Dove being the 123rd member of the family. Each species has a locator key, in this case it is HN, N, standing for Nearctic, Neotropical. A most handy desk reference.

Birds of the World: A Check List.—James F. Clements. Two Continents Publishing Group, New York. 1974. 520 pp. \$15. This book is essentially a duplicate effort of the Edwards list (above), but in a slightly different, more professional format, with perhaps more specific distributional notes, with space for the observer to list date and location when first listed, and faunal map end-papers in color. Clements lists 8904 species, Edwards 8908. A detailed evaluation of the taxonomic validity of the two books is beyond the scope of this journal, but a comparison of just the first family (penguins) shows Edwards with 15 species, Clements with 18, in the same generic but not species order. The Fiordland Penguin of Edwards is the Victoria Penguin of Clements; Clements includes the Snares Island, White-flipped and Erect-crested Penguins which Edwards omits; Edwards' Little Penguin is Clements Little Blue Penguin. Why choose—you really need both books, to be thoroughly confused!

Ecology and Management of the Atitlan Grebe, Lake Atitlan, Guatemala.—Anne LaBastille. Wildlife Monographs No. 37, The Wildlife Society, Washington, D.C. 66 pp. 1974. \$1.70 Condensed from the unpublished doctoral dissertation, this is a thorough and thoroughly professional investigation of one of the world's rarest birds, the Giant Pied-billed Grebe, *Podilymbus gigas*, the flightless grebe of Lake Atitlan, present population about 210.

WATERFOWL Their Biology and Natural History

By Paul A. Johnsgard

"A concise and well written outline of the behavior, ecology, migration, moults, plumage, evolution and taxonomic relationships of waterfowl. I heartily recommend this book"—W. H. Carrick, Kortright Waterfowl Park, *Canadian Audubon*. 148 photographs, 59 in color. Cloth \$8.95

GROUSE AND QUAILS OF NORTH AMERICA

By Paul A. Johnsgard

"Very thorough individual accounts of the 25 species described. The abundance of delightful illustrations (140 plates, 52 in color) is unequalled among upland gamebird books. This fine publication should please bird watchers, hunters, and professional biologists"—

Library Journal.

Cloth \$25.00



University of Nebraska Press
Lincoln 68508



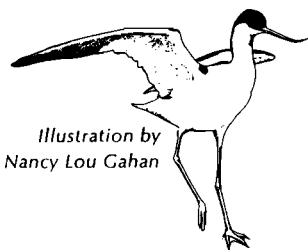


Illustration by
Nancy Lou Gahan

TAPLINGER BOOKS

On the Wing...

Presenting
the
latest
Collins
Worldwide
Field Guides

Each Field Guide
is illustrated with
many pages of
full-color plates

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF THE GALAPAGOS

Michael Harris

This is the definitive field guide to all the birds of the Galapagos Islands; authoritative notes. *Ready November 1974 \$10.95*

THE BIRDS OF THE SEYCHELLES

Malcolm Penny

Offering thorough accounts of distribution, habits, appearance, characteristics, and song; an indispensable ornithological reference work. *Ready November 1974 \$11.95*

THE BIRDS OF THE BAHAMAS

P. G. C. Brudenell-Bruce

The popular Bahama Islands are the home of some native and many migrant bird species. All are covered in a meticulous text. *Ready January 1975 \$10.95*

SWANS OF THE WORLD

Sylvia Bruce Wilmore

"Perhaps the best book ever done on swans," wrote Robert Arbib of this readable, well-illustrated study. Whether discussing Bewick's Swan or Whistling Swans, the author's comments on habits and behavior will be of singular interest to the ornithologist. *\$9.95*

PEDIGREE

THE ORIGINS OF WORDS FROM NATURE

Stephen Potter & Laurens Sargent

"We are tied to nature in a thousand ways . . . our language is a constant testimony to that fact—and that is what this book is all about." —Roger Caras *\$9.95*

FINCHES

Ian Newton

"An excellent, scholarly text is backed up with good photographs, color paintings. . . . Altogether, an impressive technical work, and a valuable addition to any biology library." —*Library Journal* *\$12.50*

SEABIRDS OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND

S. Cramp, W. R. P. Bourne, & D. Saunders

"Each (seabird species) is the subject of a chapter and the thorough text is backed up by good maps, line drawings, photos, and many tables and charts. Recommended." —*Library Journal* *\$14.95*

MAN AND BIRDS

R. K. Murton

"This extremely interesting and well-documented treatise deals with the close and ever-growing interrelationship between man and birds. . . . An outstanding study." —*Library Journal* *\$10.95*

