

**Arctic Ordeal**

Edited by C. Stuart Houston. McGill-Queen's University Press, Kingston, Ontario and Montreal, Quebec. 1984. 349 pp., 8 maps, drawings by H.A. Hochbaum. Hardbound \$29.95.

IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE 19TH century, the British government had hopes of finding a northwest passage across the top of North America. Explorers searched by land and by sea simultaneously, but the overland expedition of John Franklin in 1819-1822 is particularly exciting because of the ordeals endured and the detail in which they were recorded. Twenty explorers departed; only nine returned. Four officers began the journey: John Franklin, John Richardson, George Back, and Robert Hood. Each kept a journal, although Franklin's was lost when a canoe upset in rapids. Franklin later used the journals of the other three to prepare an account of the journey which was published in 1823. In 1974, Houston published his transcription of Hood's journal for the first year, along with some of Hood's watercolors. *Arctic Ordeal* focuses on John Richardson's journal written during the last year of the expedition. The book begins with an historical prelude, presents a transcription of most of the journal, and ends with an extensive commentary and appendices which detail Richardson's observations of birds, mammals, fish, plants, and geology. A brief appendix dealing with lichens was prepared by J.W. Thomson, and a lengthy appendix on geology was contributed by W.O. Kupsch.

In this review I will emphasize ornithological aspects, but some general comments are in order. Once I began reading the book, I finished it at a single sitting. It was exciting and awe-inspiring. Our modern educational system turns out specialists—and as the product of such a system, I was overwhelmed by the breadth of contributions made by Richardson. Richardson's journal is not only a very readable personal account of the responses of men to the harshest of environments, but it is also a very precise

# Arctic Ordeal



THE JOURNAL OF JOHN RICHARDSON  
Surgeon-Naturalist with Franklin, 1820-1822

Edited by C. STUART HOUSTON

Illustrated by H. ALBERT HOCHBAUM

log of the flora, fauna, climate, and geology of the region. Such a record was not happenstance, but was mandated by the instructions to the explorers. That the mandate was carried out even while the men were starving to death in weather colder than  $-50^{\circ}$  F is beyond comprehension. Journal entries at the outset were detailed and mostly a business-like (though fascinating) narrative. As the expedition turned back from the Arctic Ocean and set out across the barren tundra with little food, the narratives became shorter and centered on the difficulties of carrying equipment, fruitless hunting efforts, and the preparation of meals from lichen, old shoes, and the marrow from

bones of animals that had died earlier in the year. In later entries Richardson adds mention of daily prayer to his chronicles of their suffering.

Among the non-ornithological highlights of the book, two stand out: Richardson's account of probable cannibalism by one of his men and his killing of the perpetrator, and his compassion for and understanding of the Indians who accompanied them.

Ornithologically, Richardson has been short-changed by history. Specimens he collected were given to Joseph Sabine, who described them in *Zoological Appendix V* of Franklin's *Narrative of a Journey to the Shores of the Polar Sea in*

the Years 1819, 20, 21, and 22. However, Richardson collected more specimens and recorded more species than were described in that account. Furthermore, in Sabine's account, specimens attributed to Franklin or "the Expedition" had been collected by Richardson and his assistant, Robert Hood. We also learn that in spite of William Swainson's name appearing before Richardson's as authors of *Fauna Boreali-Americana, II: The Birds*, most of the significant information was provided by Richardson.

In *Arctic Ordeal*, Houston provides a 22-page appendix that is an annotated listing of the birds recorded by Richardson. For 37 species, Richardson's accounts include information not provided by Sabine. Another 18 species had been omitted by Sabine. The Yellow-billed Loon was described in great detail in Richardson's journal, but went unrecognized to science until publication of a description by G.R. Gray in 1859. Sabine described the Wilson's Phalarope as a new species on the basis of Richardson's specimen and it was not until 1886 that the priority of Viellot's 1819 description was recognized. Sabine gave no indication of the reversed secondary sexual dimorphism in the species, although Richardson clearly indicated that the female had the brighter plumage. Similarly, the North American subspecies of the Black-billed Magpie was described by Sabine, based on specimens collected by Richardson at Cumberland House. One of these specimens was painted by Hood (plate 14 in Houston, ed., *To the Arctic by Canoe*). Among other ornithological firsts is Richardson's description of the first reported nest of an Eskimo Curlew.

