

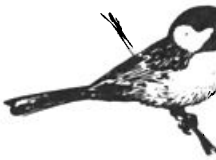
## New and Recent Books

**Animal Migration, Orientation, and Navigation.**—Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr., Ed. Academic Press, New York. 1981. xii + 387 pp., hardbound. \$39. This is a splendid addition to the migration bookshelf, a symposium of extended surveys by six leaders in the field of studying and thinking about animal migration. Hugh Dingle in a fascinating 100-page overview, discusses the ecology and evolution of migration, with examples from plankton to mammals, Gauthreaux considers the influences of long-term and short-term climatic changes on migration and dispersal, Charles R. Blem's subject is the energetics of migration, Albert H. Meier and Albert J. Fivizzani deal with its physiology, and finally Kenneth P. Able brings us up to date on what is known about the mechanisms of orientation, navigation, and homing. We found the joint effort learned and yet eminently readable, detailing what is now known about migration, and even more about what is still to be learned. If you keep up with the wide-ranging literature (hundreds of references are cited) you may not need this book, but if you are at all interested in the "state-of-the-art" of migration studies, this stimulating book is a must.—R.A.

**The Avifauna of the South Farallon Islands California**—David F DeSante and David G. Ainley. Cooper Ornithological Society, California. 1980. v + 104. \$10. ppd. (available from: Allen Press, Inc., P.O. Box 368, Lawrence, Kansas 66044). This is Number 4 in the Studies in Avian Biology series and is a first-rate addition to the literature covering the dynamics of island bird populations. The South Farallones are located approximately 27 miles (43 km) west of San Francisco, almost at the continental shelf. Of the 496 bird species known to have occurred in northern California at the time of publication, 346 were recorded on these islands or within 2 km of them, and these are the subject of this study. Further, it serves as testimony to those experienced, committed field observers-amateurs and professional, who censused the islands virtually daily for a period of eight years. This paper reports and analyzes those *unparalleled* census data with regard to migratory periods of coastal migrants and ecological and

seasonal distribution by mainland visitors. There is then a review of the breeding avifauna of other offshore islands viewed as potential colonists. An amazingly thorough and superior work.—S.R.D.

**The Audubon Handbook for Birders.**—Stephen W. Kress. Foreward by Olin Sewall Pettingill, Drawings, photographs. Chas. Scribner's Sons, New York. 1981. 322 pp., hardbound. \$17.95. Instant reaction to the receipt of this book—"Not another!" but this one is not another cut-and-paste job; it is a thorough and well-organized handbook. A primer for the beginner, with the basic essentials for bird study, it devotes more than half its attention to information of wider usefulness: who gives courses, who conducts tours, who repairs binoculars, who publishes journals, newsletters and government pamphlets, who makes recordings, what research programs want volunteers, how to build a library (400+ titles annotated), and more.



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*American Birds* seems to have been a major source of Kress' information. A reference book you'll use repeatedly.—R.A.

**Bird Island in Antarctic Waters.**—David F. Parmelee. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis. 1980. Ill., drawings, paintings, photographs in color and black-and-white by the author. Maps. 140 pp. \$18.95 hardbound. A night invasion of petrels, the rape of an albatross, rubbing whiskers with a fur seal: nothing uninteresting ever happens on Bird Island. This is a delightful account of the bird-packed weeks David Parmelee spent on a rugged wildlife-incrusted island in the far South Atlantic. Not so palatable—the penguin stew the author prepares for his biology associates one festive Saturday evening. Descriptions of human/human and human/wildlife encounters are spiced with lively prose, "...he (the albatross) plopped his big feet into the water ... he stopped, turned and looked back, then plopped on again." So many exciting moments of good field work are here, plus attractive illustrations. Highly recommended.—K.S.

