

American Birds

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American Birds

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AMERICAN BIRDS welcomes the submission of articles and photographs for publication.

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Birding in Ohio

By Tom Thomson

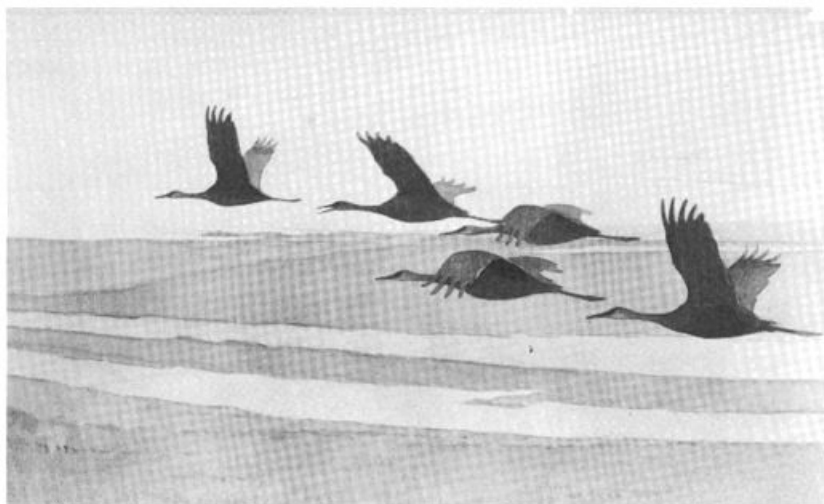
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(continued from page 835)

mittee, however, defends what it admits is a conservative posture, preferring to continue unchanged what may be prior errors than to too hastily endorse still questioned theories.

It has been cautiously conservative about making some of the radical taxonomic revisions supported by Cracraft or by the recombinant DNA research of Sibley, Alquist *et al.*; these will surely figure more importantly in future Supplements. Surprisingly, some members of the committee seem to be rather thin-skinned when it comes to criticism. One member noted for his pitiless savaging of many a hapless author, is quoted as being "sick and tired" of the more critical appraisals, which have been, in fact, rather polite.

Nothing stands still in ornithology; already this check-list lacks mention of a number of recent additions to the North American list including a half-dozen southern Pacific species that summered in 1983 in the Bay of Panama. But there simply had to be a cut-off date, and apparently it was February 1, 1982.

If this reviewer has any bias (and his position is somewhat ambivalent) it would be that *the committee has not gone far enough* in making changes that would adhere to its own principles, especially in the most controversial area—vernacular names. Over a long span of years, hopes have been expressed that somehow, some day, ornithologists from all the English-speaking countries would get together and ratify one authorized, unique name for all the world's species—a true global list. Recent supplements of the Fifth Edition have taken timid steps towards this goal, in what I call "creeping globalism." Thus we abandoned widgeon for the English wigeon, we abandoned good old American names like Duck, Pigeon, and Sparrow hawk in favor (favour?) of Peregrine, Merlin, and American Kestrel. The Sixth goes farther, but—if one accepts the principle—not far enough. It is littered with adaptations of British names, but perversely many of these are not, in fact, identical, but modified. Our Common Gallinule for example, conspecific with Moorhen, is not Moorhen, but Common Moorhen. Our imported Starling, which is simply Starling to the British, is now European Starling, even though there are three starlings in Europe, including the Spotless (bad name: *sounds* clean, *is* unspotted), and the Rose-coloured. Our Marsh Hawk, a solid folk name, is conspecific with Eu-

rope's Hen Harrier, but our new name is Northern Harrier. Some of the changes that appeared in earlier supplements are amusing. Our Pale-footed Shearwater became Flesh-footed (bad name: all feet are of flesh) to conform to the Australian name, except that some Australian authorities call it "Fleshy-footed." (Better: they're flesh-colored, but whose? As Bill Cosby might say, "you know they weren't thinking of me!").

Whistling Swan, merged with Bewick's Swan, becomes Tundra Swan, an appropriate name even though it replaces an almost hallowed one, but will the British conform? Probably not. Almost all the efforts towards globalism have been American. They won't even modify their unmodified Wren, Swift, Swallow, Kingfisher, etc. [They use a convenient colloquialism to get around this obstinacy: the modifier is "ordinary": "Isn't that an Alpine Swift soaring up there?" "No it's just an Ord'n'ry Swift (*Apus apus*)"].

The global approach has been ignored in other instances such as Black Vulture and Fan-tailed Warbler, names duplicated for different species on other continents. In fact contradictions in the global approach seem to abound: what has apparently happened is that the committee

adopted its globally-unique list idea timidly, tentatively, and confusedly, perhaps fearing an armed rebellion, perhaps merely because this aspect of the work seemed "trivial" to some. The latter view may be credited when one looks at the lack of imagination and the increasing banality of the Sixth's vernaculars. I counted 89 uses of the modifiers American, Northern, Eastern, Western, etc., in the former A.O.U. area alone, and 39 Commons. To this critic, Common is an almost meaningless, at least ambiguous name—a creative cop-out. It's the name

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you use when you can't come up with a better one, as one committee member admitted.

Quite commendably, the committee has opted for shorter, more compact names, as Marsh Wren, Sedge Wren, Three-toed Woodpecker. But in far more cases, bird names have been *lengthened* with the addition of the aforementioned modifiers. Northern Rough-winged Swallow may reflect globalism, but it is now typographically 28 characters long!

