

Lapland Longspur:			
2,3	Duxbury, P.I.	150,26	SSBC(J.Nichols),R.Forster#
Snow Bunting:			
thr.,2	Sandwich,Salisbury	250+,1000	R.Pease,BBC(V.Albee)
5,11,16	Holden,Squantum,P.I.	14,7,200	B.Blodget,E.Morrier,D.Brown

BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA, by Michael Morcombe, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1974, \$7.95.

This colorful book which has been out in Australia for several years is now available in the United States. It has superb color photographs of about 80 species, many taken by electronic flash as fast as 1/7000 of a second.

With so many birds illustrated with their wings in all sorts of contortions, it is hard to visualize what some of them really look like. The selection of species emphasizes colorful birds to the exclusion of thornbills, grass-wrens, sandpipers and the like. In a book aimed at beginners, non-birders, and tourists, this is to be expected.

Michael Morcombe and the publishers should be congratulated on producing one of the first books of bird photographs free from glaring misidentifications. The text is minimal, perhaps too short. Readers contemplating a trip to Australia will find this book whetting their appetite even more.

Those of you who already own Wild Australia, by Michael Morcombe, (Taplinger Press, New York, 1972, \$7.95) will be most disturbed to find that many of the plates are exactly the same in both books and that you are paying twice for more of the same.

Peter Alden

#### "Weather or Not"

Nancy Claflin wrote to Don Kent early in January to find out why our sunsets had been so intense. He said that the clear air was a result of strong winds at high levels and an absence of stable air masses over the United States for six weeks. Upper winds had been blowing at twice the normal speed at all levels. Our high-pressure areas have been coming at us from the west and southwest and not from the northwest as is usual. The highs and lows have been racing past so that we seem to get rain or rain and snow every other day with sun in between.

Could this strong west-east pattern of winds explain some of the specialties seen in January: Varied Thrush, Northern Three-toed Woodpecker; Black Backed Three-toed Woodpecker and Black Headed Grosbeak in New England and the Mountain Bluebird in New York?

P. B.



NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER

Photo by Bruce A. Sorrie, February 1, 1975 - Harvard, Massachusetts