DONANA

SPAIN'S WILDLIFE WILDERNESS

A monumental photographic study, reproduced entirely in color and complemented by an exceptionally able text, this is the definitive book on Europe's most important sanctuary for rare birds including the Spanish Imperial Eagle. Limited quantity only in 1975. *\$25.00*

- GALAPAGOS @ \$10.95
- SEYCHELLES @ \$11.95
- BAHAMAS @ \$10.95
- SWANS @ \$ 9.95
- PEDIGREE @ \$ 9.95
- FINCHES @ \$12.50
- SEABIRDS @ \$14.95
- MAN &
BIRDS @ \$10.95
- DONANA @ \$25.00

ORDER FORM

I enclose a check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above order. I have added an additional 50¢ per book to cover the costs of handling and shipping. Please send books to:

NAME (Please print) _____
STREET ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

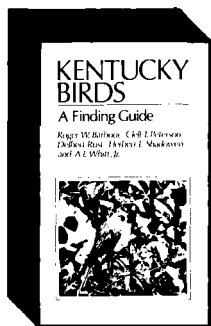
TAPLINGER PUBLISHING CO. 200 Park Ave. South, New York, N.Y. 10003

The Bird Life of Texas.—Harry C. Oberholser. Ill. Louis Agazzis Fuertes, Ed. Edgar B. Kincaid, Jr. 2 vols. Univ. of Texas Press, Austin, 1974. \$60 boxed. Few bird books can truly be called monumental: this one fully qualifies. But then, we expect the monumental from Texas. Its original author put fifty years into its writing (three million words) but died eleven years ago, and it has taken editor Kincaid and loyal assistants Rowlett and Winckler ten years of tender loving toil to reduce this mass of material to (barely) manageable proportions. Still the reader finds here everything that any state book should include, patterned on the time-honored delusion that each state is an island in limbo and that nothing has ever been written about any of these species elsewhere. Few states today can afford such extravagance. Here you will find introductory chapters including a history and 31 pages of habitat photographs, plus the most detailed species descriptions this side of Ridgway, excellent distribution maps, and a massive bibliography. And not least, 36 color Fuertes color plates and many black-and-whites (most of them early Fuertes and some now familiar). The Oberholser taxonomy has been retained; much original work is here published for the first time. Oberholser was a confirmed “splitter”; it will be interesting to watch the response of today’s taxonomist fraternity; the trend lately has been in the opposite direction. Methinks the “lumpers” will have a few lumps for the late and good doctor O. If you collect state books, collect this one—it’s another patron-endowed “bargain”.

Natural Sciences in America.—Selected by Keir Brooks Sterling, Edwin H. Colbert, Ernst Mayr, Edward S. Gruson and Richard G. Van Gelder. Arno Press, New York, 1974. 58 books, if purchased together \$1800. Two original works, 13 anthologies in the Bairdian period (writings of Baird, Kumlien, Woodhouse, G.B. Grinnell,

etc.), and a number of reprints of virtually-unobtainable early American ornithology and later out-of-print works in the field of systematics, ornithology, mammalogy, paleontology, and natural history. Authors include J.A. Allen, Audubon, Baird, Bendire, Bonaparte, Cooper, Coues, Mayr, Pennant, Richardson & Swainson, and Ridgway, among others. A typical reprint is Elliott Coues’ **Key to North American Birds**. Boston, 1903, 2 vols. \$59. This venture by a subsidiary of the New York Times will allow many of the newer libraries to fill important gaps in their collections.

The Owls of North America (North of Mexico).—Paintings and drawings by Karl E. Karalus, text by Allan W. Eckert, Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N.Y. 1974. \$30 (Collector’s Ed., \$50 boxed). Every race of every species of owl found north of the Mexican border is illustrated in color in this lavish, handsomely-produced volume. Treatments include: systematics history, other names, distinguishing features, shape at rest, shape in flight, flight pattern, weight, length, wingspan, tail length, beak length, ears, plumage, molts, voice, sexual differences, mortality and longevity, coloration and markings, adult and juvenile, general habits and characteristics, habitat and roosting, enemies and defenses, hunting, food, wastes, courtship and mating, annual brood, nest, nesting habits, eggs, incubation, young and family life, distribution, migration, economic status and range map. For the Screech Owl alone they come to 52 pages, plus 12 full-color pages. Karalus’ paintings are painstaking and precise, but there is something strangely unsatisfying about them. His emphasis is on feather delineation more than form; one never gets the “feel”, the softness, the texture of owl plumage. Nevertheless, this is undoubtedly the most ambitious owl book ever published.