One aspect of the increasing banality of the vernaculars is the principle of attempting to attach to many birds—particularly those "south of the border," with names that aid in identification. The late Eugene Eisenmann, to whom the Sixth is dedicated, was an effective advocate of selecting a vernacular that could be applied universally to all races of a species. The idea is scientifically sound, but it did result in a plethora of names so similar that they have no mnemonic value whatsoever. Edwards (1982, *Coded Workbook of Birds of the World*, Vol. 1) has pointed out that a series of names such as Rufous-crowned, Rusty-crowned, Chestnut-capped, Rufous-capped, Rufous-naped and Rufous-collared, are more confusing than helpful. But, alas, hundreds of names like these are now frozen in concrete. Perhaps, as someone has said, we should take the English language out of the hands of technicians and give it back to writers and poets.

I will now reverse myself and demonstrate the earlier mentioned ambivalence. Is globalism really necessary? If we're never going to get the rest of the English-speaking world to change, why should we? The argument that we world-trotting North Americans, for example, won't know which species is meant if one lists Catbird on a Georgia Christmas Bird Count, but that it must be Gray Catbird to tell us that it was not a Black Catbird of Central America or the Green Catbird of Australia, seems specious. Our Fan-tailed Warbler is not even in the same family as that of Africa and Europe. Why change either one? If it is on your list from Mexico, it's obviously *Euthlypis lachrymosa*. If you see Fan-tailed Warbler in Spain, it's *Cisticola juncidis*. If the duplication of names confuses you, take up golf.

It is not the committee's responsibility to consider the economics or logistics of proposed changes such as found in the supplements that preceded the Sixth Edition, and the Sixth itself. But the impact is enormous, obsoleting in varying de-

grees the vast present and past literature Change, of course, is inevitable—the end product of new insights and new knowledge. Change would be more acceptable perhaps if the Sixth had provided a major, drastic overhaul, either a truly global list or a truly North American list, plus a more imaginative coinage of new names, and a minimum of tired modifiers. But the committee has opted for creeping globalism, and we can anticipate a Supplement in about 1988 ratifying Great Northern Diver, Brent Goose, Red-tailed Buzzard, etc., another one in 1994, and more in the year 2000. Driving authors, editors, publishers, and people who keep field cards up the wall.

A major lack in the Sixth Edition is the absence of subspecies. Economics and sheer work-load factors ruled them out. But the next assignment of this committee, or its successor, will be to attend to this most important aspect. Meanwhile, keep your Fifth handy: it may be out of date but it has most of those subspecies with their 1957 ranges for your reference.

Regardless of all the above, and no matter how much you loathe Common Moorhen, this is a reference book you

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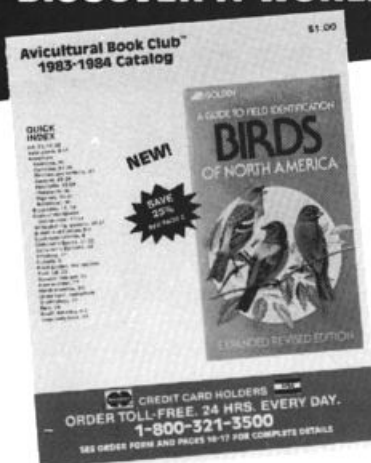
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simply must have, if you are at all serious about your ornithology. As of now, for better or for worse, and for years to come, it is *The Authority*.—R.A.

The Audubon Society master guide to birding.—John Farrand, Jr., ed. Vol. I Loons to Sandpipers, Vol. II Gulls to Dippers, Vol. III Old World Warblers to Sparrows. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. 1983. 1248 pp., 1245 color photos, 193 paintings, 422 drawings, 650 range maps. \$13.95 each vol., durable bound. In the current field guide derby, in which a number of ambitious entries are straining at the gate, the first down the field is this highly organized effort, and it is good. In fact it is quite the most ambitious field guide we have seen; its 3 volumes describing 835 species, each with 1–3 full color illustrations, 3 to a page facing the write-ups. This is called a “master” guide and indeed boasts 61 different authors especially chosen for their expertise in certain families or genera of birds. From the credits, it would appear that 100+ persons had a hand in its preparation, as authors, artists, editors, consultants, etc., both at Chanticleer Press, the packager, and Knopf. Is it worth it? Overall, we give it an emphatic yes. The species write-ups and the introductory chapters do reflect the special insights of the expert authors, and are more detailed than in previous mass market guides. Many of the color photographs are excellent, and where no suitable photographs were available, artists have filled in with paintings. Miniatures of the color portraits point out important field marks with red arrows and a brief key. There is a distribution map for each of the species treated. Introductory chapters and appendices combine to form a well-written primer on birds and birding, identification, bird finding, birder behavior, rarity documentation, photography, equipment, etc. There are vignettes of all the authors and artists, and an appendix of accidentals. Negatives? The weight—4.5 pounds, which makes this more a car seat guide than a pocket guide, range maps which are sometimes almost undecipherable, and those color photographs themselves. The controversy over photographs vs paintings in field guides has been around for years. Many of the photographs herein are fine: diagnostic, color correct, clear. But some are not; colors are either totally incorrect or misleading. Take Vol. III, p. 294, for example. On it, adult E. Meadowlark and W. Meadowlark are printed with breasts of

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two entirely different yellows, giving the reader a completely erroneous conception. Sadly, other photographs (female Yellow-headed Blackbird among many) are inaccurate, because shading, lighting, exposure, film development or color printing may be off the mark. Photographs, as often pointed out, show a bird in one fraction of a second and in one light and one posture, which often cannot summarize the "feeling" of the bird as an artist can. Printing is the final hazard; bird colors to be precise must be handled with infinite subtlety; when one prints 3

different pictures on a page, or 24 on a form, compromises must be made, and veracity suffers. The write-ups are the best part of the guides, and they will be very useful, although in some instances you may search long and hard for those "master" identification tips that have not been published elsewhere. In sum, this is a prodigious effort, more advanced and more complete than previous mass market guides for the old A.O.U. area, but not—by limitations of size, weight, cost, and time—as advanced as we are seeing in recent specialized field guides (gulls, seabirds). Add it to your back seat library, but read it first.—R.A.

driving, resources and references, hotlines, birding tours, even lists of local birders. An annotated list follows which includes identification tips on difficult species. Engagingly written, and recommended.—L.G.