**Birdlife at Chincoteague and the Virginia Barrier Islands.**—Brooke Meanley.

Tidewater Publishers. Centreville, MD. 1981. 117 pp. \$7.50 paperbound. This small format (6" X 9"), thin book is chock-full of detail on the more than 200 transient and 100+ breeding species utilizing the nearly 70 miles of outer barrier sea islands stretching from Assateague Island, Maryland to Fisherman Island, Virginia. The salt marshes, tidal pools, embayments, freshwater impoundments, tidal guts, loblolly pine forests, and isolated, uninhabited seabaches and dunes on the natural and spoil islands are viewed with an eye to the resource partitioning, activity patterns, and foraging methods of the most readily seen elements of the avifauna. Meanley's writing style is clear and engaging. This book is a pleasure.—S.R.D.

**The Birds of Sable Island, Nova Scotia.**—Ian A. McLaren. Nova Scotian Institute of Science, Macdonald Science Library, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS. 84 pp. 1981. \$7.50 (Can.) paperbound. This small volume takes its place in the front rank of works surveying regional avifauna. The author manages to clearly and succinctly synthesize the status and distribution of the 324 species known to have occurred on Sable Island, a treeless sandbar, located 150 kilo-

meters from mainland Nova Scotia, since it was first settled nearly 400 years ago. By drastic compression he renders a comprehensive and factual survey of the early ornithological records from the island and brings the report up to date in the species accounts. There are excellent discussions on absolute and relative abundances of migrants, vagrants, nesting species and unseasonable records. A fine supplement to R.W. Tufts' *The Birds of Nova Scotia*.—S.R.D.

**Birds of the St. Croix River Valley: Minnesota and Wisconsin.**—Craig A. Faanes, United States Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 1981. 196 pp. paperbound. This is number 73 in the North American Fauna series and is an investigation of the 314 bird species recorded in the 11,550 km<sup>2</sup> drained by the St. Croix watershed in east-central Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin. The data presented are based on the author's field work conducted from 1966 through 1980, as well as published and unpublished field notes of workers prior to 1966, Breeding Bird Survey data, and Christmas Bird Count information. The main body of the text is comprised of species accounts, and additionally there are concise sections on the climate, physiography, and geology of the area. In total, it will be a source of value for birders and ornithologists working in the valley and especially to land managers and land use specialists in projecting habitat alterations within the valley.—S.R.D.

**Birds of Southern California: Status and Distribution.**—Kimball Garrett and Jon Dunn. Los Angeles Audubon Society, 7377D Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90046. vii + 408. 1981, hardbound. \$18.95 (+ \$1.50 ppd.). Anyone searching for a *raison d'être* for the regional reports published quarterly in *American Birds*, need look no farther. The authors have thoroughly researched the distributional data in our Southern Pacific Coast Region reports, other ornithological literature, specimen collections in central and southern California, and numerous unpublished field notes. The emphasis of this book is solely the distribution and status of the 500+ species recorded in southern California. The information here updates that of Grinnell and Miller (1944) and includes an assessment of the status of vagrants and rarer migrants, mostly dating from the early 1960s onward.

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**Birds. Their Life, Their Ways, Their World.**—Christopher Perrins, C.J.O. Harrison. Reader's Digest Assn., Pleasantville, NY 10570. 1980. 416 pp. Ill. in color by Ad Cameron. Large octavo, hardcover, \$18.99+ \$1.51 postage by mail only from R.D. This is an excellent book, but a difficult one to categorize. Although the title has an elementary school sound, the text is a very well-written, adult-level treatment, not only of the broad field of general ornithology, but of 176 families, both extant and extinct, that now or once populated the earth. The gathering of information is encyclopedic, but this is not an encyclopedia, massive and comprehensive, but

it is not strictly a reference. It most clearly resembles the Austin-Singer "Birds of the World," but it is even more extensively illustrated (1000+ paintings, all in color) and the text is more detailed. What Reader's Digest has done is to have combined two books: the first, of 157 pages, an ornithology text by Perrins (1976), and second, the families of birds, edited by Harrison (1978). Let's call the present version a richly-illustrated, intelligently-organized, eminently-readable one-volume survey of the world of birds. Anyone who knows everything herein presented will know a lot about birds. A fine introduction to ornithology, and a great bargain.—R.A.

