

The Common Loon. — Edited by Scott A. Sutcliffe. Illustrated by S. A. Sutcliffe and N. Begley. National Audubon Society. New York. 1979. x + 162 pp. \$6.50 paperbound (available from the Loon Preservation Committee, Audubon Society of New Hampshire, Meredith, New Hampshire 03253). The editor is to be commended on his prompt preparation of this valuable publication which adds considerably to the already existing body of literature on the nesting, feeding and ecology of loons. This is the Proceedings of the Second North American Conference on Common Loon Research and Management, held in January 1979, and jointly sponsored by the National Audubon Society, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Syracuse University. Its contents include six enormously interesting research papers; breeding status reports from Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, Wisconsin, and Minnesota; and six more papers elucidating state and federal involvement in loon research and management. It was at this conference that the Loon Preservation Committee was established as a "clearing house" for researchers and cooperators to facilitate the exchange of information regarding the Common Loon. It is a job very well done and is 'must' reading for every loonatic. — S. R. D.

A New Guide to the Birds of Taiwan. — Sheldon R. Severinghaus and Kenneth Turner Blackshaw. Illustrated by Susan R. Blackshaw. Mei Ya Publications, Taipei; distributed by Harwood Books, 3943 N. Providence Rd., Newtown Square, PA 19073. 222 pp. 1976. \$6.95. Field guides to Asiatic birds are infrequent, and generally lacking in the quality the western world takes for granted, but every competent addition to the bookshelf is welcome. This one, treating 201 species (43 in color), and with a Taiwan check-list of 378 species, will certainly be useful to visitors to Taiwan or even the China mainland. Text briefly treats identification and distribution, often with an adequate drawing. The 8 pages of color are not first class, but at this price the book is a bargain. — R. A.

Where to Find Birds in Eastern Massachusetts. — Compiled, revised and edited by Leif J. Robinson and Robert H. Stymeist and the Staff of *Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts*. Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts, Inc., 462 Trapelo Rd., Belmont, MA 02178. 1978. 170 pp. paperbound. 29 maps. This is a bird finder's guide that travels light and fast: no wasted words, very little duplication of statement, precise, straightforward and informative. This is a collective work

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rather than an individual assertion, comprised of 28 of the best site guide articles to appear in the *Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts*, since its inception in 1973. Additionally, there are two more chapters; one dealing with pelagic birding and one treating hawk watching in Massachusetts. Each of these principal articles are small feats of condensation that rarely descend to mere listing. Each is accompanied with a helpful, quite clear, map. The result is a book not only practical but a good read as well. Get it. — S. R. D.

An Annotated Check-list of the Birds of Illinois. — H. David Bohlen, Illinois State Museum, Springfield, Illinois. 1978. Illinois State Museum Popular Science Series, Vol. IX. viii + 156 pp. 2 maps. \$2.75 ppd., paperbound. This is a full-scale, official but ungolded synopsis of extant knowledge of the avifauna of Illinois which stands as something special in the genre of the 'check-lists.' It not only chronicles the known distributional information on all species of birds found in the state to date, it does so in a clear, and thoughtful way. Entries are continuously readable. This book is pertinent not only as a testimony to qualitative scholarship; but, should serve as a catalyst to future, quantifiable regional

studies. The deceptively simple species compositions are rendered with clarity and contain a great deal of information that will be useful to the student of Illinois birdlife. A volume that should enjoy a wide readership. — S. R. D.

Roadrunners and Other Cuckoos. — Written and illustrated by Aline Amon. Atheneum, New York. 1978. 87 pp. \$7.95. Aimed at the 10-14 age group, this delightful little book is an informed and informative discussion of some of the more fascinating members of this extraordinary family. This adult enjoyed it. Selected for attention, besides the Roadrunner, are the European "cuckoo-clock" Cuckoo, the Yellow-billed and Black-billed cuckoos, the anis, and the Hoatzin, followed by chapters on the family worldwide, and one on the folklore. There is a classification chart and a good bibliography. Ms. Amon's drawings are decorative. Recommended. — R. A.

Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts. Supplement Edition. — Compiled and edited by Daryl D. Tessen. The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc., DePere, Wisconsin. 1979. vi + 90 pp. \$5.00 ppd., paperbound (available from W.S.O. Supply Department, Harold

Kruse, Hickory Hill Farm, Loganville, WI 53943). Too often excellent first books are followed by inferior second efforts; however, Tessen again stands well above the crowd with this no-nonsense supplement to his 1976 **Bird Haunts** (see *AB* 32:1087). This sequel is meticulously researched and updates 32 of the original 90 haunts, adds 12 new sites, provides a section listing local experts willing to assist visiting birders, has a list of the species accepted on the official Wisconsin checklist and a listing of those species on the hypothetical state list, and includes a thorough index to both the 1976 and 1979 editions. We gladly suggest it for any birder in or traveling to Wisconsin. — S. R. D.

More About Birdwatchers. — Gerry Bennett. Privately printed. Available from G. Bennett, R.R. #2, Woodbridge, Ontario, Canada L4L 1A6. 161 pp. 1978. Price modest, not known. The author of "Wild Birdwatchers I Have Known," that amusing collection of birding anecdotes, has put together an even larger collection, interlarded with philosophical and light-hearted commentary on everything from hot-lines to Christmas Bird Counts. Bennett is a born raconteur: you'll find here a mine from which to borrow. — R. A.

COMMUNICATIONS

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Purple Martin Color-marking

A large scale continent-wide Purple Martin color-marking project was initiated in 1977. Observers are asked to look for and report any color-marked (plastic leg bands and/or wing tags) Purple Martins. Please record the color of

the bands or wing tags, which leg they are on, age and/or sex (if either is known), where and when observed, and whether the bird was in a roost, staging flock, migratory flock or at a nest site (scouting or nesting?). We are especially interested in the movements of young birds and their return to the parent colony or nearby colonies. All reports will be acknowledged and should be sent to Ms. Kathleen Klimkiewicz, Bird Band-

ing Laboratory, Laurel, Maryland 20811.

SYMPOSIUM ON ESTIMATING POPULATIONS OF TERRESTRIAL BIRDS

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