*Arctic Ordeal* is a scholarly effort which contributes significantly to our knowledge of the region. It was obviously a labor of love and one which took a great deal of insight and expert "sleuthing." The line drawings by H.A. Hochbaum are fine additions which get the reader to almost feel the adversity of the Arctic environment. I would like to have seen a larger scale map provided at the beginning of the book to properly orient the reader to the location and extent of the journey. It is also unfortunate that many of Richardson's detailed descriptions of birds were omitted from the published journal. In sum, however, this is an outstanding, exciting, and historically important contribution. I highly recommend it for casual reading as well as for its scientific content. —J.J.



## Birds of the Indiana Dunes

By Kenneth J. Brock

Ken Brock commemorates the twentieth anniversary of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore with this finding guide and checklist to the 337 species of birds that have been recorded in the Dunes area. He provides information and easy-to-use maps for fourteen important birding areas. This volume will be indispensable to the many thousands of visitors who come to the Dunes each year.  
cloth \$25.00 paper \$7.95

## Indiana Birds and Their Haunts A Checklist and Finding Guide

SECOND EDITION

By Charles E. Keller, Shirley A. Keller, and Timothy C. Keller

Written by three expert birders, this book is both a finding guide and an annotated checklist of the birds found in Indiana.  
cloth \$22.50 paper \$10.95

## The Birds of Indiana

By Russell E. Mumford and Charles E. Keller

Original Paintings by William Zimmerman

*The Birds of Indiana* is a major publishing event. Drawing on decades of fieldwork and data collection and featuring the paintings of one of America's finest artists, this is truly a book for all seasons and all bird lovers.

\$75.00

## Birding in Ohio

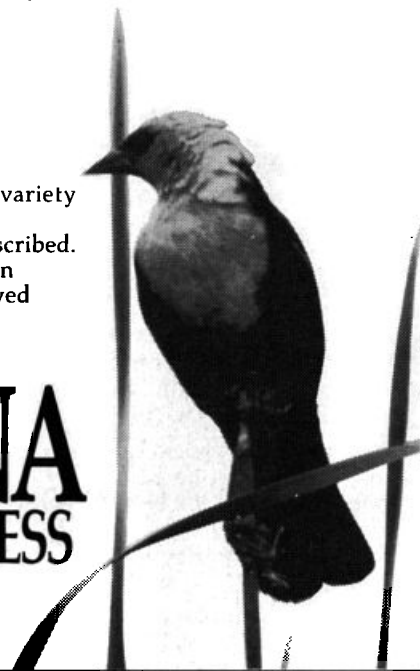
By Tom Thomson

A valuable guide to the marvelous variety of birdlife in Ohio. More than two hundred good birding spots are described. Grouped by region and presented in alphabetical order, the sites are keyed to section maps.

\$15.00

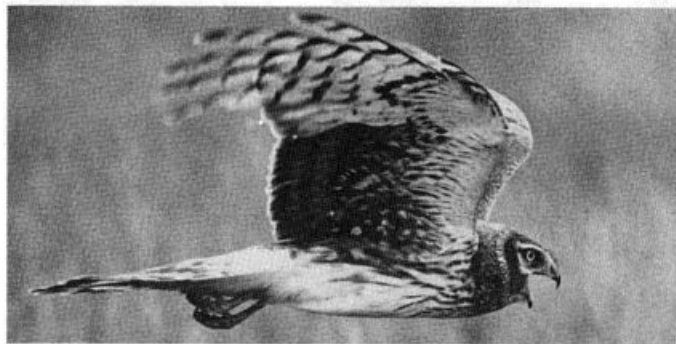
# INDIANA UNIVERSITY PRESS

Tenth & Morton Streets  
Bloomington, Indiana 47405



# EASTERN BIRDS OF PREY

By Neal Clark



Life cycle coverage and field identification of all major raptors east of the Mississippi.

## Over 40 Outstanding Photographs



SIZE 6"x9"  
174 PAGES

Clip coupon and mail with check or money order payable to:

**Thorndike Press**  
P.O. Box 159  
**Thorndike**  
ME 04986

Send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies at US \$7.95. Please add \$1.25 for shipping and handling. Maine residents add 5% sales tax.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### Tales of a Low-Rent Birder Pete Dunne

Drawings by David Sibley

In the nineteen essays collected in this volume, Dunne writes with distinctive and engaging wit about the great flocks of migrating birds—and thousands of passionate birders—that visit Cape May, New Jersey, every year. He is serious about the birds, but irreverent about humans, especially those in the grip of the birding addiction he shares.

