

Recent Books

A Field Guide to Bird Finding East of the Mississippi, Second Edition.—Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., with 90 illustrations by George Miksch Sutton. Oxford University Press, New York. 1977 xxv + 689 pp. \$15.95. Unlike many second editions which are in fact reprints, this is a complete revision and update of the birders' inseparable companion, and a welcome publishing event indeed. New sites, new bird lists, new travel directions, a completely new, easier-to-read format. Even the endpapers are new, with maps pinpointing 148 sites treated in the text. It all adds up to a formidable task completed with the usual Pettingill (both Sewall and Eleanor) thoroughness. Not the least of the admirable features are the handsome drawings by Sutton that grace its pages.—R.A.

A Field Guide to the Birds of West Africa.—William Serle and Gerard J. Morel. 48 color plates by Wolfgang Hartwig. Collins, London. 1977. 351 pp. £5.95. The area covered is the entire west coast of Africa from Mauritania south to Zaire, and inland to Mali, Niger, Chad and the Central African Republic, and including the offshore islands. Of the 1097 species recorded in this area, 726 are dealt with in the text, others are included in the check-list. Illustrated are 515 species, 335 in color. With interest among American birder-

tourists in this part of Africa just beginning, the publication of this field guide is most timely. It should be useful for all except those least frequently seen rarities; for this you will still need the increasingly difficult-to-obtain Mackworth-Praed & Grant, or Bannerman tomes. But welcome nonetheless.—R.A.

A Guide to Bird-Watching in Mallorca.—Eddie Watkinson. AB Grafisk Formgivning, Stockholm, Sweden. 1976. Available from M Philbrick, PO Box 83, Vashon, WA 98070 56 pp. \$3.90. The orientation of this extremely competent and highly readable guide is European, and its emphasis is on where to see the birds of Majorca, largest island in the Spanish Balearics. It covers such topics as when to come, where to stay, what to take with you, recommended reading, bus services, car hire—even fiestas! But the heart of the guide is a series of locality maps, and the treatment of each is somewhat similar to our own Site Guides. Such stuff as dreams are made on!—R.A.

A Guide to Eastern Hawk Watching.—Donald S. Heintzelman. Pennsylvania State University Press, University Park, 1976. 100 pp. \$5.50 paperbound, \$8.95 clothbound. This is a revision of the author's 1972

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privately published and out-of-print, *A Guide to Northeastern Hawk Watching*, with the addition of selected material from his 1975: *Autumn Hawk Flights*. His treatment of diagnostic features includes more subtle (albeit *not* definitive) perceptions than the standard field guides, especially concerning birds' silhouettes, and variations in shapes, plumages and flight patterns. It contains 77 photographs, some of which nicely illustrate comparison of species' features. Very unfortunately, 15 of the total are site or situation (people watching hawks) photos. In the remaining 62 some deficiencies persist, *i.e.*, failure to mention the full crop of the Red-tailed Hawk—top p. 31—may mislead novice birders; unlabelled Cooper's Hawk photos—p. 25—leave the age and sex a mystery; too many simply duplicate material printed previously and illustrate conspicuous rather than abstruse or indistinct characteristics of the 24 species discussed. Its chief value is as a site reference. Heintzelman lists and details 57 spring or autumn watches and gives precise directions to each. I assume it will enjoy success, although it is a minor contribution.—S.R.D.

Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Ontario.—R. D. James, P. L. McLaren, J. C. Barlow. Royal Ontario Museum, Life Sciences Miscellaneous Publications, Toronto, 1976. 75 pp. \$2.50 paperbound. A tight compilation of the 394 living, one extinct, and 34 'hypothetical' bird species recorded in Ontario. Included are 267 current or former breeders and 12 summer residents (judged as probable but undocumented breeders).

Species accounts include breeding and migratory status, seasonal occurrence and frequency, relative abundance, distribution, egg dates and subspecies distribution. Though the province is Canada's second largest and comprises varied habitat types; it is still mildly surprising that 75% of the bird species recorded in the country have occurred in Ontario.—S.R.D.