“Useful, well-done.”—*American Birds*

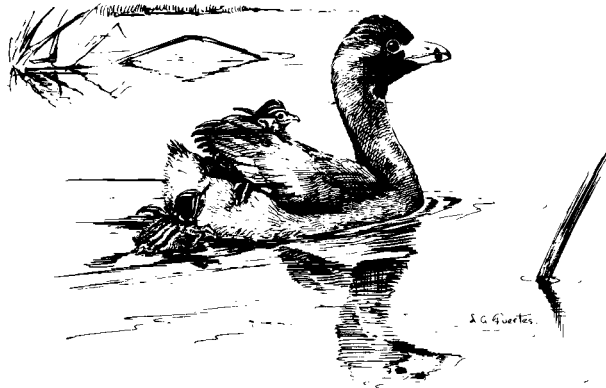
KENTUCKY BIRDS: A Finding Guide

ROGER W. BARBOUR, CLELL T. PETERSON, DELBERT RUST, HERBERT E. SHADOWEN & A. L. WHITT, JR.

—239 FULL-COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS

“the very model of what such a book should be. . . . superb color photographs. . . .”—*Library Journal*
Clothbound / 328 pages / \$9.75

THE UNIVERSITY PRESS OF KENTUCKY
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40506



ANNOUNCING

THE BIRD LIFE OF TEXAS

BY Harry C. Oberholser

Edited, with distribution maps and additional material
BY Edgar B. Kincaid, Jr.

With the assistance of John Rowlett and Suzanne Winckler

PAINTINGS BY Louis Agassiz Fuertes

Preface by Pat I. Nixon

Foreword by John W. Aldrich

THE BIRD LIFE OF TEXAS is beautifully illustrated with thirty-six water colors and thirty-six black-and-white drawings by the celebrated American wildlife artist Louis Agassiz Fuertes. It provides the first detailed history and natural history of the state's bird life, and stands out on several counts:

- Survey of major bird habitats illustrated with 38 photographs.
- Complete species accounts.
- Distribution map for virtually every species—480 maps in all. Status and distribution for each bird current through winter of 1972–1973.
- Special section documents changes for each species that has shown marked alteration in status or distribution.
- Descriptions and measurements of birds are for most species the most thorough to appear in any bird book published in the Western Hemisphere.

At the turn of the century, Harry C. Oberholser, then a young ornithologist with the U.S. Biological Survey, began writing a survey of the birds of Texas. He had begun a monumental project—more than two thirds of the species known to occur in North America north of Mexico have been recorded in Texas. Oberholser's manuscript, which had reached an unwieldy three million words at the time of his death in 1963, has been carefully edited and updated by Edgar B. Kincaid, Jr., who has observed birds in the state for over forty years.

2 volumes, boxed, \$60.00

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PRESS

BOX 7819 AUSTIN 78712

Bird Life.—Ian Rowley. Taplinger, New York. (Australian Naturalist Library) Illus. photographs. 1974. 272 pp. \$14.95. A book about birds in the Australian environment, with emphasis on modern experiments and understanding of bird behavior. A good directory of Australian ornithology and a bibliography are included.

A Field Guide to the Birds of Galapagos.—Michael Harris. Illus. in color and black-and-white by Barry Kent Mackay. 1974. 160 pp. \$10.95. Now that the Galapagos are almost in the mainstream of bird tourism, a field guide was inevitable, and most welcome. This is an entirely adequate one, with 12 plates of endemics (there are 28) many sketches, maps of breeding colony locations, and the usual and useful introductory chapters. One of three new island-guides from Taplinger.

The Birds of the Seychelles and the Outlying Islands.—Malcolm Penny. Taplinger, New York. 1974. 160 pp. with illus. in color and drawings by Chloe Talbot-Kelly. \$11.95. Unlike most field guides in that it is more of a complete "ornithology" than most. Species descriptions are lengthier and more narrative in form than in modern field guides, but should be helpful to the Lindblad Explorer visitors and others for whom it was produced.

Competition and the Structure of Bird Communities.—Martin L. Cody. Princeton University Press, 1974. 318 pp. \$12.50. A Monograph in Population Biology. A scholarly and highly technical discussion, based on extensive field work in North and South America, of the role of competition in the organization, maintenance and evolution of bird communities.

Swans of the World.—Sylvia Bruce Wilmore. Taplinger, New York. 1974. 229 pp. \$9.95. Ill. drawings, photos, maps. Among several recent books on swans, this one seems to have the most "meat." Habits, behavior, distribution and migration of the eight species of the world's swans. Swans in history, mythology, and literature. Well-written, thorough, recommended.

