
Books

Feathers in the Wind The Mountain and the Migration. James J. Brett. 1973. Illustrations & Hawk Descriptions, Alexander C. Nagy. Kutztown Publishing Company, Kutztown, Penna.

"The only good hawk is a dead hawk" has been the cry of sheep herders, farmers, gunners and others for too many years. Thanks to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Kempton, Pa., these words are hopefully close to being obsolete. No species of animals have been so loved, admired, exemplified, hated and maligned as the birds of prey.

"Feathers in the Wind" was written about Hawk Mountain, but it could be used successfully anywhere in the East where there are high ridges and passing birds of prey. It is intended to supplement rather than supplant the standard bearers of identification by Peterson and Robbins. Chapter four is a great ready reference guide to hawks and their times of flight throughout the autumn. It is profusely illustrated with charts, maps, head-on silhouettes and profiles of the birds of prey, etc.

It is pointed out that birds of the same species soaring past a given spot will be seen in a variety of wing and tail positions. This position will depend on the velocity of the wind! On those *days with little the apparent wind* and only thermal activity, the birds will have out-stretched wings, open primaries and fanned tails to take advantage of every minute rising air current. *Winds of moderate velocity* create ideal flying conditions. Birds have excellent lift and will pull their wings slightly together, creating a slight crook or elbow effect. The primaries and tail are closed. *In extreme wind*, birds have an excess of wind and do not need all the lifting capacity. Under these conditions they will further draw their wings together and pull the primaries closer to their bodies, creating a teardrop effect. This is all very well illustrated with silhouettes of a Red-tailed Hawk.

There is a chart showing when each species of hawk can be expected during the fall months; another showing patterns of migration for all species during August, September, October and November. Fifteen (15) birds of prey are so treated. Thermal air currents are discussed in lay language, as is migration of raptors in general. Also included are (1) a most interesting and informative yearly summary of hawk counts from 1934 through 1972; (2) a chart of statistics giving length, wing

spread and weight; (3) a map of wintering grounds for northern-breeding eagles, hawks and falcons; (4) maps of fall hawk-watching stations in the U.S.

The book gives a very brief history of how Hawk Mountain came into being. Its birth process was not an easy one, to say the least, and here I feel more should have been said since it was the forerunner in bird-of-prey protection. Since 1934, the plight of the raptor has steadily eased, thanks in part (a very big part, I think) to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary.

There are still those irresponsible gunners who would shoot any bird of prey they might encounter. At Hawk Mountain, injured birds are surgically treated to repair wings broken by gunshot. Expertise is growing, and heretofore doomed birds, are often released to return to the wild. Hopefully the technique can someday be deemed obsolete because gunners will no longer aim at a hawk and pull the trigger!

This is a book that should be on every birder's bookshelf — especially those of the dedicated group of "hawk watchers".

"Feathers in the Wind" can be ordered from Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Route 2, Kempton, Pennsylvania 19529. \$3.00 ppd.

Mrs. Roger W. Foy

Pigeons and Doves of the World. Derek Goodwin. British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S.W. 7, Great Britain. 1967. Pp 446. 6 pounds 6.

This is a reasonably detailed monograph of the pigeons and doves of the world — a very large family with a wide distribution. Each species account includes a vernacular name, a scientific name, and information on description, distribution and habits, feeding, nesting, voice, displays, etc. Color plates and/or pen and ink sketches, plus some distribution maps, are provided for many species. The illustrations are very good and were done by Robert Gillmor.

Banders with a special interest in pigeons and doves will doubtless wish to obtain this book, which is an important contribution in a long line of important contributions from the British Museum.

Donald S. Heintzelman.

Duck wings. A study of duck production. Hugh Boyd, Jeffery Harrison, and Allan Allison. A WAGBI conservation publication, England. 112 pp. 50 British pence. Available at the Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge.

During a trip to Great Britain, I discovered this excellent little book, and since it does not appear to be well known in North America, I wish to draw attention to it. The book is directed towards obtaining population data on waterfowl through the use of wings from hunter kills. Part II, pp. 45-73, is a lengthy presentation of production in the common dabbling ducks in Great Britain, based on wing samples collected from 1965 to 1975. While this section is of considerable scientific value, it is Parts I and III to which the bander will turn. Part I, pp. 11-44, consists of keys and plates of black-and-white photographs, which will help distinguish age and sex of dabbling ducks which occur commonly in Britain.

A key to species precedes the detail key on each species. Species covered are Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*), Wigeon (*Anas penelope*), Teal (*Anas crecca crecca*), Pintail (*Anas acuta*), Gadwall (*Anas strepera*), and Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*). Waterfowl banders in North America should test these keys for use here, especially on those species common on both continents.

Part III, pp. 74-106 consists of keys for which less data were available, and thus greater confirmation is needed. Again, most of the species occur in North America, and the keys could prove useful here. Species covered are: Garganey (*Anas querquedula*), Pochard (*Aythya ferina*), Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*), Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*), Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula clangula*), Oldsquaw (*Clangula hyemalis*), Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*), Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*), Velvet Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*), Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*), Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*), and Smew (*Mergus albellus*).