**The Birdwatcher's A-Z.**—Alan J. Richards. David & Charles Inc., North Pomfret, VT. 1980. 150 line drawings by Rob Hume, 130 color and 180 black-and-white photographs. 328 pp. \$45. hardbound. This book is patterned after and heavily relies upon the monumental work *A New Dictionary of Birds*, edited by A. Landsborough Thomson, published in 1964, now out of print and being revised. To that volume more than 200 experts contributed and entries ranged from encyclopaedic articles to short def-

initions. Richards' is a reference book with entries alphabetically arranged, two columns per page, with profuse illustrations, and many suggestions for further reading. The most important aspects of birdwatching stressed are: ornithological terminology, organizations and observatories, some of the major birding sites in the U.K., equipment, etymology of birds' names, and particularly the jargon used by experts in the field. The emphasis is on birds seen in Britain, or certainly in the western Palearctic, with some species and information included from other faunal regions. *The Birdwatchers A-Z* is aimed at the amateur rather than the professional ornithologist. Into such a work of course, some errors are bound to creep, but I was surprised to see that "retrix" and "retrices" were continually missed in proofreading, nor could I find a definition of the slang term "rush" although Richards promises us one in the preface. Curiously, although he defines "lumper" he doesn't talk about "splitter". The cross referencing is inconsistent *i.e.*, he defines "jizz" but doesn't refer the reader to facies; however when he does define facies he does refer the reader to "jizz". These are annoying but inconsequential failings. On the whole it is a well done, attractive book. The price in the United States is steep when one has the option in the same genre of buying, for only approximately 33% more, the magnificent *The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds* by John Terres, also published in 1980.—S.R.D.

**Chimney Swifts and Their Relatives.**—Margaret Whittemore. Nature Book Publishers, Box 12157, Jackson, Mississippi 39211. 1981. Ill., drawings, black-and-white photographs. 169 pp. Paperbound. \$5.95 plus \$0.59 postage. Here's a book that's as hard to put down as a swift in flight. The author has made a lifetime study of her subject and presents her observations carefully and lovingly. Although dull of plumage, the birds emerge as high-spirited individuals from their first nestling chirps to their exuberant adult aerobatics. Replete with facts and with references to 92 other sources, this work also boasts many charming sketches by the author.—K.S.

**The Doomsday Book of Animals: a natural history of vanished species.**—David Day. Ill. Tim Bramfitt, Peter Hayman, Mick Loates and Maurice Wilson. Viking Press, New York. 1981. 287 pp. hardbound \$40. A beautifully pro-

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duced, carefully researched and lavishly illustrated history of the extinction, mostly at man's hands, of several hundred species of birds, mammals, fishes, reptiles, and a few plants, roughly since the year 1600. Birds account for more than half of the pages (135 pages) and mammals (92 pages) dominate the remainder. Extinction is a subject of a number of earlier books, but certainly Day's is the best illustrated and most readable. There are some truly beautiful color plates by Peter Hayman, Bramfitt, and Loates, and a host of black-and-white drawings. A map of the world, locating extinction 1680-1980 graphically illustrates the vulnerability of island avifaunas; Hawaii, the West Indies, and the Mascarenes rival North America as disaster areas. There are no sermons in this admirable work: the story itself is sermon enough. Recommended.—R.A.

