

BOOK REVIEWS — RESEÑAS DE LIBROS — RESENHAS DE LIVROS

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Nearctic Avian Migrants in the Neotropics.—John H. Rappole, Eugene S. Morton, Thomas E. Lovejoy, III, & James L. Ruos. 1983. U. S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C. vi + 646 pp., 13 tables, numerous distribution maps, 9 appendixes, no index. Paper.

Aves Migratorias Neárticas en los Neotrópicos.—John H. Rappole, Eugene S. Morton, Thomas E. Lovejoy, III, & James L. Ruos. 1993. Conservation and Research Center, National Zoological Park, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. ix + 341 pp., 10 tables, numerous distribution maps, 6 figs., 5 appendixes, no index. ISBN 0-9638408-0-0. Cloth.

Attractively bound in blue cloth, “Aves Migratorias Neárticas en los Neotrópicos” appears to be a Spanish language version of “Nearctic Avian Migrants in the Neotropics,” by the same four authors, a larger format volume that was originally published in 1983 by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. The Spanish version was translated by Mario A. Ramos O., Victor Bullen, and Jorge Vega-Rivera, and is dedicated to Mario Ramos, Dwain W. Warner, and Allan R. Phillips.

Although the 1993 version treats 338 species, six more than the 1983 version, or 51–52% of the total of about 650 species that “regularly live [on the North American continent] north of Mexico” (Introducción, page 1), the general organization of the two books is the same. In both volumes, seven rather short chapters (pages 1–47 in the 1993 Spanish version: I, Introducción; II, Ecología; III,

Evolución, Distribución y Zoogeografía; IV, Importancia de las Comunidades Neotropicales para las Aves Migratorias; V, Cambio de Poblaciones en las Aves Migratoria Neárticas; VI, El Futuro de las Aves Migratoria Neárticas; VII, Recomendaciones) are followed by five long appendixes (pages 49–167: 1, Lista de Especies Consideradas Como Aves Migratorias Neárticas; 2, Uso de Hábitat por Aves Migratorias; 3, Uso de Alimento por las Aves Migratorias Neárticas; 4, Mapas de Distribución de las Aves Migratorias Neárticas en el Hemisferio Occidental; 5, Distribución y Estado de las Aves Migratorias Neárticas en los Neotrópicos por Región y País). The balance of the Spanish version, pages 169–341, consists of an extensive, partially annotated bibliography pertaining, not only to migrant birds in the Neotropics, but to other topics as well.

Absent from the 1993 Spanish version are the Author Index (Appendix 7 in the 1983 English version), the list of Scientists with Research Interests in Nearctic Migrants in the Neotropics (Appendix 8), and the Summary of Wildlife and Environmental Laws of Latin American Countries (Appendix 9, written by Byron Swift).

Another difference between the two volumes is that, whereas the bibliography of over 3000 titles was arranged by topics in the original English book, it is presented in alphabetical order of authors in the 1993 Spanish one. The reasons for these differences between the two volumes do not seem to be indicated. The lack of an index for such a reference book is to be regretted: indeed it would have added immeasurably to its usefulness.

The Spanish volume is described in the Prologo (page v) as being “a synthesis of the available information about Nearctic bird migrants in the Neotropical Region, ... designed to bring a better understanding about the management of migratory birds in the Western Hemisphere.” This was also the goal of the 1983 volume. As the 1993 Spanish edition does not appear to be a thoroughly updated version of the 1983 English one, the wished-for synthesis may not be entirely successful, as much new information published since 1983 does not seem to be included in the 1993 Spanish edition. Nevertheless, both versions constitute important documents and bring together an impressive amount of widely scattered information on migrants species in the Neotropics. To some extent, however, these two volumes are now superseded by two others, published more recently and nearly simultaneously by DeGraaf & Rappole (1995) and Rappole (1995), that I review below.—François Vuilleumier.