Birds in the garden.—Mike Mockler. Blandford Press, U.K., Dist.: Sterling Publ. Co., 2 Park Ave., New York 10016. 1982. 98 color ill., 160 pp. cloth-bound \$19.95. This book about English garden birds goes beyond identification, courtship and nesting, eggs and young, to nocturnal activities, seasonal variations and threats to their survival. Excellent photographs of aspects of behavior add to its appeal.—L.G.

Birds new to Britain and Ireland.—J.T.F. Sharrock and P.J. Grant. T A D Poyser, Calton, England. Available: Buteo Books, P.O. Box 481, Vermillion SD 57069. 1983. 279 pp. Ill. drawings, maps, photos. \$25. clothbound. We North Americans are well aware that there are numerous transoceanic waifs and strays visiting our shores, and can list all of them. But we are less aware of the species and numbers of our native birds that turn up across the Atlantic. This col-

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A birder's guide to Minnesota.—Kim R. Eckert. Bell Museum of Natural History, Minneapolis. 1983. 208 pp. \$9 spiral bound. Available from author at 9735 N. Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804 (Add \$1, in MN add sales tax). A guide to over 500 birding locations. Anyone birding in Minnesota or planning to will find this improved and expanded second edition enormously helpful. Extensively illustrated with road maps and locality maps. Contents include a description of the state and its climate, tips on winter

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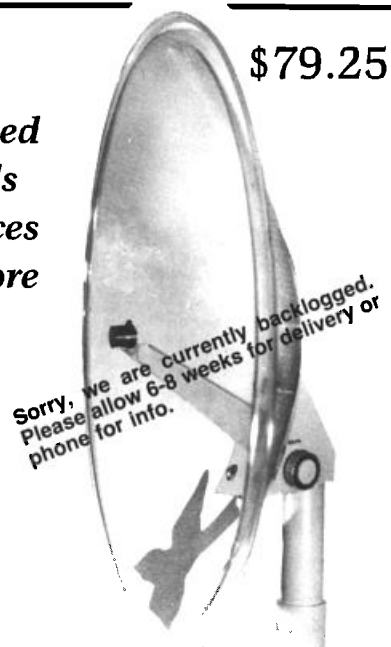
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lection of detailed accounts—some exhaustively so—of 83 species newly recorded in Britain 1946-1982, is reprinted and updated from the original reports, published in *British Birds*. No less than 47 of these visitors are North American—many of them surprising: Pied-billed Grebe, Western Sandpiper, Aleutian Tern, all of the *Catharus* thrushes, 9 species of warblers, Fox and Song sparrows. Every Christmas Bird Counter should peruse this book to see how rarities should properly be recorded. An appendix of 81 first-sighting photographs adds to this commendable effort.—R.A.

The birds of northwestern Nebraska and southwestern South Dakota.—Richard C. Rosche. An annotated checklist Publ.: author, 501 Shelton St., Chadron, NE 69337. Map, 100 pp. soft-bound \$5 ppd. A straightforward, well-documented list, with status and distribution of all birds known to have occurred in the region (species) with descriptions of the localities cited.—L.G.

Birds of Southern California's Deep Canyon.—Wesley W. Weathers. University of California Press. Berkeley, CA 1983. 268 pp. 60 line drawings, 28 color plates, 33 half-tones, 45 tables. \$35.00 hardbound. This book presents comprehensive accounts of the abundance, diversity and natural history of birdlife along the slope that is the transition zone from low-lying desert to coniferous forest—a horizontal distance of only 11 miles—between the Colorado Desert and the southern California's Peninsular Mountain Range. Each of these three habitats supports a different bird community and to date more than 217 bird species have been recorded. This deep canyon offers both the professional and amateur the opportunity to study the

amazing bird diversity. This book describes the gradient's natural habitats which range from sea level to 8700 feet. It examines the bird communities of each habitat and discusses local distribution, population dynamics, and ecology of the 112 breeding species. The abundant line drawings, photographs and tables serve to graphically illustrate the text and give the book a handsome look. In total, this is an interesting and well-made book and should enjoy success, especially in the western states.—S.R.D.

The Birds of the Balearics.—David A. Bannerman & W. May Bannerman. Tanager Books, Dover, NH 03820. 1983. 230 pp. Ill. 12 color plates by Donald Watson, octavo hardcover, \$45. Another import from Britain by the new publishers, Tanager, and another (and the last) of the long series of Bannerman treatises on the birds of oceans, continents and islands. This one, completed by Mrs. Bannerman after her husband's death in 1978 follows the familiar format. The Bannermans did not explore the Spanish Mediterranean Balearics with any depth or duration; the species treatments are largely historical. A library book, not a field guide, it will be a useful

background study for the myriads of British birdwatchers who visit Mallorca, Menorca, and the others, "on holiday." We would have liked a better map, a bird-finding guide, and some photographs of Balearic habitats. The 12 color plates, showing species illustrated elsewhere countless times, serve mainly to increase the cost.—R.A.