**Elliott Coues, Naturalist and Frontier Historian.**—Paul Russell Cutright and Michael J. Brodhead. Univ. of Illinois Press, Urbana. 1981. Ill. photographs. xv + 509 pp. hardbound. \$28.50. The subtitle of this enthralling, thoroughly-documented biography might have been lengthened with the modifiers "army

surgeon, ornithologist, mammalogist, herpetologist, ichthyologist, botanist, evolutionist, theosophist, egotist, lover, diarist, writer, lecturer, sharp-tongued critic, etc., etc. The author of the famous *Key to North American Birds*, the *Birds of the Northwest*, and *The Birds of the Colorado Valley*, among more than 300 ornithological titles alone, was a fascinating man. As a writer he has never been equaled for the charm and eloquence of his bird descriptions; the prodigious output of his tireless pen boggles the mind. It is all here: travels, discoveries, brushes with the Indians, loves, feuds, failures, triumphs, honors. Coues was the giant of the last half of the 19th century; his lifetime (1842-1899) was the ornithological bridge between Audubon and Frank Chapman. Since he was one of the three founders of the A.O.U. and its third president, and chief editor of the first A.O.U. Check-list, this engrossing portrait just before the A.O.U. Centennial and the publication of the 6th edition of the Check-list is timely indeed.—R.A.

**Endangered Birds of the World, The ICBP Bird Red Data Book.**—Compiled by Warren B. King. Smithsonian Institu-

tion Press and International Council for Bird Preservation. Washington. 1981. 624 pp. unnumbered, soft cover \$8.95, hardbound \$19.95. This is a reprint in handbook form, slightly revised, from of the Second Edition of Vol. 2, *Aves*, of the Red Data book of the IUCN (1979). It has been reproduced, reduced to 6-by 9-inch page size, from the original typewritten sheets, but is cleanly and clearly readable. The volume includes definitions of categories (endangered, vulnerable, rare, out-of-danger, indeterminate), a list of the 182 avian families, a list of threatened taxa in systematic order, a list of birds included in the first volume but omitted in the second, followed a region-by-region listing of endangered species, a list of species thought to or known to have become extinct since 1600, and finally—the bulk of the work—a species by species (or subspecies) detailed treatment for every form on the list: status, distribution, population, habitat, conservation measures taken and/or proposed, remarks, and references. Canada has seven forms on the list, the continental United States 25, Hawaii 29, Cuba 11, Puerto Rico 9. (Some duplication). This is the authoritative handbook,

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although somewhat out-of-date for some species. Highly informative, vastly discouraging.—R.A.

**A Field Guide to the Birds of Australia.**—Graham Pizzey, illustrated by Roy Doyle. Princeton Univ. Press, Dec. 1980. 460 pp., hardbound \$27.50. With 56 color and 32 pp. of black-and-white plates, illustrating, in almost 1400 portraits, 726 species. Differs from the earlier Peter Slater guides in being better in many ways: a single volume, with a more detailed and extensive text and illustrations. Like Slater, the plates are grouped in mid-volume, and the two-color distribution maps are grouped at the end. Pizzey uses the system attributed to Peterson of tiny lines pointing to salient field marks; Slater has text pages opposite each plate listing these cues. As for the paintings, we prefer the Doyle to the Slater: although they crowd more birds per plate, many more plumages of many species are shown. If you carry only one field guide, take the Pizzey. But if you travel with a library, Slater is a good back-up.—R.A.

**Finding Birds Around the World.**—Peter Alden and John Gooders. Houghton Mifflin, Boston. 1981. Ill., maps.

683 pp. hardbound. \$17.95. Among the growing list of bird-finding books, few indeed can be classified as entertaining reading. This one, a first attempt at a world guide, give the trip planner not only the expected essentials: bird lists, feature attractions, travel, food and accommodation information, but all kinds of helpful tips and insights in a text that can be read for pleasure alone. No less than 111 of "the world's best and most accessible birding areas" (48 of them New World) are discussed, each with a checklist keyed to seasonal occurrence. Alden on Machupichu: "The present small hotel (with a fine restaurant) is notorious for overbooking and unreliability with reservations." On Alakai Swamp on Kauai Island, "Getting there is not easy. An elusive permit may now be required, you must rent an expensive helicopter at Lihue and you should bring gear for the several days you are likely to be stranded ..." Gooders on Western Australia: "Other species of interest in the area are Brush Bronzewing, Rock Parrot (check the Albany railways yards, where they eat spilled grain,) Swamp Parrot ...". There is a useful bibliography and a taxonomic index keyed to the Alden ideas about vernacular names—some of them much too logical and

sensible ever to be adopted. Recommended.—R.A.

