

the west bank of the Thames River as it flows through the campus of the University of Western Ontario at London. In 1962, the late Norman K. Taylor saw adult Mourning Warblers, presumably members of the same pair, feeding or attending fledgling warblers (number unrecorded) on 13 and 16 July and 2 August. In 1963, on 5 July, James A. Darley saw a female Mourning Warbler carrying food to a nest containing four young warblers which, when the author saw them later on the same day, were judged to be about five

days old. The outcome of this nest was not recorded.

Literature Cited

- Jarmain, W.R. and J.W. Leach.* 1963. Birds of Middlesex County: annotated list to May 31, 1963. The Cardinal 46: 3-27.
- Peck, G.K. and R.D. James.* 1987. Breeding Birds of Ontario: Nidology and Distribution. Vol. 2: Passerines. Life Sciences Miscellaneous Publications, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto.
- Saunders, W.E. and E.M.S. Dale.* 1933. History and list of birds in Middlesex County, Ontario. Transactions of the Royal Canadian Institute 19: 161-248.

David M. Scott, Dept. of Zoology, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario N6A 5B7

Book Reviews

Shorebirds: An Identification Guide to the Waders of the World. 1986. By Peter Hayman, John Marchant and Tony Prater. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass. 412 pp., \$54.85 (Cdn).

Shorebirds: An Identification Guide is an important book for birders, both in Ontario and throughout the world. No longer will we be forced to dig out arcane articles in obscure journals, or worse, try to figure out what a "winter" plumaged stint illustrated in a standard field guide really looks like. With the publication of this, the first complete review of the world's shorebirds, reliable and up-to-date information on their identification is readily available.

Shorebirds is divided into three sections. The introductory essay on shorebird identification is must reading for all birders, since the

lessons that it teaches are relevant to all aspects of birding. The starting point in any identification must be a firm knowledge of the common species, and the first consideration when identifying a possible stray must be the possibility of an unusual individual of a common species. This is particularly true when dealing with shorebirds, in which complex moult and wear patterns affect appearance. "Careful, unbiased observation," the authors note, "is the key to successful identification."

The introductory essay includes a comprehensive discussion of feather topography, illustrated by some very useful drawings, fol-

lowed by notes on plumage sequences and invaluable tips on ageing - critical factors in some identifications. Other factors that can affect appearance are discussed; these include wear, albinism, discolouration, lighting and colour dyeing. In the plates and text that follow, the authors recognize the importance of "gestalt", or "jizz", but give paramountcy to the minute details which must be critically examined in order to reach definitive conclusions. In general, the speciation follows that of most conventional treatments. North American readers should note the separation of Pacific from American Golden Plover, and armchair birders will delight in yet another *Calidris* — the mysterious Cox's Sandpiper. The introduction concludes with a plea for the conservation of shorebirds and their habitat, particularly migratory stop-over areas.

In a comprehensive identification guide of this sort the plates are of fundamental importance. The paintings that Peter Hayman has executed are a tribute to his ability in capturing each bird's "jizz" and the intricacies of their plumage. Several similar species, including all important plumage variations, are illustrated on each of the 88 plates. Two very useful plates picture similar plumages of stints, providing a quick visual summary of this complex group. Facing each plate are range maps and a short text, the latter noting the most important

field marks.

The main text forms the next section of the book. For each species a few introductory lines are followed by a detailed discussion on identification, voice, habits, movements, plumages, ageing and sexing, races and standardized measurements. Unlike previous articles on shorebird identification, the text is easy to read and, more importantly, hard to misinterpret. A particularly handy tool is a series of tables, located at the back of the book, summarizing the differences between difficult to identify species. The book is completed by a comprehensive bibliography, incorporating the best notes on shorebird identification.

It is hard not to be enthusiastic about this book. Nonetheless, there are a few minor problems with it. Several plates are very crowded, for example the "American Dark-legged Stint" plate has 36 pictures of two species. This profusion was necessary in order to illustrate all of the relevant plumage variations, but does make for some initial confusion. The authors have countered this by limiting the number of species per page and assigning each a number which appears in both the plates and text. The occasional painting, however, is not labeled, necessitating a careful reading of the text to determine what it represents. Another minor criticism is that one of the Least Sandpipers on the juvenile stint plate seems to be standing on the

head of a Long-toed Stint! The Semipalmated Sandpiper on the same plate is a major exception to Hayman's ability to capture the essence of most species. In the review copy I have, some of the plates are a bit dark; the Piping Plover paintings in particular fail to capture that species' "ghost-like" plumage. One item that can happily be corrected is *Shorebirds'* relegation of Jendron's Courser to the list of extinct species - not seen since 1900, it was rediscovered last year! As people use this book, errors and omissions will doubtless appear. Notwithstanding this, a careful review of the more difficult North American groups failed to unearth any errors.