Bird Hazards to Aircraft, Problems and Prevention of Bird/Aircraft Collisions.—Hans Blokpoel. Books Canada, Inc., Buffalo, New York, 1976. xiv + 236 pp. \$6.50 paperbound, \$10.00 clothbound. This unusually complete work is to serve as a comprehensive reference and guide for those directly involved with collision control. It is a very credible work; although admittedly certainly not of general interest. It is an imposing overview, funded by the Canadian government, and a valuable contribution to flight safety.—S.R.D.

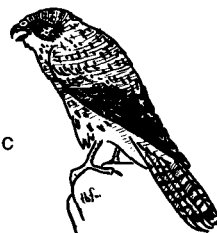
Birds as Builders.—Peter Goodfellow. Arco Publishing Co., New York. January, 1978. 168 pp. Ill. many photos, 8 pp. color \$15.95. An excellent popular treatise and survey of the nest-building of birds. This well-written book discusses in some detail, with emphasis on comparative behavior, the gamut of nest types, from "no nests", through simple, to cup-shaped, enclosed, hanging, woven, mud, ground, holes, aquatic, colonial, edible, and mound nests, with excursions into incubation, helpers, parasites and more. The photographs are well-selected, and the drawings of C.J.F. Coombs are a bonus.—R.A.

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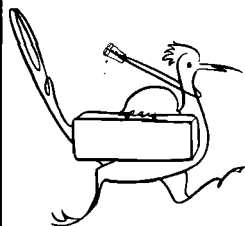
Birds in Peril—John P. S. Mackenzie, Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 1977. 191 pp. With 20 color plates and other drawings by Terence Shortt. \$14.95. It seems not very long ago that David R. Zimmerman's "To save a bird in peril," told us much the same story and with almost the same title. But the two books differ in the telling. Mackenzie's book treats 20 species or subspecies as against Zimmerman's seven; Mackenzie's text is a brief and readable synopsis of the background, problem, and prognosis for each species. Zimmerman's book is reportorial and anecdotal evidencing live encounters with those involved with species recovery. Its concentration is on solving the problems. In matters of illustration and book design, the present work is far superior, graced as it is with twenty full pages in color by Terence Shortt. In a strange lapse, the Zimmerman book is not mentioned in the bibliography. But read both.—R.A.

✓ **Birds, Mammals, Reptiles, and Amphibians of the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico**, a checklist.—Richard Philibosian and John A. Yntema. Information Services, St. Croix, U.S.V.I., 1977. 48 pp. \$2 (1-9 copies), \$1 30 (10 or more). A handy, up-to-date pocket checklist, giving the status of 393 living and extinct species (266 living birds) recorded from the islands. Pick one up before your next visit.—R.A.

Bird Taxidermy.—James M. Harrison David & Charles, North Pomfret, Vermont, 1977. 67 pp. \$6.95 hardbound. The late Dr. Harrison has explained meticulous procedures that yield aesthetic and scientifically valuable specimens. His son has extracted and incorporated a series of notes written by Dr. Harrison before his death in 1971. They update the basic text, resolving many of the anatomical and storage problems heretofore unaddressed. Seventeen line drawings and 15 photographs are helpful. It includes a technical lexicon, detailed list of necessary materials and tools, bibliography and an index. With concision and skill the author has written a reference manual for professional taxidermists, a text for amateurs and students and an absolutely charming personal narrative of a man's devotion to a gentle obsession.—S.R.D.

Birdwatcher's Guide to Wildlife Sanctuaries.—Jessie Kitching. Arco Publishing Company Inc., New York, 1976. xviii + 235 pp. \$8.95 clothbound. Ms. Kitching, literate and ambitious editor of the monthly review, *Books About Birds*, generally summarizes 295 U.S. and Canadian sanctuaries. She indicates breeding, rare or endangered species recorded; gives sanctuary address and access information, advice on local non-birding recreational possibilities and critical

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EAST-COAST-YUCATAN: Jan 15-29. Kiblinger. From Merida,
\$795 ends Vera Cruz. Chichen Itza, Uxmal, Catamaco.

SURINAM: Mar 3-15. Zimmerman. From Paramaribo: \$795
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details about existence and availability of sanctuary checklists. An index will facilitate locating particular species. One might wish for maps and more thorough state and provincial coverage; odd omissions but a valuable venture nonetheless.—S.R.D.