Born to Sing.—Charles Hartshorne. Indiana University Press, Bloomington. 304 pp. 1973. An interpretation and world survey of bird song. A wide-ranging survey of bird song, from the biological, psychological, and esthetic viewpoints, in which the author holds that bird song is more than a matter of territorial advertising;—that birds derive esthetic satisfaction from it. The author lists in order his choices for

the world's 200 top singers (Superb Lyrebird No. 1.) an impending new goal for sound-minded listeners. Stimulating reading.

Ornithology at The University of Michigan Biological Station and Birds of the Region.—Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. Kalamazoo Nature Center, Special Publication No. 1. 1974. 118 pp. An informal history of the station, with an annotated list. Illustrated.

A Conference On the Biological Aspects of the Bird/Aircraft Collision Problem, February 5-7, 1974. Proceedings edited by Sydney A. Gauthreaux, Jr. Clemson University, Clemson, S.C. 535 pp. Twenty-six papers and several discussion sessions related to the BASH (Bird-Aircraft Strike Hazard) problem. A major symposium on one of the most troublesome of bird-man conflicts.

The Magnificent Birds of Prey.—Philip S. Calhoun. Holiday House, New York, 1974. 190 pp. \$6.95. Illustrated with photos, drawings. An introduction to the world of raptors, with emphasis on the joys and glamor of falconry, "the sport of kings" (?). There are infinitely better books available on these subjects.

Birds of New York State.—John Bull. Natural History Press, New York. 672 pp. 1975? \$29.95 Originally scheduled for November 1974, at our press time it was reported by the publisher to be "temporarily suspended." Not seen.

A Wilderness of Birds.—Text by Hope C. Jex, 77 full-color photographs by Sidney Bahrt. Doubleday, New York, 160 pp. 1974. \$29.95. A showcase for some of Sid Bahrt's most beautiful bird photographs, and they are very, very good

Summer of a Million Wings.—Hugh Brandon-Cox. Taplinger, New York. 184 pp. Illus. drawings, photographs by the author. \$8.95. 1974. The narrative, of "an arctic quest for the sea eagle." The setting is Vaerøy and other islands north of Norway.

Pedigree, the origins of words from nature.—Stephen Potter and Laurens Sargent. Taplinger, New York. 320 pp. 1974. \$9.95. The third recent, and most readable and erudite study of the origins of words used for birds and other forms of life. We found it fascinating.

The World Atlas of Birds.—14 authors, Random House, New York. 1974. \$29.95. Lavishly
(Continued on page 964.)

Now, "the armchair voyager can be knowledgeable about every bird family, every zoo-geographical realm and every major habitat, through the pages of this lavishly illustrated book."

—ROGER TORY PETERSON



THE WORLD ATLAS OF BIRDS

There has never been a bird book like this one before.

With its unique continent-by-continent approach, THE WORLD ATLAS OF BIRDS offers a fresh look at what birds are, how they live, and what lies behind their extraordinary success in coming to terms with virtually every habitat available on our planet.

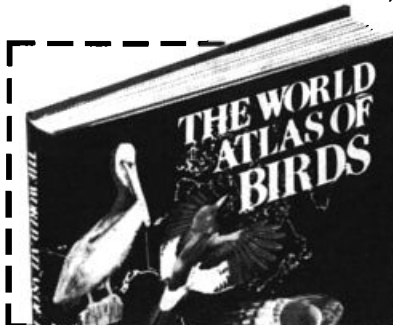
Written by 14 of the world's outstanding authorities on ornithology, THE WORLD ATLAS OF BIRDS features clear, complete maps and classification charts...concise, illuminat-

ing text... comprehensive index and glossary... and full-color illustrations on nearly every page.

The individual entry for each species, coupled with a superb, large color painting, is designed to illustrate a particular facet of bird life—a hunting technique or physical specialization, courtship behavior or feeding habit. A special section diagrams the evolution and relationships of the world's 155 bird families.

THE WORLD ATLAS OF BIRDS is now at your bookstore. Or, if you prefer, you may obtain a copy by sending the coupon below.

- more than 500 original full-color paintings
- 270 line illustrations
- profiles of over 500 species of birds
- special essays on nearly 100 topics
- 167 maps and diagrams



RANDOM HOUSE MAIL SERVICE
Dept. 11-2, 201 E. 50th St.
New York, N.Y. 10022

Please send me THE WORLD ATLAS OF BIRDS, for which I enclose \$29.95 plus 85¢ for postage and handling. If not completely satisfied, I may return book post-paid within 14 days for full refund.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please add sales tax where applicable. Price applies to U.S. and territories only. In Canada, write to Random House of Canada, 370 Alliance Ave., Toronto. AB-10