Neotropical Migratory Birds. Natural History, Distribution, and Population Change.—Richard M. DeGraaf, & John H. Rappole. 1995. Comstock Publishing Associates, a division of Cornell University Press, Ithaca and London. ix + 676 pp., 11 tables, numerous black and white distribution maps, 2 appendixes, index. ISBN 0-8014-8265-8. Soft cover.

“This book summarizes the life histories and distributions of 361 species of Neotropical migratory birds, species that for the most part breed in the United States and Canada and migrate to wintering grounds in the Caribbean, Mexico, and southward” (page 1). Indeed, the main part of this volume (pages 37–522) consists of species accounts, starting with the Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* (pages 37–38), and ending with the Evening Grosbeak *Coccothraustes vespertinus* (pages 521–

522). The accounts' format is standardized, so that it is easy to look up any species and to compare it with others. The English and Latin names of each species, as well as more local names (as used in Canada, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago, the West Indies generally, Chile, or Venezuela; but, apparently—and surprisingly—not Brazil or Argentina) are given, together with a diagrammatic, computer-generated map showing the outlines of the breeding and wintering distribution ranges. The text includes sections on “range,” “status,” “habitat,” and “special habitat requirements,” and a list of references (“further reading”). The Literature Cited section, an important component of this compilation, occupies pages 629–668. Although it includes a large number of references, clearly there are far fewer of them than in either of the two volumes reviewed above, namely the English-language 1983 “Nearctic Avian Migrants in the Neotropics,” or the Spanish-language, 1993 version, “Aves Migratorias Neárticas en los Neotrópicos.”

In addition, the book by DeGraaf and Rappole includes a short Introduction (pages 1–7), a brief chapter (pages 8–13) answering the question of what a Neotropical migratory bird is, and a somewhat longer chapter (pages 14–34) discussing population changes, illustrated by a table listing the Neotropical migrants for which population declines have been reported (Table 2), and another table giving some of the reasons suggested for these apparent declines (Table 3). Two long tabular appendixes (A, Breeding and Wintering Habitat Use, pages 525–583; B, Population Changes by Physiographic Region, pages 586–628), and an index of English and scientific names complete the volume. Although in many ways different from the two books by Rappole, Morton, Lovejoy, and Ruos (1983, 1993) reviewed above, and also from the book by Rappole (“The Ecology of Migrant Birds: A Neotropical Perspective”) discussed

below, the DeGraaf and Rappole volume is evidently "closely related" to the others.—François Vuilleumier.

The Ecology of Migrant Birds. A Neotropical Perspective.—John H. Rappole. 1995. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington and London. xvii + 269 pp., numerous tables, black and white figures, 5 appendixes, index of scientific names. ISBN 1-56098-514-3. Cloth.

This volume, which is clearly derived from John Rappole's three other, previously authored or co-authored books on avian migrants in the Neotropics (and reviewed above: Rappole *et al.* 1983, 1993; DeGraaf and Rappole 1995), seems to me to combine the best elements of all three under a single cover. Instead of producing an updated version of the initial, 1983 English-language volume, Rappole states (page xv) that "The publishers and I agreed that this new book, with its extensive text, tables, and figures, would have been too cumbersome if it had included updates of all of the appendixes and maps and the bibliography from the earlier versions." Rappole adds: "Therefore several of those sections have been omitted. I hope to publish them elsewhere, but in the interim they are available in the Spanish edition or from me on computer disk for a modest fee."

Ever since he completed his Ph.D. dissertation in 1976 at the University of Minnesota, John Rappole has actively pursued field and laboratory research into the ecology, behavior, geography, and evolution (see for instance "The evolution of bird migration in the Neotropics," Rappole & Tipton, *Ornitol. Neotrop.* 3: 45–55, 1992), as well as the conservation, of migrant birds in the Neotropics, focussing especially on Passeriformes and on birds that breed in the north-temperate zone and winter in the northern Neotropics. "The Ecology of Migrant Birds, A Neotropical

