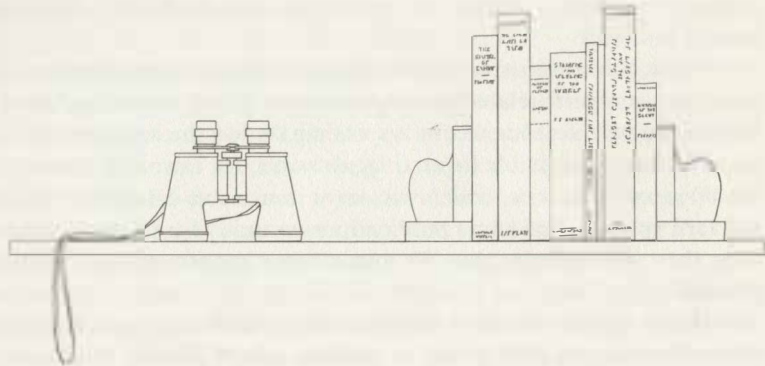


## Reviews

Edited by

ELAINE COOK



**Parrots of the World** — Joseph M. Forshaw, illustrated by William T. Cooper. Second (revised) edition 1978. Lansdowne Editions, Melbourne, Australia. 616 pp.

Available in the United States at:

International Scholarly Book Services, Inc., Dept. P  
2130 Pacific Avenue  
Forest Grove, Oregon 97116  
Price (Fall 1979) \$39.50 plus \$1.50 shipping

and

Buteo Books  
P.O. Box 481  
Vermillion, South Dakota 57069  
Price (Fall 1979) \$47.50 plus \$1.00 shipping

and possibly other sources. Check your favorite dealers.

There is now a revised edition of *Parrots of the World* by Joseph M. Forshaw available in the United States. The color plates are high-quality, as in the first edition. The information on each parrot has been updated with published and unpublished data from field research through 1977.

The book's dimensions have been reduced 20 percent to 12"x8¼"x1¼" by using very narrow margins. All but the largest plates are the same size as in the original first edition.

In Vol. 1 No. 1 of this Journal, Elaine Cook reviewed a T.F.H. Publications reprint of the first edition of this book. Though one-half the price of the original first edition it was also lower in quality than the first edition, especially the color plates. It was unfortunate that this reprint was published, since the second edition came out the

same year. Now that the second edition is available in the United States the cheap reprint is obsolete. I recommend that you buy that second edition and have the current work of Joseph Forshaw, appreciate the excellent color plates of William Cooper, and support the quality printing of Lansdowne Press. — *Dirk V. Lanning*

(The Editors would like to express apologies to J. M. Forshaw for having promoted inadvertently the "wrong" edition of his book, and thanks to Dirk Lanning for sending us this notice. Lanning is a Research Associate of the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, and has recently been studying Thick-billed Parrots *Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha* in western Mexico.)

**The North American Birder's Library Lifest** — edited by Susan Roney Drennan. 1979. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday. 630 pp., 20 illus. \$24.95.

and

**The Birder's Field Notebook.** — edited by Susan Roney Drennan. 1979. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday. about 150 pp., 1 fig. \$4.95.

Publisher's address:  
Doubleday & Company, Inc.  
245 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10017

From the advertisements for these books ["a new integrated way to keep every bird you see . . . until now you have had to rely on makeshift notebooks for recording observations and data"] you might infer that together they provide a complete note-keeping system. This is not the case.

All you can really do with one copy of each book is record your lifest, state and provincial lists, thirty other lists, and details of 72 individual birds. There's no provision for recording the species and numbers of birds you see every time you're out in the field. Ergo, if you want to record that you saw 2,000 Myrtle Warblers at Chincoteague on the tenth of February 1980, you'll need to continue using whatever "makeshift" system you've developed for recording daily notes. However, the two volumes are briefly noted here, so that our readers may decide for themselves whether these would be useful additions to their note-keeping systems.

**The North American Birder's Library Lifest:** If one keeps a life list, state list, and various other whatever lists, it's convenient to be able to record them all in one place. This daunting volume was evidently designed for that purpose. A sample one-species spread is reproduced at reduced size below.

Note that the boxes for state lists are very small, 5/16 of an inch square, and you lose some of that to the lettering in the box. With a fine-tipped pen and a steady hand you can fit a date in, but there's little hope of getting a location in also. The thirty blank boxes are larger, 1/2 square, but still not expansive. However, on the positive side, there is ample space in which to lovingly inscribe all details of your life birds.

**The Birder's Field Notebook:** This is a nifty little book. Except for a brief introduction and some blank pages at the end, the entire book is made up of 72



**Waterfowl: Ducks, Geese & Swans of the World** — Frank S. Todd. 1979. San Diego, Calif.: Sea World Press. x + 399 pp., 788+ illustrations, map. \$45.00.

