

Recent books and records

An Annotated Bibliography of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, *Picoides borealis*.—Jerome A. Jackson. Savannah River National Environmental Research Park (P.O. Drawer E, Aiken, SC 29801). 1981. 290 pp. Available by request, without cost. This is a comprehensive guide for those whose interest impels or research requires them to dig out specific references. Approximately 1800 alphabetically arranged and consecutively numbered entries are also numerically codified by subject (22 descriptive key words) and geographic area (19 states). Its great value is making more available the scattered literature, popular and technical, from more than 70 journals, serials, and various standard and other bibliographic sources from 1844 through 1981. Subject indices at the book's end facilitate cross referencing. This should serve as a model for future related efforts.—S.R.D.

An Annotated Checklist of Peruvian Birds.—T. S. Parker III, S. A. Parker, M. A. Plenge. Buteo Books (P.O. Box 481, Vermillion, SD 57069). 1982. 108 pp. \$15.00 paperbound. This exceptionally well done book was devised with the journeying ornithophile and field researcher in mind. The arrangement followed by the authors is singularly practical and should assist the reader in finding in Peru the heart of some of the most spectacular birding in the neotropics. Following nearly 20 pages of succinct description of the 10 Peruvian life zones and 23 habitats within them, is the checklist proper. Each of the 1678 species found in Peru has been assigned a variety of annotations indicating the species' relative abundance, distribution, preferred habitats, and whether a species' occurrence is known only from sight (not specimen) records. A 12-page section on bird-finding is written with the confident knowledge of experienced birding veterans. Finally the authors provide two practical and authoritative references lists. The price may seem high to some, however, all proceeds from the sale of the publication will be assigned to the Louisiana State University Peruvian Expedition Fund and used to help fund future field expeditions in Peru. A fine work that deserves the

popularity it will certainly achieve.—S.R.D.

Birds at Risk, a comprehensive world-survey of threatened species.—Ralph Witlock. Humanities Press, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716. 1981. Ill., color plates, b & w photographs, maps. 159 pp. large octavo. \$30. A detailed discussion, part history and part speculation, of historic extinctions, and of those species deemed most threatened worldwide. The author seems to have carefully surveyed the literature, filing away every pertinent scrap of information on the subject. Thus, much of his material can be found already published, if not in such convenient form, and some of it seems to have lingered in the files overlong. Examples: population of Dusky Seaside Sparrow listed as 500 birds, Ipswich Sparrow treated as full species, a 1965 count for Everglade Kite and long-outdated estimates for Hudsonian Godwit and California Condor. Such carelessness would seem to cast doubts on the overall accuracy of Whitlock's information, but actually the book is an engrossing, if depressing compendium. The color plates are strangely selected and add little: Bittern

(not threatened) and Ivory-billed Woodpecker (probably extinct) on a page with Japanese Crane!—R.A.

The Birds of Northeastern Utah.—William H. Behle. Utah Museum of Natural History (University of Utah, Salt Lake City 84112). 1981. 136 pp. \$11.00 paperbound. This is Occasional Publication Number 2 of the Utah Museum of Natural History and all proceeds from the sale of the book will benefit the publications program of the museum. This volume provides a detailed regional analysis of the avifauna within the area bounded on the west by the Uinta Mountains, on the east by the Utah-Colorado border, on the north by the Utah-Wyoming border and to U.S. 6 and 50, on the south. Approximately the first 1/4 of the work is occupied with a detailed account of the ecological components of northeastern Utah and its breeding birds; specific research on waterfowl, raptors and inhabitants of a lodgepole pine forest; and discussion of eight outstanding areas of particular ornithological interest. The species accounts comprise the main body of the work and each contains scientific and English names, seasonal status, relative

Birders write about RARE BIRDS OF THE WEST COAST by Don Roberson:

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Roger Tory Peterson

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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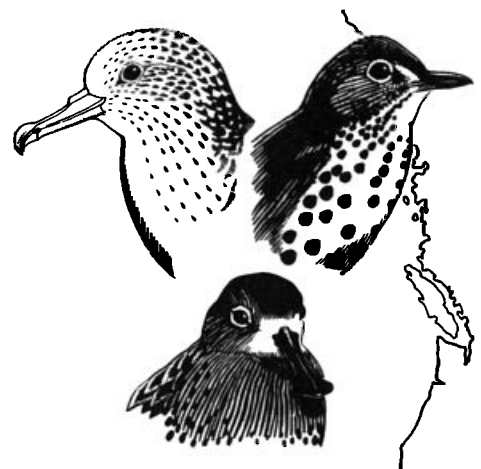
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abundance, ecological occurrence, summary of specimens, designations of pertinent localities where the species occurs, and natural history and behavior observations. In total a commendable job.—S.R.D.

The Molt of Scrub Jays and Blue Jays in Florida—G. T. Bancroft and G. E. Woolfenden. The American Ornithologists' Union. 1982. vii + 51 pp., 15 text figures. \$8.00 (\$6.50 to A.O.U. members) paperbound. This is Number 29 in the A.O.U.'s Ornithological Monographs series. This is a landmark study that investigates true molt-breeding overlap for individual birds whose exact breeding status is known. The authors

convincingly suggest that the timing and duration of molt is adapted to favor maximum flying ability during peak periods of territorial defense, breeding, feeding and dispersal. They provide a consistent and fascinating hypothesis that females of these closely related corvids inhibit or delay the onset of molt until termination of active nesting, in order to minimize the effects of heat and water stress. That is, to better balance water levels and more efficiently decrease heat load (thermoregulate), during breeding. Excellently written and incredibly interesting.—S.R.D.

Bird Songs in the Dominican Republic (Cantos de Aves en la Republica Dominicana).—Sound recordings by George B. Reynard. Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY. 1981. 4 sides, 100 species, with jacket commentary by Reynard. Just received and not yet heard, but this collection of sounds from a lesser-known island ranges through the Dominican avifaunal list from Least Grebe to Rufous-collared Sparrow and promises fascinating listening. Especially interesting, taxonomically, are recordings of Palm Chat, Ashy-faced Barn Owl and Potoo. The text is in English and Spanish. Dates and locations of recordings would have added interest to the jacket text, but if, as we are confident, this release is up to Reynard and Cornell standards, it is a recommended addition to your sound library.—R.A.

Songs of the Vireos and their allies: Family Vireonidae, Vireos, Peppershrikes, Shrike-Vireos, and Greenlets. Jon. C. Barlow. Royal Ontario Museum. Ara-7. Ara Records, 1615 N.W. 14th Ave., Gainesville, FL 32605.

\$12 00 Another superior production in the series published by the Hardys, this one represents a feat of no mean proportions, in that it has gathered the songs of 39 of the 43 members of this New World family, in 68 separate examples, recorded mostly by Dr. Barlow, but also by R. D. James and others. The recordings themselves are remarkably clear and free of background noise. You will not play this recording for the beauty of the songs, for, as Barlow writes, "there is a certain off-key flatness or even harshness to the songs of most of them. The repetitiveness . . . loudness and persistence of their songs is a hallmark." Nonetheless, the record can be a marvelous identification guide, and a revealing survey of one bird family's vocalizations. The jacket text by Barlow is informative. Recommended — R.A.

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Announcements

MEETINGS

The sixth annual meeting of the Colonial Waterbird Group will be held November 4-7, 1982, in Washington, D C. A symposium on the feeding biology of waterbirds is planned. Anyone wishing to contribute papers to either the symposium or general sessions or obtain information concerning registration



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