**The Great Gray Owl: *Phantom of the Northern Forest.***—Robert W. Nero. Photographs by Robert R. Taylor. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 1980. 167 pp. \$17.50 hardbound. For those of us lucky enough to have seen a Great Gray Owl, for those whose quest is not yet satisfied—this book is a treasure. Robert Nero's prose is as full of observed details of tail-feathers and eyes as it is of the grandeur and mystery surrounding the owls' life cycle. He presents a comprehensive natural history and, concerned about misunderstandings still associated with predators, discusses the changing attitudes toward "vermin" and the growing interest in raptor rehabilitation. Eighty-four fine color and black-and-white photographs could stand on their own as a study, a revelation. There are surprising sequences of an owl's preening response to a human head and the patterns of plunge marks on a snowy field. The two photographs of the owls in a tamarack forest at the beginning of their pair bonding ritual are so haunting: like a look into the life of another species, recognizable, to us and yet—not quite.—K.S.

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I almost didn't buy it because the title did not seem to offer much to a birder from Michigan. I would have been much quicker to get it if I had realized how much good ID info there is contained within.

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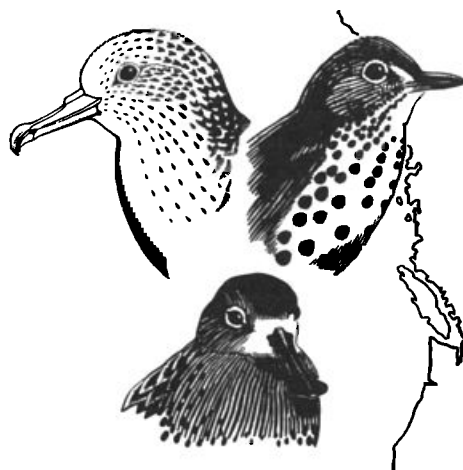
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**A Guide to the Birds of Alaska.**—Robert H. Armstrong and the editors of *Alaska* magazine. Alaska Northwest Publishing Co., Anchorage (address: Box 4-EEE, Anchorage, AK 99509). 1981. ix + 309 pp. \$15.95 (in U.S.), \$18.95 (in Canada) softcover. In 1978 Kessel and Gibson published *Status and Distribution of Alaska Birds* (Studies in Avian Biology No. 1, Cooper Ornithological Society, Los Angeles) and with it updated the previous authority (*Birds of Alaska*, 1959) by Gabrielson and Lincoln. Robert Armstrong *et al.* have obviously worked hard to compile this new guide which includes identification, status, distribution and habitat notes on 338 of the 386 species known to have occurred in Alaska by June 1979. The other 48 species are considered accidental and are listed separately at the end of the book and are illustrated together on two full plates. There are more than 360 color photographs, just under 25% of them by the author, and 52 color paintings by John C. Pitcher. The introduction includes a map delineating the six major biogeographic regions defined by Kessel and Gibson, and the status and

distribution charts given for each of the 338 species are organized by both season and biogeographic region. This book was written as a field guide to Alaska birds, and was not intended to replace "Kessel and Gibson" but whatever other field guides you take do not leave this one behind. All the photos are not peerless and not all of the paintings will be definitive but they will provide the basic descriptive features of most species seen. But because the avifauna of Alaska incorporates geographically restricted species from Beringia, or Asiatic wanderers, or even just those species that breed in the north and are seen father south in different plumage, you will do well to add this to your field guide collection.—S.R.D.