Perspective" represents his latest views on these topics. It is a highly readable book, packed with factual information in the form of figures, tables, and appendixes, replete with examples from the Neotropics and elsewhere as well, and full of exciting speculations that will stimulate further work. To give only one example, in Table 8.2 (pages 148–149) Rappole lists twelve predictions based on the hypothesis that "Nearctic migrant populations are controlled by breeding ground events" and twelve corresponding sets of "pertinent observations" that relate to the predictions. Although several of these "observations" are backed up by references, in other cases it is clear that no or very little research has as yet been done on these possibilities. Rappole's short (pages 151–172) but pithy final chapter, entitled simply "Conservation," makes a number of clearly enunciated and down-to-earth recommendations, grouped under the headings of "Policy," "Research," and "Management." Any ornithologist interested in migrant birds in the Neotropics (and elsewhere) should not only read this volume but also consult Rappole's three other books. Together, they constitute an impressive body of work and thought.—François Vuilleumier.

Nearctic Passerine Migrants in South America.—Raymond A. Paynter, Jr. 1995. Publications of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, No. 25, Cambridge, Massachusetts. ix + 126 pp., 3 tables, 71 figures, no index. No ISBN number. Cloth. Can be obtained from: Nuttall Ornithological Club, c/o Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138, USA. Cloth.

In his Introduction (page 1), Ray Paynter states that "The purpose of this study is to catalogue the Passerines breeding north of Mexico that migrate to South America, to

map their distribution on that continent, to determine their time of residency, and to try to interpret the significance of the geographical and temporal patterns that are found.” Paynter added: “Information on Nearctic migrants was extracted from over 500 publications concerned with the distribution of South American birds.” Both the bibliography and the locality records are stated to be contained in a computer database, permanently filed at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, which is hopefully accessible upon request by interested researchers.

Paynter plotted the occurrence of 68 species of North American breeding Passerines (9 Tyrannidae, 6 Hirundinidae, 1 Mimidae, 4 Turdidae, 1 Bombycillidae, 5 Vireonidae, 33 Parulidae, 3 Icteridae, 4 Cardinalinae, and 2 Thraupinae) on maps of South America. The bulk of this slim volume (pages 7–95) consists of the species accounts. For each account, the entries include a short text, describing the details of occurrence of that taxon in South America, and a distribution map. The length of the accounts vary, depending on the amount of information available from species to species. The maps are simple base maps, giving only the outlines of the relevant countries, and indicating the avian records by black dots. On pages 97–112, Paynter touches briefly on several topics: Distribution on the Continent (Restricted Distribution, Potential Visitants, Wider Distribution, Seasonal Variations, Long-Distance Migrants, Altitudinal Preferences, Habitat Preference), Relative Abundance, and Summer Residents. The work ends with a bibliography.

Paynter succeeded in his intended goals. The book is a pleasure to use and to consult, and it is easy to see where new information

might help complete the picture of distribution of North American breeding Passerines in South America. As more ornithologists visit South America each year, many blank areas on Paynter's maps will undoubtedly be filled in the future. For example, in a paper I published the same year that Paynter's book came out (*Ecotropica* 1: 99–145, 1995), I gave several additional records for *Hirundo rustica* (including several birds in the Diego Ramirez Islands, 60 nautical miles SW of Cape Horn) and for *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* (including records for Tierra del Fuego and other localities in Patagonia and adjacent areas), and a possible record of *Hylocichla mustelina* from south-central Chile. And in 1997 I discovered what is perhaps the main wintering ground of *Hirundo rustica* in Argentina, in the Iberá Marshes of Corrientes Province.

I have two regrets concerning Paynter's otherwise excellent book. First, I wish that the maps had included more detail to enable an interested person to determine more easily where the records were located. In particular, the base maps could have incorporated some information about relief, vegetation, and hydrography, as well as shown, at least for the larger countries in South America, some of their major political subdivisions (such as States or Provinces), and also some indications of latitude and longitude. And secondly, I was looking for more speculation on “the significance of the geographical and temporal patterns” that these maps and these records reveal. I hope that in the near future, Paynter will publish a companion and equally useful volume on the non-Passerines, and also a more complete analysis of all these data.—François Vuilleumier.