

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

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✓ The Wrens.—John William Hardy, LP, monaural, 2 slides. 1977. Ara Records, same address as above. \$6.00. More than 40 species of one of the world's premier singing families of birds are presented here, in what almost might be called an aural monograph. Once again the recording is technically superior, and Hardy's commentary adds much to the understanding and enjoyment of the songs. Those who have never heard the marvelous duetting of some of the tropical species, will find this a fascinating experience. The Nightingale Wren alone is worth the price of the record. And if you've never heard the Flutist Wren, or the Musician Wren, you won't believe them. Highly recommended.—R.A.

Communications

To the editor,

I agree with Richard Glinski's article in June 1976 issue of *American Birds* entitled "Birdwatching etiquette: the need for a developing philosophy."

The worth—to birders and biologists—of the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek area can certainly not be overemphasized. But the statement that "the Zone-tailed Hawk, Gray Hawk, Black Hawk, Thick-billed Kingbird, Rose-throated Becard and the Five-striped Sparrow, whose only known breeding territories in the United States occur along this narrow belt of riparian forest" is not totally correct.

Although usually in small numbers the Black Hawk can be found breeding along the Gila River in New Mexico. Here in west Texas it can be found breeding along Limpia Creek in the Davis Mountains, along Cibola Creek in the Shafter area and the Nagele Ranch area near Ruidosa.

The Zone-tailed Hawk too can be found elsewhere. It is present in fairly good numbers in the Davis Mountains and has been the subject of recent investigations by the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute. It is also found elsewhere in Texas and in southern New Mexico.

—Steve West, Box 1248, Presidio,
Tex. 79845.