Check-list of Birds of Northwestern Nebraska and Southwestern North Dakota.—Richard C. Rosche. 1977. Published by the author, P.O. Box 482, Crawford, NE 69339. 15 pp. \$2. Primarily a summary of the author's field work in this area. Useful to natives, students, tourists.—R.A.

Crows of the World.—Derek Goodwin. British Museum (Natural History) and Cornell University Press (Comstock) Ithaca. 1976. vi + 354 pp. Three color plates, many drawings by Robert Gillmor, maps. \$28.50. This book follows closely the style and format of Goodwin's monograph of the Columbidae (see p. 1062), but species treatments in this volume seem more detailed and extensive (and satisfying) than in that volume. Every known species of corvid is treated; additionally three problematical corvids are discussed. Ravens, crows, choughs, magpies, tree pies, typical jays and American jays are all included; emphasis is on the full species. References seem to be through 1974, although most are much earlier. The three color plates leave much to be desired, although the

ink sketches are competent. Recommended.—R.A.

The Courtship of Birds.—Hilda Simon Dodd, Mead & Company, New York, 1977. 190 pp. \$12.95 hardbound. Voyeurish naturalists will be enormously pleased with the delineation of birds' preoccupation with diverse bellicose behaviors, grotesque dances, spectacular songs, jostling, posturing, cartwheeling, braying, pirouetting, parading, shivering, tantalizing, giftgiving, cavorting, squeaking, hissing, hiccoughing, crouching, booming, frolicking, dodging, twisting, begging and other utterly exhausting rituals surrounding the ardent business of procreation. The illustrations of Ms. Simon are careful, colorful and deft. It is a fascinating, well-researched work that does not pretend to avoid indulging in anthropomorphism.—S.R.D.

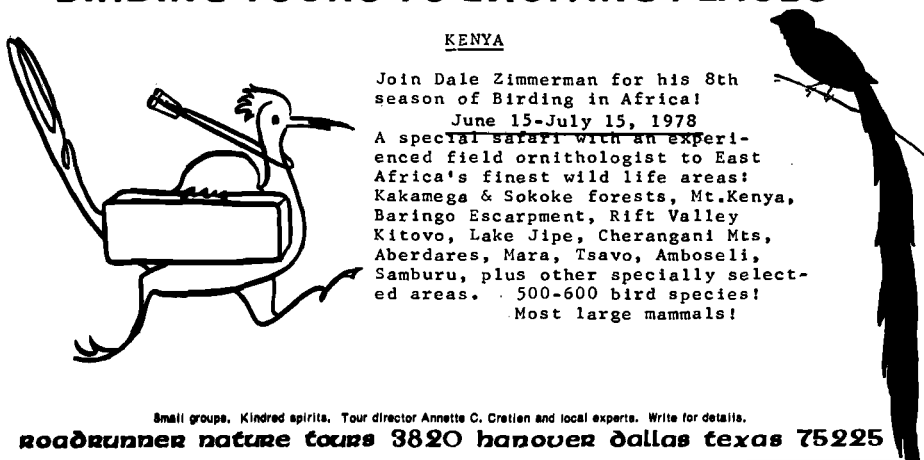
Fieldbook of Birds of the Florida Sun-coast.—Oliver H. Hewitt. Mote Marine Laboratory, Sarasota, Florida, 1976. 150 pp. Price? A light-weight spiralbound fieldbook detailing the bird life found from Tampa Bay south to Sanibel Island opposite the mouth of the Caloosahatchee River, on Florida's Gulf coast. Black-and-white photographs, mostly Hewitt's, and fine line drawings by Karl E. Karalus and Hewitt supplement the text.—S.R.D.

