

produced such a felicitous, even synergistic, result.

Chris Leahy, a staff biologist of Massachusetts Audubon Society for which he has led birding tours throughout the world (most recently to Siberia and Mongolia), is described by John Henry Dick in Other Edens (Devin-Adair, 1979) as "one of the sharpest birders I have ever met. His experienced eyes and keen hearing could pick up a motionless trogon, a skulking wren in the darkest recesses of the forest, or quickly identify the shrill squeak of a hummingbird." Despite extensive touring, he remains an enthusiastic resident of the North Shore where he "wasted his youth watching birds, collecting dragonflies, and otherwise gratifying his senses" (Sanctuary, January 1982). He is also an expert photographer and, as this book amply attests, an accomplished writer.

If you have already invested in Terres' The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds, my advice to you is to leave that volume displayed on the coffee table and put Birdwatcher's Companion in the car or on the nightstand. Read and enjoy!



Dorothy R. Arvidson

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS COLORING BOOK by Roger Tory Peterson, Peter Alden, and John Sill depicting 262 North American species is a delightful volume, chockfull of bird silhouettes that make one's fingers yearn for colored pencils. Because the bird outlines are reasonably sized and carefully arranged, 320 drawings are included in just 64 pages. All of the species have been printed in color on the four and a half pages of cover space (the back cover folds out) by reducing artist John Sill's beautifully drawn birds to miniatures. Congratulations to the authors and to Houghton Mifflin, the publisher, for devising such a handsome, yet inexpensive, educational book. Peter Alden's clearly written text contains condensed information about bird families and bird identification and about color, habits, and habitat that fixes the birds in mind and, combined with the coloring activity, provides a useful learning technique to sharpen the awareness of birdwatchers of any age. What better way to remember the chestnut patch on the shoulder of the Dickcissel than to put it there yourself as you scan a few words about its field marks, habitat, song, and distribution? AND, this book is not solely for children! Recently I saw it in use in a Nantucket cottage where three respected birders whose combined years of experience amount to well over a century were happily filling in the outlines with 48 rainbow-hued pencils. Let us hope that the well qualified authors will produce additional volumes to cover other parts of the world. Coloring books have a widespread appeal that must extend to Mexico City and Rio de Janeiro as well as Boston or St. Louis and could very well serve the cause of conservation by offering young people anywhere a pleasant and easy way to learn about the natural world.

D.R.A.



Christmas Gift Specials

- The new Roger T. Peterson/Peter Alden/John Sill *A Field Guide to the Birds Adult Coloring Book*  Now on sale for \$2.75 (compare to \$3.95 retail) plus \$.15 tax plus \$.75 postage
- The new Roger T. Peterson/Frances Tenenbaum *Field Guide to Wildflowers Adult Coloring Book*  Now on sale for \$2.75 (compare to \$3.95 retail) plus \$.15 tax plus \$.75 postage
- Roger T. Peterson *Field Guide to the Birds*, eastern edition, hard-cover, for \$10.50 plus \$.53 tax plus \$1.25 postage
- Roger T. Peterson *Field Guide to Western Birds*, paperback, for \$2.00 plus \$.10 tax plus \$1.00 postage
- Clearance Special: James Bond *Birds of the West Indies* at 30% off, for \$6.25 (compare to \$8.95 retail) plus \$.30 tax plus \$1.00 postage

Herman D'Entremont
P. O. Box 207
Newton Centre, MA 02159



COLOR-MARKED COMMON TERNS

The Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region, is continuing its program of color-marking Common Terns at two colonies in the lower Great Lakes to determine their post-breeding dispersal, migration routes and winter range.

In 1981 adults were marked with orange wing-tags and chicks with pink tags. Many of the adult tagged birds returned to their colonies in 1982 still carrying their tags. The tagged birds appeared fit and nested normally. Most tags were still clearly legible and showed little wear.

In 1982 bright blue wing tags (with black lettering) were put on adult Common Terns and black tags (with yellow lettering) on chicks just prior to fledging. Tags were put on both wings of all birds. All tags have combinations of letters and numbers (the two tags on any bird have the same combination). When you observe a tagged tern would you please report the date, location, color of the tag, and, if possible, the number/letter combination to: Banding Office, Canadian Wildlife Service, Headquarters, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1A 0E7. All reports will be acknowledged.