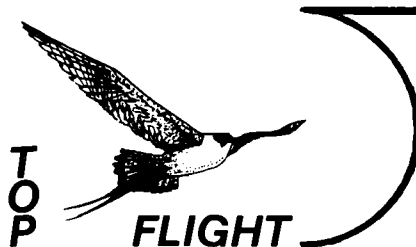
Birds of the Mediterranean and Alps.—Lars Jonnson. Tanager Books, 51 Washington St., Dover, NH 03820. 1983. 160 pp. Text in English. Many color plates, maps. \$12.50. Taken alone, this little field guide presents a strange mix of locales and species. But this is the 5th in a series covering all the birds of Europe, and if the others are as attractive, the series is worthy of note by those who cannot get enough field guides. Sweden's Lars Jonnson, one of Europe's rising stars, has done both text (excellent) and plates (ditto); he specialized in showing difficult species in a variety of poses and plumages (8 for Levant Sparrowhawk, 7 for Short-toed Eagle, 19 for Black-eared Wheatear). The pages of raptors in flight are particularly good. But where are the first four books in the set?—R.A.

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Birds of Prey of Southern Africa. — Peter Steyn. Tanager Books, Inc., Dover, NH 03820. xxii + 309 pp. Ill. 24 color plates, 238 photos, drawings, maps. \$39.50 hardcover. A handsomely printed handbook, identification guide and life history study of the 80 species of the 6 families of raptors, including Secretary Bird and the owls, of this sizeable segment of Africa. Most of the species are more widely distributed, making the book of interest far beyond the borders of South Africa. The book is well organized along fairly standard handbook lines, with English, Afrikaans, and scientific names, derivation of the scientific name, identification, habitat, status and distribution, general habits, and breeding biology following in that order. The color plates by Graeme Arnott are entirely attractive and mostly color-true: the full page Black Eagle portrait is a beauty. Thought: why does no one ever portray owls in flight? Much of the breeding biology is augmented by Steyn's own studies and nesting pictures. A worthy addition to your African bookshelf.—R.A.

Birds that came back. — John Gooders. Tanager Books, Dover, N.H. 1983. Ill. photographs, xx + 180 pp. \$25 hardcover. A well-written, highly readable account of the varying fortunes of the breeding birds of Britain. In a sense this is a social history going back 150,000 years, summarizing the effects of man on birdlife from paleolithic times to the present. Chapter headings give a hint of the subject matter: Hunting and Shotguns, the Age of the Collector, Never to Return (extinctions), Back from the Brink, Symbol of Success (Avocet), Back to the Reeds, Back to the Floods, the Colonizers from the South, and from the North, Once in a Lifetime (breeders) and The Crystal Ball. This is a bitter-sweet book; harrowing in many respects, hopeful in summation. Recommended.—R.A.

The breeding birds of Europe, a photographic handbook.—Manfred Pforr and Alfred Limbauer. Croom Helm, London, 1983. Dist. by Tanager Books, 51 Washington St., Dover, NH 03820.

Vol. I, Divers to Auks, 327 pp. Vol. II, Sandgrouse to Crows. 394 pp. Horizontal octavo. Full color on almost all pages. \$48 (2 vols., boxed). This is a simply splendid work, produced in West Germany, published (English version) in London, distributed in New Hampshire. Three hundred thirty species that breed in Europe are dealt with, each featured in a double-page spread, with a full verso page, an almost-always superb color photograph, the recto page with a brief 200 word treatment, a distribution map, a table on various details like length, wing length, voice, breeding period, size of clutch, color of eggs, incubation, etc. Three smaller photographs complete this page, typically a female at nest, a chick or juvenile, and a nest with eggs. The area covered includes Europe, Turkey and European U.S.S.R. For a popular book, it is truly a beauty.—R.A.

Breeding Birds of Ontario: Nidiology and Distribution. Volume 1: Nonpasserines.—George K. Peck and Ross D. James. Royal Ontario Museum. Toronto, Canada. 1983. 42 black-and-white photos, 146 maps. 321 pp. \$25.00 (Can.). This hefty volume lists the most current status and details the breeding nonpasserines of Ontario . . . 143 species. All available records including almost 80,000 cards from the Ontario Nest Record Scheme were examined in compiling information for the nidiology accounts and those as recent as 1980 were used for a few species with very scarce nest records. This involves the field work of approximately 775 contributors. In total 283 species are included in Ontario's breeding bird list. Volume 2 will deal with the passerines. This is, however, the most comprehensive source of information on nonpasserine breeding species in Ontario now available. The authors are to be congratulated on a big job well done.—S.R.D.

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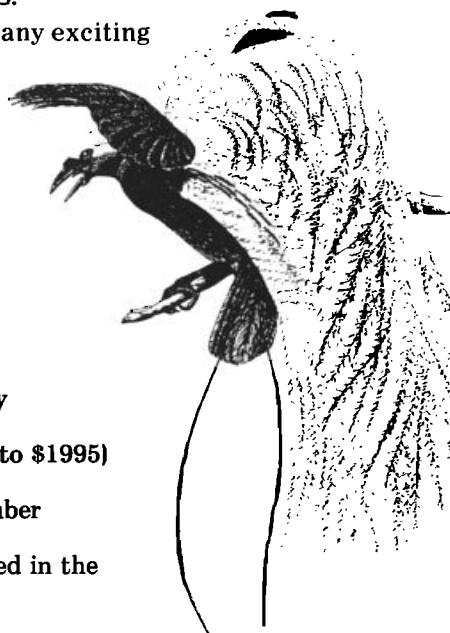
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British Birds: lifestyle and habitats.—Ian Presst. Batsford, dist. by David & Charles, North Pomfret, VT 05053. 1983. 220 pp. Illustrated. \$17.95 cloth-bound. The author, Director of the Royal Society for the Preservation of Birds, presents birds of the British countryside in broad ecological groups: upland, sea-coast, lowland freshwater, woodland, farmland and hedges. He acquaints the reader with the reasons why which birds are found where and provides insights into their behavior. Sixty-nine line drawings enliven the text. Anyone tuned in to the colors, the grace and skill of flight, and the song of birds should find this book adding to his/her enjoyment of them.—L.G.