Indeed, it proved to be a learning experience; how many birders are aware of the plumage detail separating juvenile Lesser from Greater Yellowlegs? (Answer: the patterning on the secondaries.) Similarly, all Ontario birders should take careful note of the variation in juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper plumages.

Ontario birders can use this book both to better understand our own native shorebirds and to familiarize ourselves with others that we might encounter in our expeditions abroad or as strays here at home. *Shorebirds* is a great read for armchair birders and an invaluable guide - no birder's library should be without it.

Mark Gawn, 1045 Alenmede Cres., Ottawa, Ontario K2B 8H2

The Bald Eagle in Canada: Proceedings of Bald Eagle Days, 1983. 1985. Edited by *Jon M. Gerrard* and *Terrence N. Ingram*. White Horse Plains Publishers. Headingly, Manitoba. 272 pp. \$20.00 (Cdn.). Available from the publisher.

Conference proceedings on a topic as specific as Canada's Bald Eagles cannot help but contain plenty of information; even the most dedicated raptorphiles will find, somewhere in this book, new and interesting material. Naturally, there are a few dull papers in a collection of 36, and some defects as well; however, *The Bald Eagle in Canada* is worth adding to the bookshelf of anyone interested in the Falconiformes of this country.

The book is dedicated in part to Charles Broley who, at age 58,

began climbing nest trees to band young Bald Eagles and continued doing so until, 2000 trees, 1200 birds and 15 years later, he had documented the DDT-induced decline of the 1950's. In fact, following the Introduction, the first of the six sections of the proceedings deals with Broley during his eagle days. There are photos of this remarkable and wiry old man standing with his rope ladder, and half way up a tree, perhaps the nest where he found the most unusual item ever - a pair of panties (called "step-ins" in those

days). Broley banded most of his eagles in Florida, but spent many of his summers in Ontario, as Gerry McKeating reports in the second paper of this section. Broley banded eagles in Ontario as well. McKeating uses Broley's information, along with historical nest records, to compare Bald Eagle nesting in southern Ontario today with the past. It's an interesting contrast, showing a dramatic decline in the 1950's from 100 plus to nine active nests in 1983. There is, of course, some hope today that change is occurring, with introductions at Long Point and, recently, an increase in the number of young fledged per active nest.

From this southern Ontario report, the reader moves into Section 2 of the book, Provincial Status Reports. This, along with Section 1, is, in my opinion, the best part of *The Bald Eagle in Canada*. Every report rightly points out deficiencies in the census techniques used and the variation in effort and money spent from province to province. In spite of these defects, I think a summary will be of interest to *Ontario Birds* readers (Table 1).

There are some provinces with first-rate banding programs. Nova Scotia stands out in terms of young banded (382 from 1978 to 1983), winter counts at bait piles, and transfer of some young for hacking in New Jersey.

In Sections 3 and 4, various Bald Eagle topics are presented

(Section 3 has refereed papers, Section 4 contains non-refereed papers) including the impact of people on nesting eagles, acid rain, radio-tracking, prey selection, the effects of forest management, trapping and banding, management strategies and behavioural observations. In a paper by Bruce Ranta on eagle management in northwestern Ontario, the implementation of the *Endangered Species Act* is detailed. The Act prohibits "destroying or interfering with or attempting to destroy or interfere with the habitat of an Endangered Species (this includes the Bald Eagle)." The Ministry of Natural Resources places a 400-800 m circular "Modified Management Area" around each eagle nest (also Osprey nests and Great Blue Heron colonies) where work can be undertaken only under the terms of a Work Permit issued by the District Office. In the inner circle (200 m in diameter) there is no tree-cutting or "major disturbance"; in the outer zone most work is allowed, but only between 1 September and 1 March.