These keys could be a useful tool for waterfowl banders in North America who wish to determine age and sex of ducks captured. On the other hand, banders could play an important role in deter-

mining their accuracy in North America by comparing results obtained with the keys to other age and sex criteria. In this manner, similar keys can be developed for all North American species. Such keys would allow biologists to obtain population data from wings alone, and this in turn would add to the accuracy of population estimates on which hunting regulations are based.

Martin K. McNicholl

Birds of Idaho. Thomas D. Burleigh. Caxton Printers, Ltd., Caldwell, Idaho. 1971. Pp 467. \$17.50.

The publication of a new state bird book is always an event of note, and the appearance of Burleigh's Idaho volume is no exception. The author follows a traditional approach and devotes most of his text to detailed discussions of the distribution of the species and subspecies of Idaho birds. However, a fair amount of ecological information is woven into the species accounts. But it is the distributional information that is the most important contribution made by this volume.

All of the illustrations in the book are either black and white or color photographs. The former are from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service files and are excellent. Unfortunately, the color photos (with a few exceptions) are very poor both in terms of photographic technique and reproduction.

Although overpriced, this volume is a major contribution to Idaho ornithology and an important state bird book.

Donald S. Heintzelman.

The Dell Encyclopedia of Birds. Bertel Bruun. Illustrated by Paul Singer. Delacorte Press Book, Dell Publishing Co., Inc. New York. 1974. Hardcover \$6.95, paperback \$2.45.

A general reference work containing 625 concise entries with 395 superb color illustrations, covering birds world-wide. A must in every bird-bander's library, this book is easy to read in large modern print. The small format will allow its convenient use in the field.

Edward M. Johnson.

Naturalist's Color Guide. Frank B. Smithe. 1976. American Museum of Natural History. New York, NY.

The American Museum of Natural History has announced the publication of a new color guide, published in two parts.

Part I is a pocket-sized looseleaf binder in which 86 selected color names are identified by the appropriate color. These colors are those most used by naturalists, with special emphasis on the colors of birds. Each color is made of long-lasting, non-fading lacquer and is located at the edge of the page for ease in making direct comparison with the object being studied. Each color is identified by the Munsell notation resulting from the spectrophotometric measurement taken before and after deposition.

Part II is a supplement, giving details of the colors chosen, discussing the works of Ridgway and other color specialists, and explaining the Munsell system.

The combined price for both parts is \$12.00. Bought separately, Part I is \$9.00, Part II is \$5.00. Members of the Museum may take a 10% discount.

The *Naturalist's Color Guide* may be ordered from The American Museum of Natural History, Publications Department, 77 West 77th St., New York, NY 10024.

Free publications dealing with birds of prey

Habitat Management Series

(Order from Bureau of Land Management, Division of Standards and Technology (360), Denver Service Center, Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225.)

Report No. 1. American Peregrine Falcon and Arctic Peregrine Falcon. Carol Snow (1972). 35 pp.

Report No. 5. Southern Bald Eagle and Northern Bald Eagle. Carol Snow (1973). 58 pp.

Report No. 7. Golden Eagle. Carol Snow (1973). 52 pp.

Report No. 8. Prairie Falcon. Carol Snow (1974). 18 pp.

Report No. 9. Gyrfalcon. Carol Snow (1974). 14 pp.

Report No. 10. Spotted Owl. Mark Zarn (1974). 22 pp.

Report No. 11. Burrowing Owl. Mark Zarn (1974). 25 pp.

Report No. 12. Osprey. Mark Zarn (1974). 25 pp.

Report No. 13. Ferruginous Hawk. Carol Snow (1974). 23 pp.

Report No. 14. Rough-legged Hawk. Mark Zarn (1975). 23 pp.

Report No. 15. Merlin. Stephen Trimble (1975). 41 pp.

Miscellaneous publications

(Order from Bureau of Land Management, Division of Wildlife (360), 18th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240)

The Potential for Management of Raptor Populations in Western Grasslands. Richard R. Olendorff and John W. Stoddart, Jr. (1974). 45 pp.

The Bald Eagle of Wolf Lodge Bay. Joseph Lint (1975). 17 pp.

Land Management for the Conservation of Birds of Prey. Richard R. Olendorff and Michael N. Kochert (1975). 15 pp.

Nesting Ecology of Golden Eagles in Elko County, Nevada. D.J. Seibert, et al. (1976). 17 pp.

Minimizing the Dangers of Nesting Studies to Raptors and Other Sensitive Species. Richard W. Fyfe and Richard R. Olendorff. (1976). 17 pp.

Report available

The Pan-American Society for the Protection of Birds has published a report entitled, "Report of the Committee on the Killing of Wild Birds for Scientific and Educational Purposes."

This publication is available for \$1.00 from either Mr. Carroll E. Pinckard, 6601 Walther Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21206 or Dr. J.B. Tatum, Dept. of Physics, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C., Canada V8W 2Y2.