A Celebration of Birds. The Life and Art of Louis Agassiz Fuertes.—Robert McCracken Peck. Published for The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia by Walker & Co., New York. 1983. 178 pp. \$30. hardbound. This is an absorbing, learned, and richly detailed study of the genius of Fuertes. Peck's enthusiasm enables him to tell the Fuertes story adroitly and with unvarying orderliness. The result is an impressive, satisfying piece of writing. The book encompasses chapters on Fuertes the man, the artist, the naturalist, and most especially, the virtuoso illustrator who cared about every facet of his craft. The text makes entertaining reading, and one is particularly grateful for the coherence and the new material Peck has produced regarding the life and art of L.A.F. Fuertes was a priest of the imagination and *A Celebration of Birds* is so generously enlivened by black-and-white line drawings, and full-page or smaller color illustrations that one can only note that this book has gone a long way toward restoring the art of flattering the eye. The secret of the ebullient creativity of Fuertes is everywhere evidenced and works of equal power and beauty are not apt soon to find their way to the book stores. Congratulations to Peck and The Academy for a splendid job.—S.R.D.

Coastal Texas: water, land and wildlife.—John L. Tveten. Ill.: Texas A. & M. Univ. Press, College Station. 1982. 113 pp. 126 color photographs, cloth-bound. \$29.95. A lavish collection of brilliant color photographs, many full page, which depict the waters, beaches, marshes and the wildlife of the Texas Gulf coast. The text focuses on the intricate ecological relationships while con-

veying the mood, beauty and vitality of the region. A book to be enjoyed by anyone who may bird or beachcomb here, or anywhere. Pictures and text are followed by the photographer's notes on the subjects he has experienced so intimately. Recommended.—L.G.

A Coded Workbook of the Birds of the World.—Vol. I, Non-passerines. 2nd Edition.—Ernest P. Edwards. 1982. Published by author, Box AQ, Sweet Briar, VA 24595. 133 pp. maps. \$10 + \$1, spiralbound. Edwards has revised and expanded his useful first edition, and once one masters the codes one finds a file of information on every species—from penguins to trogons. The check-list gives classification sequence, scientific and vernacular names, distribution, and whether endangered. There are indices of names, a cross reference to the alphanumeric codes of the last edition and a bibliography. Edwards follows the Cracraft sequence of orders; his views on vernaculars should have been weighed by the A.O.U. Check-List committee.—R.A.

The Emergence of Ornithology as a Scientific Discipline: 1760-1850. Studies in the History of Modern Science 12. Paul Lawrence Farber, Kluever Inc., 190

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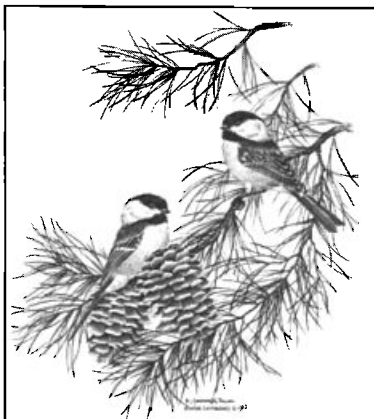
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Old Derby St., Hingham MA 02043. Boston, 1983. xxi + 191 pp. \$39.50. A monograph on a fascinating aspect of modern ornithology: its headlong rush from primitive cabinet cataloguing to theoretical biology, from Brisson to Darwin. Straightforward, but somewhat repetitive and pedestrian in style, with liberal quotations and text references, it nevertheless offers the reader a good background in the development of the science. We wish the author had ventured to suggest answers to some of the more

speculative questions raised in his discussion—R.A.

Eric Hosking's Waders. — Eric Hosking and W.G. Hale. Foreword by Sir Peter Scott. Pelham Books, London. Marketed and distributed in the U.S. by Merrimack Publishers' Circle. Salem, N.H. 1983. 125 color and 80 black-and-white photographs. 184 pp. \$24.95 hardbound. Extraordinary photography and eminently readable text are the hallmarks of this uncommonly beautiful book. The photographs are not merely bird portraits but rather an excellent collection illustrating whole aspects of the biology of the group. The consistently erudite yet highly informative text was designed to complement the photographs and Hale skillfully sets down a great deal of the biology of wading birds and their lifestyles in different parts of the world. Finally, this is a book that should stimulate enormous interest in waders by anyone who reads it. It admirably stresses the importance of wetlands and conservation of them during a critical time when these habitats are being destroyed and developed. This awareness, of course, was one of the main aims of the book, as anyone who is familiar with the past record of Hosking and Hale as conservationists will see.

The book is really a must for ornithologists, birders, and photographers, but especially for conservationists world wide.—S.R.D.

A field guide to the birds coloring book. — Peter Alden. Introduction by Roger Tory Peterson. Ill. John Sill. Houghton Mifflin, Boston. 1982. 64 pp. \$3.95. What better way to learn the birds than to color them in your own coloring book? This book features outline drawings by John Sill of 262 of the more common birds of North America, and the same birds and poses in miniature on 5 full color pages, as a guide. Brief descriptive captions add to the learning process. A book for children 5 to 10, or anyone who likes coloring books. I liked it.—R.A.