**Hawaiian Birdlife. Second Edition.**—Andrew J. Berger. The University Press of Hawaii, Honolulu. 1981. Ill. 32 pp. in color, many black-and-white photographs, especially of nests and nesting habitats. xv + 260 pp., hardbound. \$29.95. This is an updated version of the 1972 edition, and it appears to have been revised, rearranged, and newly designed and type-set, in a slightly smaller type size (there are more illustrations but 10 fewer pages). The rather unusual format of the first edition is followed: lengthy description and history of the islands' habitats, detailed species sections in two parts: endemics and introductions, and appendices on migratory species and stragglers, introduced and escaped birds not known to be established, established game birds, and a bibliography, all updated through 1979. The color plates, some new, occupy 32 pages against 16 previously, including some colorful pages by Susan G. Monden, two by B. Downs, and one each by S.M. Schult and H. Douglas Pratt. The first edition

of Berger's *Hawaiian Birdlife* was extensively and most glowingly reviewed, and this revision must share that praise. It is an important treatise on the disastrous effects of man's handiwork in a most fragile environment.—R.A.

**Owls.**—Lynn Hughes, editor. Workman Publishing Co., New York. 1979. Ill., 17 color plates, black-and-white prints. 55 pp. \$4.95 hardbound. Something new in coffee table books—this one measures 4" x 6". Miniature as it is, it has all the style of any overgrown publication. The editor selects some of his favorite quotations on owls by Coleridge, Dylan Thomas, Shakespeare, Pliny and Gilbert White and combines them with many of the world's best known owl illustrations. In some instances the effect is whimsical: it is always captivating.—K.S.

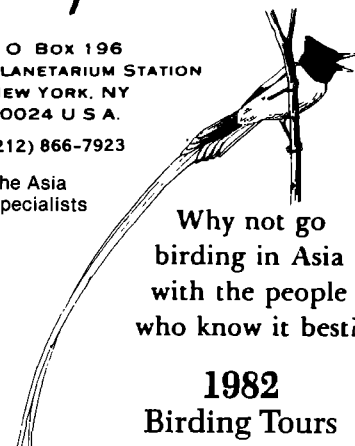
**The Peregrine Falcon.**—Derek Ratcliffe. Poyser (U.K.), Buteo Books, Vermillion, S.D. (U.S.). 1980. 416 pp. \$42.50. It is always a pleasure to be able to thoroughly recommend a book. This is unquestionably such a work. In it the reader will be exposed to the most exhaustive natural history of the Pererine

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Greenshank	Eye-browed Thrush	Oriental Greenfinch
Green Sandpiper	Siberian Rubythroat	Rustic Bunting
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Terek Sandpiper	Black-backed Wagtail	Common Reed Bunting

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Falcon yet written. The emphasis is on this species in Great Britain, especially in inland northern England and Scotland and there are chapters devoted to the Peregrine's distribution and numbers and current population trends in Britain. Derek Ratcliffe is the Chief Scientist of the Nature Conservancy in England and it was he who first systematically demonstrated the decline and near-disappearance of the Peregrine as a breeder over much of Great Britain. It was Ratcliffe who originally suggested and then went on to prove that accumulated residues of DDT and the dieldrin (or cyclodiene)

family of insecticides were the primary cause for eggshell thinning and broken and addled eggs in several bird species. This a major factor in the severe decline in the Peregrine Falcon population in Great Britain as well as the virtual extinction of the *tundrius* race in north-eastern North America. The author's account of the entire "decline and recovery" story of the falcon in Great Britain makes fascinating reading. In addition to being especially well written, this book has three color plates and many black-and-white line drawings by the gifted artist, Donald Watson. There is one color plate of eggs and 16 figures, 23 tables, and 32 plates of black-and-white photographs are generously scattered throughout the text. *The Peregrine Falcon* is commendable in every way.—S.R.D.

