

vegetation, and wildlife. This is supplemented with color paintings of birds by Howard Rollin and Anne Pulich, grouped according to habitat requirements.

Of interest to life listers will be the detailed account of the rare Colima Warbler and where to find it. I can personally agree that the bird is "locally common" in several areas of the park and can be readily found from late April through June. However, I was surprised to learn that as many as 166 individuals were recently censused in one year.

The specific areas within the park that are mentioned may be found by using the book's detail map of the Big Bend area. Wauer also lightly touches on related nearby areas in southwest Texas, such as the Davis Mountains and the migratory mecca of Balmorhea Lake. In fact, this volume will be very useful to the visitor to Big Bend whether he be a birder or simply a lover of the outdoors.

The terminology used is a transition between the old and the new A. O. U. check-lists, as illustrated by the rather newly adopted "Great-tailed Grackle" and the inclusion of the now-lumped "Baltimore Oriole" and "Bullock's Oriole," as well as "Myrtle Warbler" and "Audubon's Warbler." A nice discussion based on personal experience shows the necessity of lumping Black-eared and Common Bushnits.

David T. Brown, Quincy

A Birder's Guide to Denver and Eastern Colorado, James A. Lane and Harold R. Holt, distributed by L & P Photography, Box 19401, Denver, Colorado, 80219, 136 pages, \$3.00.

Jim Lane has done it again! Birders of the 70's are certainly fortunate to have access to such "what to look for where" guides such as this book on eastern Colorado. Since this state has vast mountains and plains, the basic format of the book wisely provides many loop trips within reasonable driving time of Denver or other areas of suitable accommodation. Each loop is concisely presented and thoroughly prepared, giving the reader an accurate prediction of practically all species possible in all habitats.

While comparing my own notes of past birding trips to Colorado, I was delighted to find agreement on where to see such species as White-tailed Ptarmigan, Brown-capped Rosy Finches, Mountain Plovers, and McCown's Longspurs. However, I wish this guide had been available to lead me to Sharp-tailed Grouse, Sage Grouse, and the booming grounds of the Greater and Lesser Prairie Chickens. Also included is a list of birds with their best locations, of interest particularly to visiting listers. For birders or migration students, the chart of occurrence for the 392 species found within 50 miles of Denver will be valuable. This is followed by a listing of the frequency and habitat of mammals, amphibians, and reptiles encountered in the field.

I also find interesting some of the tips for birders, such as playing a tape recorder at low volume in order to be more attractive to birds. This book is highly recommended for library or traveler.

David T. Brown, Quincy

Autumn of the Eagle, George Laycock, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1973, 239 pages, \$6.95.

Because George Laycock's book treats such a tragic happening as the decline of the Bald Eagle, I wish that the exposition were more telling. Since the dust jacket describes Autumn of the Eagle as being "organized chronologically," it is disappointing that a solid, comprehensive picture of the eagle's plight does not emerge. The material on mass shooting and poisoning, DDT, and other persecutions is informative. Yet these chapters are admixed with others that are partly anecdotal and partly descriptive, the latter being written in a strangely old-fashioned and heavy style. For example, in describing the collapse of a tree bearing an overweight nest, the author writes, "The weight of sticks and moist decaying humus becomes a malignancy ... The old tree groans and bends ... The forest giant, shuddering and trembling, has leaned with the winds before, and stood. But on this night it dies."

Such prose distracts from the impact of Mr. Laycock's more factual account of man's appalling acts against the eagle. Moreover, this disconcerting mix affects the readability of the book for knowledgeable persons who hope that persuasive arguments for the protection of eagles will reach a larger public.

AVIS HEAD, Belmont