Finding Birds in the National Capital Area.—Claudia Wilds. Smithsonian Institution Press. Washington, D.C. 1983. 215 pp. 10 black-and-white illus., 27 maps. \$10.95 paperbound. Although Wilds began serious birdwatching as recently as 1970, she has here produced a bird-finding guide that will be of enormous use both to beginning birdwatchers and visitors alike in the District of Columbia and its suburbs, the Maryland and

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Virginia Piedmont and their ridges and valleys, the Allegheny Plateau, both the eastern and western shores of the Chesapeake, and the area of the south side of Virginia and the North Carolina Outer Banks. This volume is the outgrowth of a series of bird-finding articles the author wrote for the *Audubon Naturalist News* as well as a number of areas featured while she served as editor and voice of the D.C. rare bird alert—the “Voice of the Naturalist.” She has seriously and consistently birded those areas she recommends and her preference for coastal habitats is obvious. It is a skillfully written and tightly packed volume well worth its modest price and in every way recommended.—S.R.D.

The Grouse of the World.—Paul A. Johnsgard. Univ. of Nebraska Press, Lincoln. Nov., 1983. xvi + 413 pp. Ill.: drawings, maps, 32 pp. in color. Large octavo, clothbound \$42.50. Sixteen species of grouse and ptarmigan are treated in the latest—and perhaps best—product of the prodigious Johnsgard book factory. Each species gets a distribution map, a generous write-up, a page of courtship display drawings, and a selection of photographs. The write-ups are organized under 10 or 11 headings, of which “Reproductive Biology” seems to be the most detailed. Appendices include one on name derivations, an identification key, one on hunter harvests and population estimates by states, provinces, and countries, and a lengthy bibliography. More seems to have gone into this volume than some other recent Johnsgard efforts, perhaps because the group has been so intensively studied.—R.A.

A guide to the birds of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.—Herbert A. Raffaele. Fondo Educativo Interamericano, San Juan. (Dist.: Addison-Wesley, Reading, MA 01867). 1983. Ill.: Cindy J. House, John Wiessinger. 256 pp, soft-cover, 40 plates, 24 in color, maps. \$13.95. This is the first modern field guide to these islands, and an excellent one it is. All 273 species on the list of living birds are treated, plus 7 fossil species. Raffaele has written a highly useful guide for native and visitor alike. The format is standard with no surprises, but the quality of the plates is a surprise: they are very good, although the printing in our copy is not perfect for color. Four of the plates are full pages featuring four Puerto Rican endemics—the parrot, cuckoo, woodpecker and tody. There is a

bird-finding chapter and a check-list for 8 localities. A bibliography would have been useful. A Spanish edition is promised for late 1984.—R.A.

A Guide to North American Waterfowl.—Paul A. Johnsgard. Indiana University Press. Bloomington. 1982. 274 pp., 90 head profiles, 60 black-and-white line drawings, 31 color illus. \$15.95 clothbound, \$7.95 paperbound. This is a compact book conveniently sized to carry afield. It is a ready source book and identification guide to the 44 species of waterfowl known to breed in continental United States and Canada. All of these swans, geese and ducks are discussed in terms of their natural history, ecology, social behavior, and reproductive biology. Current estimates of North American populations and trends of each are included. There are separate range maps for each species and additional identification information on several species that sometimes occur in North America but do not breed here. The identification key in the rear of the book along with head profiles and a profusion of line drawings make it extremely practical in the field: a book that all serious waterfowl students should buy.—S.R.D.

Handbook of the Birds of Europe the Middle East and North Africa. The Birds of the Western Palearctic. Stanley Cramp, Chief Editor. Volume III, Waders to Gulls. Oxford University Press, 1983. London, New York. \$89. 911 + pp. Ill. numerous maps, color plates. We have previously reviewed

(and highly praised) this monumental handbook, without any argument the most ambitious and beautifully produced treatise on the birds of any region yet published. This is Volume III of a projected 7 volumes, and maintains the high standards set by the first two. This vol-



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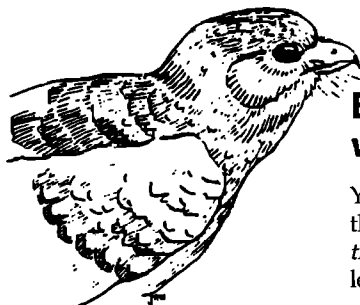
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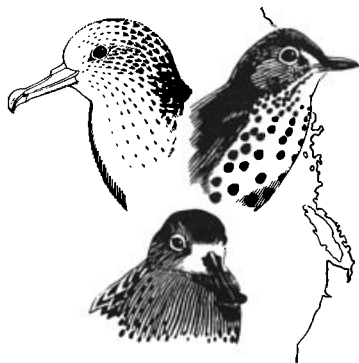
ume deals with 112 of the 740 species of birds known from the region, and includes the Charadriiformes, comprising the shorebirds, jaegers and gulls. What is particularly gratifying about this enterprise is that, despite its complexity of organization, with dozens of editors and artists contributing to it, the volumes have been issued on a regular timetable, leading us to believe that we will see the completed set in our lifetimes. For anyone interested in ornithology beyond the borders of North America, this—even at the high price—is indispensable.—R.A.

How to Attract Birds. — The staff of Ortho Books. Chevron Chemical Co., 575 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94105. 99 pp. Ill., photos, drawings, maps. Quarto softbound \$5.95. It's been done so many times before, but this one is handsomely designed, colorfully illustrated, and filled with concise but reliable suggestions for successful bird gardening. Foods, plantings, water, nest boxes, feeders, plus a gallery of 75 common garden birds, with a good photograph, map, and brief notes on each. For that friend who has just moved to the country.—R.A.