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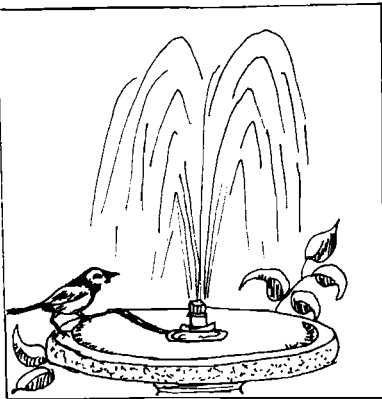
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Manual of Neotropical Birds, Vol 1. Penguins to Gulls and allies.—Emmet R. Blake, University of Chicago Press. 1977. 1 + 674. pp. 12 plates, 4 in color, by Guy Tudor, drawings by Tudor and R. V. Keane, maps \$50. The first volume of a most ambitious work deals with 600 of the 3300 species of birds of Middle and South America and adjacent islands. Mexico, the West Indies and the Gallapagos Islands are excluded. Each family is keyed, and each species is described under the headings: Description, Measurements, and Distribution. For subspecies, of which about 1500 are described, another heading, Diagnosis, is added. As the author says, the Manual is essentially a faunal synopsis written primarily for the taxonomist, vertebrate zoologist, ecologist, and zoogeographer. The illustrations by Guy Tudor give striking evidence of his increasing stature in this field. There is no one better with flying birds. A most valuable reference.—R.A.

Moments of Discovery: Adventures with American Birds.—Eliot Porter. Text by Michael Harwood. E.P. Dutton, New York, 1977. 120 pp. \$29.95 hardbound. Porter's masterful sense of composition in combination with the book's elegant design and impeccable execution make it one of this year's mother lode of bird-book-beauty. Essentially the sixty-four bird portraits are a testimony to the infinite patience and technical skill of the photographer. Moreover,

and rather amazingly, intelligent textual content has not been sacrificed on the altar of splendid coffee-table-tonnage. Michael Harwood's prose standard is uncommonly high, as is his level of sophistication. He has warmly and enthusiastically reviewed highlights in American ornithology from the viewpoint of a birder. Birdwatching has, for most Americans, a shadowy existence but, here it becomes form and flesh and has rationale. In spite of its inflated price *Moments of Discovery* is highly recommended.—S.R.D.

Pigeons and Doves of the World, 2nd Edition.—Derek Goodwin. Cornell University Press (Comstock), Ithaca. 1977. vi + 446 pp. Illustrations, Robert Gillmor. \$27 50. Originally published in Britain by the British Museum (Natural History) in 1967, this fine monograph now appears in America under the Comstock imprimatur. Comprehensive introductory chapters discuss nomenclature, adaptive characters, coloration, plumages, habits, voice, food, courtship, nesting, and other social behavior. They are followed by a detailed treatment for each of the recognised living, and some recently extinct, species, with drawing, range map, and important references for each. Three plates showing 17 species are in color. Although this is called a second edition, it seems virtually identical to the first; there are no references later than 1968.—R.A.



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Rails of the World, A Monograph of the Family Rallidae.—S. Dillon Ripley. With 41 paintings by J. Fenwick Lansdowne, and a chapter on fossil rails by Storrs J. Olsen. 17 maps, 35 black-and-white illustrations. David R. Godine, Boston, 1977. xx + 406 pp. \$75. Limited edition \$400. Alone in the field for our choice of bird book of the year, this splendid monograph is a book collector's prize. The 129 species of rallids are treated in various detail depending on our knowledge of them; Clapper Rail occupies about 12 pages. Many are little-known, and many inhabit threatened environments; all belong to one of our most fascinating, vulnerable families. The portraits by Lansdowne, printed in 7-color offset, have a richness that is almost tactile. Only 4600 copies of the standard edition and 400 of the limited have been printed. Don't be surprised if the prices escalate in the years ahead.—R.A.

The American Robin, A Backyard Institution.—Len Eiserer. Nelson-Hall Inc., Chicago, 1976. 175 pp. \$12.50 hardbound. This skilled and witty author has written a warm appreciation for the exceptional behavior and absorbing mysteries of the American Robin. His description of its life cycle is accurate and very often entertaining. The line drawings of Martha R. Hall are whimsical and well done. It's fireside stuff, and none the worse for that.—S.R.D.

