

Recent Books

The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds. John K. Terres. Knopf, New York 1980. 1109 pp. 675 illustrations, 875 color photographs. Hundreds of drawings, diagrams. \$60. The *mot juste* for this book is "monumental," an incredible feat of single authorship, to which Terres has devoted more than 10 years. Handsomely produced, with superb illustrations, the encyclopedia includes almost 6000 entries, 625 major articles on bird life and biology, biographies of 847 bird species, lives of 126 persons who gave their names to American birds, definitions of 770 ornithological terms and a bibliography of 4000 entries. All written in Terres' lucid, fluent style. A reference book to anchor your library, with good reading on every page. This critic may be accused of conflict of interest, as an Audubon staffer and friend of the author; his response is simply—see for yourself.—R.A.

Migrant Birds in the Neotropics: Ecology, Behavior, Distribution and Conservation.—ed. Allen Keast and Eugene S. Morton. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C., 1980. 576 pp. Ill.: 33 black-and-white photographs. \$27.50 clothbound; \$15.00 paperbound. An imposing compilation of 40 papers delivered at the symposium held at the National Zoological Park's Conservation and Research Center in Front Royal, Virginia in 1977. Tantalizing and critical questions about migrant species wintering in the New World tropics are addressed and usefully summarized in a short abstract before each paper. Most discussions, though presented to a specialized audience, are not beyond the scope of the serious bird-student. New information on food, division of living space and changing land-use patterns of the temperate species makes compelling, if concentrated reading.—C.A.S.

A Naturalist on a Tropical Farm.—Alexander F. Skutch. Univ. of California Press, Berkeley, 1980. 405 pp. Ill.: by Dana Gardner. \$16.95 clothbound. The author's account of his attempt, on his farm of 40 years in Costa Rica, to live perceptively enough to "deepen his understanding of the pro-

blems confronting conservationists in an overpopulated world, and perhaps also bring more acute awareness of both the glory and the tragedy of life on an exceptionally favored planet that stubbornly persists in producing more living creatures than it can support." An engrossing narrative, full of illuminating observation and insight, sensitively articulated. Recommended.—C.A.S.

A complete checklist of the Birds of the World. Richard Howard and Alick Moore. Oxford Univ. Press, New York. viii + 701 pp. 1980. \$49.50. The latest in the current crop of world checklists, this one, by two English ornithologists, may be the most complete. For each species, all "accepted" subspecies and their geographic ranges are listed. The order of families is after Mayr, of genera and species, Peters; a 40-pg listing of references by families precedes the checklist. British provincialism shows through in some of the vernacular names: our Brown Creeper is "Treecreeper," and recent

changes in American vernaculars have not always been adopted: i.e. "Slate coloured Junco," for what is now Dark-eyed Junco. If your world list is based on majority rule, or counts races,



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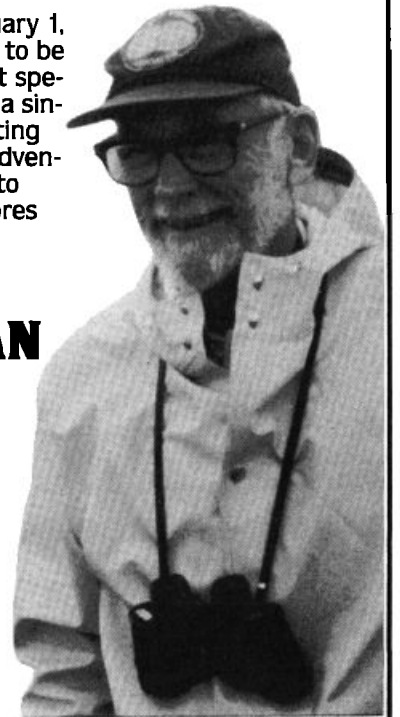
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you'll want this book to set next to your Clements, Edwards, Moroney *et al.*, Gruson, and the rest.—R.A.

Edward Wilson's Birds of the Antarctic—Edited by Brian Roberts. Ill. 60 full color plates, drawings, maps. Qto. Blandford Press, Poole; Dorset, England. Dist. by Sterling Publishing, 2 Park Ave., New York 10016. \$45. A handsome and important publishing

achievement that includes Wilson's diaries and notes, sketches and paintings as a member of various Antarctic expeditions, 1901-1912, including Scott's 1912 race to the South Pole that ended in death. The book is complete with a biography of Wilson, notes on the illustrations, extracts from Wilson's journals, 1901-1910, with notes, and a bibliography. A beautiful contribution.—R.A.

species, etc. Copies of or references to published data in less widely-distributed periodicals will be much appreciated. Please address all correspondence to: Allan R. Keith, P.O. Box 325, New Vernon, New Jersey 07976.

Announcements

REQUEST FOR BIRD RECORDS FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND HAITI

A project has been started to update and revise the bird status and distribution information contained in *The Birds of Haiti and the Dominican Republic* by Wetmore and Swales (1931). The authors are to be Mrs. Annabelle Dod of Santo Domingo, D. R., and Allan R. Keith. A moderate amount of literature research and considerable field work have already been done. But because there have been many visitors to

Hispaniola who may have records of interest and since there has not been any central place to which to submit them for publication, it has been decided to make a general public request for such data. It is believed that a modern, accurate account of the bird fauna of the island will be of benefit to students of Caribbean birds generally and of aid to those wishing to promote the conservation of both resident and passage migrant species on Hispaniola. Notes should be accompanied by all appropriate details on locality, field conditions, previous experience with any unusual

C.W.S. Shorebird Colour-marking

In 1980, the Canadian Wildlife Service continued a large-scale shorebird banding and colour-marking project in James Bay. Since 1974, over 45,700 shorebirds of 27 species have been captured and much information on migration and dispersal routes is being obtained. Observers are asked to look out for and report any colour-dyed or colour-banded shorebirds that they may see. Reports should include details of species, age (if possible), place, date, time, colour-marks and a note of the number of that species present. For colour-dyed birds please record the colour and area of the bird that was dyed. For colour-bands and standard metal leg bands, please record which leg the bands were on, whether they were above or below the 'knee', the colours involved, and the relative position of the bands if more than one was on a leg (e.g. lower right leg, blue over metal etc.). All reports will be acknowledged and should be sent to *Dr. R.I.G. Morrison, Canadian Wildlife Service, 1725 Woodward Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3Z7.*

BIRD BANDING RESEARCH GRANTS

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