names are used for some species. The plates are photographs of varying quality with two attractive pages of downy young by Fjeldsâ. Missing, and a definite lack, is discussion of the migration of these highly migratory birds, and almost total neglect of their extralimital occurrence. One would never suspect from Johnsgard that Mongolian Plover, Lapwing, Ruff, Spotted Redshank, Redshank, Temminck's Stint, or Sharp-tailed Sandpiper have ever occurred in North America, or numerous American shorebirds in Europe. Descriptions are not always helpful in distinguishing similar species, (but this is not a field guide). There are, in a separate section, 23 pages of head profiles, a useful feature, as is the section on derivations of scientific names (one error here). Overall, an important contribution that brings a mass of information into one organized and convenient place. Recommended.—R.A.



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**The Plovers, Sandpipers and Snipes of the World.**—Paul A. Johnsgard. Univ. of Nebraska Press, Lincoln. 1981. 32 col. plates; many drawings and maps by the author. xvi+ 493 pp., hardbound. \$45. The prolific Dr. Johnsgard, with major treatises on waterfowl and gallinaceous birds (among others) to his credit, adds another with this handsomely produced large quarto "monograph." In preliminary chapters the author discusses taxonomy and evolutionary relationships, borrowing from Jehl, Fjeldsâ, Strauch, Sibley and others; his synopsis is 8 families, 40 genera and 165 species. Reproductive biology is briefly outlined. Species treatments are fairly standard, and include "other names", subspecies and range, measurements and weights, and under the major heading "Description", natural history, habits and food, social behavior, reproductive biology, status, and relationships, and suggested reading. New, or at least unfamiliar

**Rare Birds of the West Coast.**—Don Roberson. 1890. Ill: color plates by Donna Dittmann, Dana Gardner, Tim Manolis, Mary Rieff and Ray Robinson. Drawings by the author. xxxii + 496 pp. Woodcock Publications, P.O. Box 985, Pacific Grove, CA 93950. hardbound, \$24.95 + 1.25 postage. An extremely useful book, and not only for those whose birding is confined to Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and California (and seaward to 200 miles.) Rarities included are those species recorded in any state or province less than five times in the last five years, with some exceptions. A total of 288 species are covered in detail in the main text. Most species treatments discuss regular range, West Coast status, details for each state province, or area; for difficult or puzzling species there are exten-



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sive identification notes, some never published before. Maps, sketches, seasonal graphs and photographs, many of them documentary, are valuable features. Appendices include Additional Alaskan Rarities, Possible Eurasian Vagrants, Selected Reports not used, late additions, and a bibliography. This is a reference book *cum* field guide that every West Coast or visiting birder will find in almost continuous use. Highly recommended—R.A.

**These Are the Endangered.**—Charles Cadieux. The Stone Wall Press, Inc., Washington, D.C. 1981. Ill., black-and-white photos, drawings, 223 pp. \$15.00 hardcover. Using case histories drawn from a lifetime working with wildlife and from current research, Charles Cadieux describes the plight of thirty-one species considered endangered in the United States. The author offers hope. He examines why various species have been so reduced, their potential for recovery and what action is being taken to assist the battle for survival. For teachers, students and activists, there are complete listings of our endangered species, a list of organizations dealing with associated problems and discussions of the role of wildlife refuges, national parks and zoos.—K.S.

**Where to Find Birds in New York State, The Top 500 Sites.**—Susan Roney Drennan. Foreword by Roger Tory Peterson. 106 maps. Syracuse University Press. 1981. 672 pp. Cloth \$38.00, paper \$18.95. The first impression of this book is the overwhelming amount of work required to obtain all this information. Not only are 500 of the best New York State birding areas carefully described and located, but there is information on geology, rare bird alerts, how to report rare birds, location of museum collections and an extensive bibliography.