Combining his intimate knowledge of birds, sighting spots, and idiosyncratic birders, Dunne's fresh, unique stories bring alive the characters of the birding world. Anyone, birder or not, who appreciates first-rate nature writing, with a healthy dose of the comic, will enjoy this book.

"[Dunne] never loses his sense of fun... Read what he has to say about birds, and the birders who pursue them with such passion."—from the Foreword by Roger Tory Peterson

175 pp; 20 illustrations. Cloth,  
\$15.95

(Add \$1.50 for postage and handling for each book ordered).

### A Guide to Bird Finding in New Jersey

William J. Boyle, Jr.

Drawings by David Sibley

This is the first comprehensive guide to bird finding for the entire state of New Jersey. A durable, flexible-bound fieldguide, this book provides clear maps and travel directions, species lists, and detailed notes on birding the eighty best sites in the state. Boyle discusses birding by season, rare bird alerts, birding ethics, pelagic birding and hawk watching. An annotated checklist of New Jersey's birds describes the frequency of occurrence and abundance of each species and suggests where to look for each. Lists of nature and bird clubs and other resources make this an invaluable companion for every birder—New Jerseyan or visitor.

400 pp; 100 maps and drawings.  
Flexible-bound fieldguide, \$19.95

Rutgers University Press,  
109 Church St.,  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

### The Joy of Birding/A Guide to Better Birdwatching

Chuck Bernstein. Capra Press, P.O. Box 2068, Santa Barbara, CA 93120. 1984. Drawings, Introduction by Roger Tory Peterson. 195 pp. Paper \$8.95.

THE PLEASURE THAT CHUCK BERNSTEIN gets from birding is evident throughout this book. Rarity-chasers and listers will certainly identify with the author. Many birders, however, can neither afford the time nor the money to go chasing rarities in odd places, although many wish they could. Some birders want to find their own birds or do not feel that brief encounters aided by others qualify a bird for their life lists. Regardless of their birding method, nearly every birder keeps a life list, and Chuck Bernstein's adventures, when adding to his, are fun to read. Scattered throughout the text are many gems—not necessarily original—on good birding methods or just plain information. For instance, read about differential fall migration of shorebirds, passerine plumage sequences, or the field marks of cormorants, gulls, and dowitchers. The story of getting his car stuck by the Salton Sea or ogling a Black-throated Green Warbler at an outdoor wedding put some humour into the story. Entire worthwhile chapters are devoted to such topics as identifying immatures, learning bird calls, and guided bird tours, with some of Chuck's tried and true methods of coping with these situations. One of his best stories unfolds around "The best way I know of to learn chips. . ."

I can discover no set logic to the series of very interesting stories. The few errors I noticed could have been easily checked. The chapter entitled, "All About Bird Distribution" for example, should be entitled, "A Bit About Bird Distribution," for it is far from as comprehensive as its title implies. The Winter Bird-Population Study and the Breeding Bird Census from *American Birds* are incorrectly titled. Allen Phillips should be Allan and Don Robertson should be Roberson; juvenile is a noun and juvenal the adjective, which he sometimes gets around by using "juvie." The Semipalmated Sandpiper is called "Semipalm" on one line, and "Semi" on another line of the same paragraph—very confusing to beginners. Perhaps the biggest mistake is the waste of space by listing birds mentioned in the

preceding chapter. Scientific names could be mentioned in context, as in the chapter on subspecies and in a few other places, or at the end of the book, but to me the entire listing under "Bird Log" is unnecessary.

Perhaps we should call this book the "Amusing and informative adventures of Chuck Bernstein while adding birds to his life list" or "The Joy of Rarity Chasing." Surely it says very little about the other kinds of joyful birding. If you are looking for a book on the many ways birding can increase your pleasure, this is not it. But, if you are looking for many of the ways in which one form of birding keeps Chuck Bernstein and his numerous buddies happy, this could be it!—T.I.