The Audubon Society Field Guide to North

American Birds. Eastern Region.—John Bull and John Farrand, Jr. Visual Key: Susan Rayfield. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. 1977. 776 pp. \$7.95. In case you are puzzled by the title, the Audubon Society referred to is National. This, the first new approach to a North American field guide since 1966, is in itself a puzzle. In its competent text, by Bull and Farrand, it reads very much like a field guide. In its size and shape, it looks like a (very fat) field guide. The full color photographs, two or three to a page, of which there are 548, of 456 breeding males, and 128 seasonal males, females, and immatures, are, with some exceptions, of high quality, evidence of a tremendous job of photo sleuthing by Sue Rayfield. As a picture gallery, we have here one of the best and most compact published anywhere. But the whole really doesn't add up to a practical *field guide* for anyone beyond the rank novice stage. Photographs themselves, showing one specific individual at one instant in one lighting on one type of film from one angle cannot make the important generalizations (yes, even exaggerations) that an artist must. And here there are simply too many missing plumages, (even missing species). If you want to know what a flying Common Puffin looks like, or the critical marks on a Savannah Sparrow, or any number of other aids to identification, you must look elsewhere. Verdict: execution good, idea flawed. Buy it for the picture gallery; the price is right.—R.A.



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The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds. Western Region.—Miklos D F Udvardy. Visual key: Susan Rayfield. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. 1977. 855 pp. \$7.95 Identical in format to the Eastern Region guide, but with 627 photographs showing 457 breeding males, 170 seasonal males, females, and immatures. The same general criticism applies. Buy them both for the collection of photographs. The price is unbelievably low.—R.A.

The Bird Man.—Ian Strange. Gordon Cremonesi, London. 1976. 182 pp. 6 color plates by Strange, photographs. \$16.95. In which the author, billed as the second Audubon, describes his role in preserving the wildlife of the islands. Although the author has given some publicity to the islands, acknowledgment of the contributions of others such as the Pettingills and Peterson, is kept to a minimum.—Hazel Bahrt.

The Birds of the Falkland Islands.—Robin W. Woods. Anthony Nelson, Oswestry, Shropshire, England. 1975. 240 pp. 87 photographs, 34 in color, maps, tables. £8 50. More than the usual field guide, this is virtually an illustrated handbook of the 87 species on the regular islands list, with a more abbreviated treatment of an additional 62 species of "vagrants and lost breeding species". Well illustrated with competent photographs and tables, it will be equally useful to the serious student of South American avifauna and the visiting birder.—Hazel Bahrt.

Watching Birds, An Introduction to Ornithology.—Roger F. Pasquier; Houghton Mifflin, Boston. 1977. xiii + 301 pp. Ill: drawings, diagrams by Margaret La Farge, foreword by Roger Tory Peterson. \$9.95. This is a textbook on ornithology for those for whom the Wallace or the Welty tomes are a little too weighty. The text is eminently clear and readable, but make no mistake, it is a text, perhaps the best yet published for interested non-professional. It does not talk down to you; it covers the subject well; it is well written. If you've never pored over Wallace/Welty, or taken

the Cornell seminars, or a college course in ornithology, buy this book. We think the title is misleading: there is little about watching birds herein (read Hickey or Fisher for that). Margaret La Farge's illustrations are attractive. There is a useful bibliography Recommended.—R.A.

The Poetry of Birds.—Ed. Samuel Carr, Taplinger Publishing Co., New York. 1976 Ill. 88 pp. \$7.50. A charming little book, with a selection of well-known poems, mostly by English authors. Each is illustrated by a more or less appropriate antique print; four are in color. The Dürer owl on the dust jacket is worth framing.—R.A.

Wings Upon the Heavens.—Paintings by Richard Sloan, text by Mark Clifford Brunner. Ideal Publishing Co., Milwaukee. 1977 78 pp. 8½ × 11". \$3.95. Primarily a showcase for bird portraits of Richard Sloan, of which there are 31. All are decorative, and competent; the Peregrine awing particularly caught our eye. The text is divided into longer anecdotal accounts, and brief ornithological notes for each species depicted.—R.A.

Recordings

✓ **Voices of Neotropical Birds.**—John William Hardy. LP, monaural, 2 sides. 1976. Ara Records, 1615 N.W. 14th Ave., Gainesville, FL 32605. \$6.00. A beautifully produced, well annotated recording of 50+ songs of birds of Latin America. The voices have been chosen to illustrate the broad spectrum and range of tropical bird sounds. Each example is preceded by an informed, biologically-oriented commentary, that may include discussion of the species' taxonomic affinities, its behavioral uses of song, its geographic and habitat niche, and points to note in listening. The songs are fascinating, and the commentary is a real bonus. Highly recommended —R A