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The Hummingbirds of North America.—Paul A. Johnsgard. Smithsonian Institution Press. Washington, D.C. 1983. 303 pp. 16 pp. color illus., 23 distribution maps, 1 density map, 14 black-and-white behavior and ecology drawings. \$35.00 hardbound. Another major work by the author who seems to write books as effortlessly as most of us write laundry lists. This book includes detailed accounts of the 23 North American hummingbird species, and includes all aspects of their enormous diversity. The full color illustrations accompany the accounts and were especially commissioned for this book. This book has so much intrinsic merit that it is difficult to know just what aspects of it to praise first. It includes distribution maps, a 200-reference bibliography, a synopsis of all hummingbird species, two identification keys, a list of more than 160 hummingbird-adapted North American plants, and a comprehensive index. This is a highly readable book, thoroughly absorbing and clearly another triumph for Johnsgard.—S.R.D.

Illinois Birds: Wood Warblers. — Jean W. Graber, Richard R. Graber, Ethelyn L. Kirk. Biological Notes No. 118. Illinois Natural History Survey. Champaign, Ill., April, 1983. Published by the State of Illinois, Dept. of Energy and Natural Resources, Natural History Survey Division. 1983. 144 pp. Maps, tables, bibliography. This is a very long paper, the ninth in a series on Illinois bird populations, which deals exclusively with the wood warblers. It exhaustively documents the status, distribution, and occurrence of the 43 species of warblers that have been recorded in the state. Of those 43 species, 23 have been known to breed and of those 19 breed regularly. Most of those that do breed and 16 species that occur only as migrants are represented by sizable transient populations in spring and/or fall. This is a scholarly work and should serve as a model for future studies of this type.—S.R.D.

Introduced Birds of the World. — John L. Long. Illus. Susan Tingay. 1981. Universe Books. New York. 528 pp. \$50. hardbound. This authoritative reference contains details of 425 introduced species, each with a distribution map showing native and introduced ranges and 215 line drawings. It combines current scientific and historical data on birds which have been both successful and un-

successful on a worldwide basis. For each of the 425 species there is a concise summary of the description of the bird, its original native range, where it was introduced, whether it was successful or a failure and why, and its habits (which include status, habitat, gregariousness, movements, foods and breeding). It contains the history of each introduction and carefully compiled notes on any damage caused to either native or introduced habitats. There are numerous tables which give additional information on dates and countries and reasons for introductions, where known. There is an extensive bibliography. In total this is a major scholarly work on a sometimes-overlooked area of ornithology. It is remarkably ambitious and not just a book to sit on a reference shelf. All who own it will definitely use it. It is designed for a large audience and is certainly recommended.—S.R.D.

The living birds of Eric Ennion. — Commentary by John Busby. Victor Gollancz/David & Charles, North Pomfret, VT 05053. 1983. 128 pp. Ill. in color. Large octavo clothbound \$21. Eric Ennion was a British doctor who gave up

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medicine for birds, founded Field Study Centers in Britain, talked about birds on the BBC, and illustrated books and articles with his sketches and watercolors. This book is a selection of his work: sketches in pen and pencil and watercolor studies filled with motion and light. Most pages have many birds in many poses, a few paintings are larger, including a marvelous flock of feeding Spotted Redshanks, and a charming painting of siskins and Lesser Redpolls. The commentary makes this a textbook on bird illustration.—R.A.

The Peacocks of Baboquivari.—Erma J. Fisk, Ill. Louise Russell. W.W. Norton, New York. 1983. 284 pp. \$14.95. "Jonnie" Fisk is an occasional contributor to *American Birds*, a dedicated bird bander, a former Director of the National Audubon Society who acted as our dedicated advocate on the Board, and an old friend. In spite of all this, there is no bias whatsoever in our praise and admiration for this spritely account of a winter spent in a rather remote corner of Arizona. This is a birder's journal but more than that an insight into the heart and mind of a caring, observant, adventurous totally human lady. We knew all this about Erma Fisk, but we didn't know she could write so charmingly. A recommended Christmas gift book.—R.A.

Perspectives in ornithology.—Alan H. Brush & George A. Clark, Jr., eds. Essays presented for the Centennial of the American Ornithologists' Union. 1983. Cambridge Univ. Press, New York. x + 560 pp. Clothbound \$29.95. This is a collection of 13 "essays" of varying lengths, dealing with areas of contemporary research in ornithology, by authorities in these fields. Many of them are followed by one or more commentaries, sometimes dissenting or critical, by other authorities—all with suggestions for the directions of future research. The topics are broad and diverse, among them avian mating systems, cooperative breeding strategies, ecological energetics, optimal foraging behavior, biochemical studies in microevolutionary processes, organization of avian genomes, biogeography, birdsong learning, bird migration, and more. The writing varies from lucid to dense and the concentration required varies correspondingly. If you are interested in where the professionals are and where they believe they are heading, this will be stimulating reading.—R.A.

The Shell Guide to the Birds of Britain and Ireland.—James Ferguson-Lees, Ian Willis, J.T.R. Sharrock. Michael Joseph, Ltd. 1983. 336 pp. 144 plates, 258 maps, 15 2-pg habitat photos. Durable cover \$14.95. There seems no end to the possibilities for viable field guides. This one, 3 years in the making, although adding few species not found in available European guides, does concentrate on the British Isles, with inclusions through 1980. The text and maps are admirable, the plates, generously depicting 1800+ views of 488 species, are uneven. In our copy many reddish birds are off-color (Red Phalarope an unholy pink, as is Am. Robin, crossbills, etc.). Species treatments are in two sections—"regulars" and "vagrants", many of the latter North American. In the latter section, only plumages of the season of occurrence are shown, thus no breeding-plumaged Laughing Gull. Here too one finds a "Parula Warbler," a "Yellowthroat," and a Yellow-rumped Warbler with no yellow rump. The maps are exemplary.—R.A.