The book is divided into the ten reporting regions for New York State's *Kingbird*. These areas are then subdivided with several of the best birding locations completely described. This is not dull reading. Anyone the least bit interested in nature will learn a lot. Describing the Tug Hill Wildlife Management Area in Lewis County, Drennan states ... "birding could produce a veritable spring of teal, a parliament of owls or a fall of woodcocks; on the other hand, such a hike could also turn out to be a plague of blackflies and a defeat of directions."

Following the ten regional chapters are two specialized sections, one on pelagic birding, one on hawkwatch locations. There is material on ocean currents and food for pelagic birds. A detailed summary of the pelagic species seen and times of the year to expect each bird is most helpful. Anyone interested in seeing a hawk flight can follow directions to the best locations where spring or fall migration can be observed.

Today's birder is no longer satisfied to put out seeds in the winter to watch as chickadees or Cardinals forage in the snow. Now one drives to Derby Hill to watch spring hawks or fall jaegers. The Tug Hill or Adirondacks beckon when stories are told of the abundance of nesting warblers or rare three-toed-woodpeckers. But how do you find the right spot in this myriad of roads or how do you know you are in the perfect habitat once you reach your destination? The mystery has been solved for New York State. Everything is neatly packaged in one excellent volume. Try it. You'll use it.—D.N.C.

**Wild Geese of the World.**—Myrfyn Owen. Foreword by Peter Scott. Batsford, North Pomfret, VT 05053. 1980. Drawings, maps, 8 pp. color plates by Joe Blossom. 236 pp. hardbound. \$45. The endless ornithological fascination with waterfowl, which has produced a steady stream of erudite and often lavish treatises, continues with this attractive and scholarly review by a staff researcher with the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge, England. This is a detailed account, based on an extensive literature and personal research, of the life histories and ecology of 14 species (Owen recognizes 33 "types" in all). The author sees his book as a stimulus to the further study of some of the basic unanswered problems of goose conservation. Some of his explanations, he admits, "are highly speculative and many of the most interesting and puzzling questions are the most difficult to answer." Species accounts include description, geographic variation, numbers and distribution, breeding biology, winter biology (which Owen believes is the critical factor), exploitation and conservation. Following the species treatments are extended discussions of most of these same headings. Appendices include tables on breeding data and measurements, and a bibliography. Unfortunately this review is the result of a "sampling", but what we have read convinces us we must find

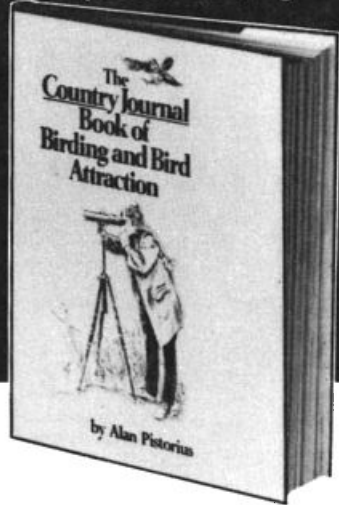
time soon to go back and read it through.—R.A.

**Birds: For Pets and Pleasure.**—Neale Haley. Delacorte Press, New York. 1981. Ill., black-and-white drawings. 210 pp. \$4.95 paperbound. Here is a complete guide to choosing, feeding, breeding and caring for pet birds. Outdoor feeders and nesting boxes are discussed in the last chapter. The appendix provides complete instructions for building outdoor and indoor aviaries as well as information on different species, breeders and nutrition.—K.S.

Reviews attributed to the initials above were written by the following reviewers: R.A.—Robert Arbib, D.N.C.—Dorothy N. Crumb, S.R.D.—Susan Roney Drennan, K.S.—Karen Slotnick.

Space in this very crowded issue has run out, with a number of book reviews, list of books received but not yet reviewed, and assorted communications, notes, and announcements now held over for our next (November) issue.

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