### World Inventory of Avian Anatomical Specimens: Geographical Analysis.

D. Scott Wood and Marion A. Jenkinson. *American Ornithologists' Union and Oklahoma Biological Survey, Norman, OK. 1984. 290 pp. \$30.00 paperbound.*

VIRTUALLY ALL OF THIS INEXPENSIVE compendium consists of tables. The publication is designed to show ornithologists what species are most needed as anatomical specimens in any area where they might collect. Of possible use to biogeographers is Table 2, which lists the number of species in each of the 60 geographic areas covered (Alaska, western or eastern Canada, western or eastern United States), and the number found in common with each of the other areas. Tables 3 through 6 give the specimen holdings of the museums and their geographic representation. Tables 7, 8, and 9 list in taxonomic sequence, using scientific names, all living and recently extinct birds divided into three sections, the New World, the Palearctic and Ethiopian, and the Oriental and Australasian, and then give their status (resident, transient, etc.) for each geographic area. These three tables also give the number of skeletal and spirit (*i.e.*, preserved in fluid) specimens in all the major collections of the world.

Bird enthusiasts and travellers might find uses for the tables of bird names, which give information on distribution as well as classification, and for the list of references used to determine the birds' ranges. I hope the lists also stimulate bird watchers to salvage for museums birds found dead that are rare in collections, as is the case for far too many species.

G. E. W.

We thank the following book reviewers for their careful reading and comments. The initials following each review correspond to these names: Jerome Jackson, Thomas Imhof, and Glen E. Woolfenden.

### GREAT BRITAIN BIRDING 1986

A fourth season of tours led by Steve Gantlett. Come and see the birds of Britain with one of Europe's leading birders 14 and 18 day small group tours with departures from May through August.

Write to Steve for details at:

18 Old Woman's Lane  
Cley-next-the-sea  
Holt, Norfolk  
NR25 7TY, England.



### Support ICBP by joining our CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIP SCHEME

#### Give the World's Threatened Birds A New Lease on Life

##### \$35 Associate Member

Benefits include: World Birdwatch (four issues), ICBP Bulletin (annual report), and Conservation Programme plus 15% discount on ICBP publications.

##### \$100 Supporting Members

In addition to the above benefits, one free copy, *on request*, of one ICBP publication.

##### \$250 Sustaining Member

In addition to Associate Member benefits, one free copy, *on request*, of every new ICBP publication.

**Note:** ICBP's Contributing Membership Scheme is truly international. For details of membership rates in the United Kingdom and other currencies, please contact the Secretariat.

I wish to support ICBP's efforts to save the world's threatened birds as a contributing member at the \_\_\_\_\_ level. My cheque for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is attached.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Fill in and return this form to: ICBP, 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, England.

## A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF JAPAN

Text by WILD BIRD SOCIETY OF JAPAN  
Illustrations by SHINJI TAKANO



The first useful, authoritative field guide to Japanese birds, in English, using the Peterson System of indicating field marks with arrows on the plates. Also helpful in identifying birds in Alaska, Eastern Siberia and China.

336 pages; 4 5/8" x 7 3/8"; 488 site maps; 1765 color illustrations of birds; index. \$19.95 plus \$2.25 shipping and handling; (New York State residents add appropriate sales tax.)

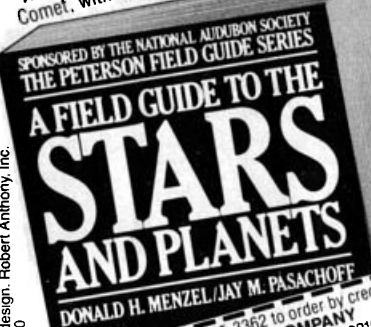


KODANSHA INTERNATIONAL  
10 E. 53rd ST., NEW YORK, NY 10022

## Are you ready for Halley's Comet?

"A clear, concise presentation of all the phenomena that confront us humans when we view the night sky, as well as an equally clear explanation of each phenomenon... I know of nothing that could replace it."  
—Rich Shafter, *Astronomy*

- ★ 72 easy-to-use monthly sky maps ★ A new set of 52 detailed atlas charts of the entire sky ★ Maps of the moon's surface
- ★ Special timetables showing what's visible when ★ Over 230 photographs. 82 in color
- ★ Charts showing how to find Halley's Comet, with tips on how to photograph it. \$12.95. paper



Cover design: Robert Anthony, Inc. © 1980

At bookstores, or call 1-800-225-3362 to order by credit card.  
HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY  
2 Park Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108  
© Houghton Mifflin Company 1985