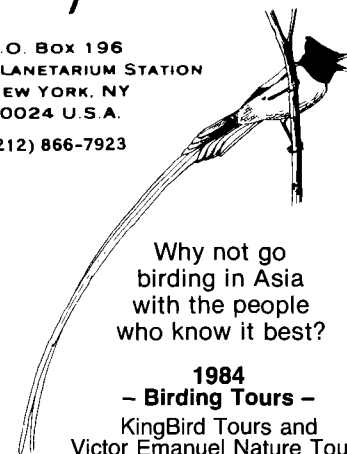
Texas Birds: where they are and how to find them.—Edward A. Kutac. Gulf Publishing Co. Houston TX 77001. 1982. x + 110 pp. Ill. maps, photos. \$9.95 + \$1.50 postage, softcover. Covering all the regions of Texas, this bird-finding guide is full of information helpful in locating its diverse birdlife (555 species). Habitat descriptions, road directions, sources of available check-lists are given. Included are suggestions on how to find specific birds, birds by seasons for various areas, a state check-list, listings of local organizations, their publications, important telephone numbers, a bibliography, and other useful features. A birder's gem of resources.—L.G.

Wading Birds of the World.—Eric and Richard Soothill. Blanford Press, U.K. Distributed by Sterling Publishing Co., New York. 1983. 334 pp. 96 pages of color illus., 70 black-and white line drawings. \$29.95 hardbound. This is in every way a beautiful volume. The 16 orders of traditional wader and long-legged waders from all over the world are discussed. Charadriiformes, Ciconiiformes and Gruiformes are included and facing each breathtaking photo is a description of the species, its characteristics

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and behavior, voice, distribution, habitat, food, breeding and display. The 96 major families are shown in full-color photographs with separate distribution maps. Nicely-executed line drawings point up diagnostic features of similar birds and the habitat in which the birds are found. These descriptions cover 300 species of wading birds. Eric Soothill is a well-known naturalist and photographer who has traveled and worked extensively in the United States and Canada. Richard is his son who shares his father's enthusiasm in natural history and especially in birds. This magnificent volume is their first undertaking as a team.—S.R.D.

West Virginia Birds.—George A. Hall. Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Special Publication No. 7. Pittsburgh, PA. 1983. 180 pp., 12 maps, drawings, photos. \$20.00 hardbound. This is a state bird book that will do George Hall proud for many decades to come. It is furthermore a must for anybody with an active interest in West Virginia birds. It is written with crisp vitality and constant alertness for detail. It is an admirable blend of ambition and hard research, which is both elegantly readable yet scholarly in its bibliography and other critical apparatus. The format is $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ inches double column and the text is illustrated with 21 photographic plates, 12 distribution maps and 16 black-and-white line drawings of birds by the late George M. Sutton. The frontispiece is a color plate of Sutton's Warbler, also painted by Dr. Sutton. This book represents the compilation of the intensive and systematic study of the birds of West Virginia carried out by Hall since 1950. The text concentrates on the general distribution and ecology of the 304 species for which data are presented. It is articulate, and a major contribution to the ornithological literature.—S.R.D.

Wildfowl of Britain and Europe.—Malcolm Ogilvie. Paintings by N.W. Cusa and Peter Scott. Oxford University Press. Oxford and New York. 1982. 84 pp., 30 color plates. \$16.50 hardbound. Both endpapers show the boundaries of the western Palearctic. The author and illustrators are closely connected with the Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge, England, and this book is essentially a colorful and quite beautiful tribute to the wildfowl of Europe. The text section is based on that in the *Handbook of the Birds of Europe the Middle East and North Africa, The Birds of the Western Palearctic* Vol. 1, 1977, Stanley Cramp, chief editor. The

introduction by Stanley Cramp has a lively narrative quality. The color reproduction of the 30 plates is particularly admirable. This book was written with an unmistakable British voice and a really impressive eye for detail. I would certainly suggest it for any American traveling abroad with an interest in birds.—S.R.D.

Wildlife Photography.—Ann Guilloyle, editor and Susan Rayfield, text. Watson-Guption Publications. New York. 1982. 120+ color illus. 176 pp. Index. Bibliography. \$24.95 hardbound. This is a lovely production, masterfully handled by two women who were formerly on the staff and came up through the ranks of *Audubon* magazine. The combination of their own personal talents is everywhere evident in this book that reveals the working methods, lives, and camera techniques of ten of the world's finest wildlife photographers. These ten are L.L. Rue III, J.O. Foott, D.R. Kuhn, C. Singletary, J. Shaw, E. Bry, G.A. Zahm, T. Daniel, H.D. Dossenbach, and V. Taylor. Each of these persons is profiled and discusses his/her specialty, which is itself fascinating reading. Each of the subjects includes valuable technical tips and advise on equipment, techniques and animals. Each of the profiles is accompanied by a superb selection of the photographer's finest work, some of which has never been published before. Almost all of these are in full color. If you are a nature lover or a lover of fine photography get this one!—S.R.D.

Wings and Seasons.—Gunnar Brusewitz. Translation by Walstan Wheeler. Published by Wahlstrom & Widstrand. Stockholm, Sweden. Distributed by Tanager Books Inc., 51 Washington Street, Dover, New Hampshire 03820. 1983. 119 pp. \$20.00 hardbound. Here is one of the most beautiful bird books to come out this year. The author writes with a reassuring familiarity with everyday things and yet with technical confidence and admirable concern for texture. His book is designed for a broad and varied audience. Brusewitz takes the reader through the seasons in Sweden and every page is so rich in illustrations that one marvels at each new offering. The text is entertaining and convincing and the writing is deft; but, wonderful is the only adequate word to describe the illustrations. For someone looking for an impressive and beautiful Christmas present, this book will without doubt fill the bill.—S.R.D.

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH: Tree Swallows, by Gary Meszaros of Cleveland, Ohio, won First Prize in our Salon this year. Details on page 811.

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