Two other papers on nest disturbance and management by James Fraser and Gary Bortolotti are well worth reading by anyone who is even casually interested in seeing nesting raptors, not just Bald Eagles, as well as by researchers who regularly climb to nests. While eagles are well-protected, other species are not, even though they too deserve the same

kind of consideration expressed in these two papers.

There is much more of interest in these sections, including a little anecdote that emphasized the peculiarly officious thinking of some government officials. During transportation by the Pennsylvania Game Commission of six eaglets from Saskatchewan, the wildlife staff were asked by U.S. Customs to declare a value for the birds and ended up paying \$24.00 duty "for the privilege of helping to restore the national bird." Thank God they normally only have to deal with pesticides and acid rain!

The book is rounded out with two very brief sections on workshops and abstracts of papers.

Although there is a lot of good information in *The Bald Eagle in Canada*, there are also a lot of typographical errors, grammatical lapses and jargon. What the book needs more than anything is better

editing. I counted one to two typos or mistakes in grammar per page and when I found that one of the editors actually authored a paper, the reason was apparent. The information was there, but the style was shabby and clumsy. When other contributors wrote in a similar or even worse style, their contribution apparently stayed that way. How about this on page 256, for example: "To evaluate the efficacy of communication strategy elements." YUK! On page 39, the eagle itself suffers: up to this point, the editors have chosen to write "Bald Eagles" as the standard form. To begin a sentence now, they use "BALD Eagles". Fortunately, the better authors shine through, as do the data.

There are plenty of ideas here, lots of good information and some useful insights about a bird that can inspire even non-birders. The book is worth reading.

Table 1: Bald Eagle nests in Canada (1983 estimates).

Province	Number of Bald Eagle Nests
Newfoundland	72 reported by the public (although only 15% had been checked by wildlife staff)
Nova Scotia	83 (1.72 young fledged per successful nest)
New Brunswick	12-15 (1.4 young per successful nest)
Prince Edward Island	2-4
Northwestern Ontario	128 (108 young fledged in 1983)
Southern Ontario	9 (3 or more young fledged in 1983)
Manitoba	1400 estimated
Saskatchewan	11,600 estimated
Alberta	"a few dozen"
British Columbia	number of nests unknown but about 15,000 adult birds

Bruce W. Duncan, 10 Chateau Court, Hamilton, Ontario L9C 5P2

Wood Notes. 1984 By *Richard Wood*. Prentice-Hall, New Jersey. 193 pp., \$9.95 (paperback).

Wood Notes is another in a long series of recent publications written for the beginning birder. Authored by Richard Wood, a naturalist and long-time resident of Princeton, New Jersey, the book reflects his experience birding in the northeastern United States.

The first part of the book contains the author's thoughts about birding in general. For example, the proper place for bird identification is discussed relative to the more aesthetic qualities of each bird one sees. The advantages of keeping a diary of natural events, bird migration, and why birds sing are some of the other topics explored.

The second part deals with some of the more common species of birds found along the eastern seaboard of North America, aiming to summarize the appearance, song and behaviour of each.

The chatty style of *Wood Notes* creates a simple book that should appeal to the very casual or beginning birdwatcher. The information presented is, in most cases, correct; but I would challenge the publisher's claim that this book should be used as a supplement to any field guide. The reader would be much better off with books such as *Watching Birds: An Introduction to Ornithology* (Pasquier 1977).

The author takes great pains to extol the virtues of appreciating

birds for their beauty, rather than simply listing or studying them. While his point is well taken, the apparent fear that too much investigation can ruin the aesthetic pleasures of birding leads to some disappointments.

The book is anecdotal and, in many instances, lacks substance. For example, the chapter on keeping a diary of natural events stresses the importance of keeping a notebook but says nothing about how to take notes, what kind of information to record, what format is best, etc. Other chapters could have been more detailed, and hence more useful, and still not have detracted from the book's casual style.

Species accounts are primarily of common birds of the northeastern United States. As with other parts of the book, the species accounts are primarily anecdotal and short on factual information.

Wood Notes is a book for the beginning birdwatcher. Its main purpose is to promote birding rather than to be an authoritative text. Since I assume that most OFO members already have an active interest in birds, this book will have limited appeal.

Literature Cited

Pasquier, R.F. 1977. *Watching Birds: An Introduction to Ornithology*. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.

Bruce Ford, 132 King Street, Guelph, Ontario N1E 4P8