Publisher's address:  
Sea World Press  
1250 Sixth Avenue  
San Diego, California 92101

Recently, we have seen a plethora of new "duck books" (several of which are noted briefly after this review); however, we think you should take special note of this fine book. Its aim, from the preface, is "to increase public appreciation of waterfowl by providing a single volume that photographically depicts virtually *all* species and subspecies of waterfowl in color." This aim is more than accomplished; not only the photographs, but moreover the text, should increase your appreciation for and knowledge of the waterfowl.

The sheer abundance of color photographs in the book is staggering: there are nearly 800 in total, each is beautifully reproduced, and the great majority were taken by Frank S. Todd himself. Lest you fear that all these photos are of drakes floating on placid ponds, let me assure you that they are not. There are indeed pictures of drakes sitting on ponds, but there are also ducks taking off, flying, landing, preening, feeding, courting, and copulating. There are photos of waterfowl habitats, nests, eggs, tiny ducklings, large ducklings, juvenile birds, adult males and females of various subspecies. And there are a variety of miscellaneous shots that include animals that eat ducks and eggs (bears, alligators, skuas), Eskimos hunting ducks, ducks being banded, plants to grow in your zoo to keep ducks where you want them, and people being attacked by ducks. Two particularly striking pictures are one of Lesser Magellan Geese *Chloephaga p. picta* flying against mountains in Tierra del Fuego and a 1929 picture of an English aviculturalist's duck pond that has on it three living Pink-headed Ducks *Rhodonessa caryophyllacea*, a species that is now extinct.

The text flows around the photographs, avoiding a strict format but presenting basic natural history information for every species and subspecies of duck, goose, swan, and screamer in the world. Among the types of information commented on for most species are the birds' range (migration routes, if any), status, appearance, feeding habits, calls, nests, eggs, and ease or difficulty of being maintained and bred in captivity. Before the species descriptions, there is an introduction to waterfowl and brief summary of classification. The text concludes with an interesting chapter about displaying, maintaining, and propagating waterfowl in captivity, and a chapter on man and the future of waterfowl. Two appendices are included; one is an essay by Todd explaining his photographic equipment and techniques. The other is a tabular summary of all waterfowl species and subspecies giving English and Latin names, distribution, average weights, nesting information, and status in the wild and in captivity.

Photo captions in books often read as though they were hurriedly composed between the galleys and final printing. The captions in *Waterfowl* are a happy exception to this curse; they are well-written, interesting, often include information not given in the text, and make browsing through the book a real joy.

The one slightly sour note is that the index gives only English names. If you know a bird only by its Latin name, it will probably take you a while to locate it here.

In summary, we strongly recommend this book — and commend its author/photographer, who has succeeded in communicating his fascination with the

subject in a contagious way. This volume is sure to turn many birdwatchers into confirmed waterfowl enthusiasts. — E.C.

**The Waterfowl of the World** — Jean Delacour. 1974 reprint edition. New York, N.Y.: Arco. 4 vols., slip-cased. \$150.00 (Arco Publishing Co., Inc., 219 Park Avenue S., New York, New York 10003).

Originally published from 1954 to 1964, but still *the* classic, authoritative reference on waterfowl. I have not personally examined the reprint edition; but even if the Peter Scott plates are not reproduced well (and I should hope that at this price they're perfect), the text alone is worth the money.

**Wild Geese** — M.A. Ogilvie. 1978. Berkamsted, England: T. & A.D. Poyser. 350 pp., 16 color plates, 41 tables, 40 maps, line drawings. £7.80 (T. & A.D. Poyser Limited, 281 High Street, Berkamsted, Hertfordshire, England) available in the U.S. for \$25.00 from Buteo Books, P.O. Box 481, Vermillion, South Dakota 57069.

Ogilvie uses an interesting format of discussing classification, identification, ecology, breeding, population dynamics, distribution, status, migration, and conservation of the world's geese in separate comprehensive chapters rather than under species accounts. For example, migration patterns are discussed for all goose species in one fell swoop. Since the excellent index will get you to everything on, for example, Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*, the format is not a hindrance. Rather, the text becomes fascinating since comparisons and analogies between species are explored and commented on. Regrettably, Ogilvie omitted the unique, aberrant Nene *Branta sandvicensis*; he states in the introduction that there is a comprehensive monograph on the Nene in the works.

**Wildfowl of the World** — Eric Soothill and Peter Whitehead. 1978. Dorset, England: Blandford Press. viii + 297 pp., color plates, maps, line drawings. £7.50 (Blandford Press Ltd., Link House, West Street, Poole, Dorset BH15 1LL, England) available in the U.S. for \$14.95 from Sterling Publishing Co., 2 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10016.

Only 128 species of waterfowl are included in this book, of a total count of about 150 species. The omissions range from obscure insular forms to such delights as Masked Duck *Oxyura dominica*, Whistling Swan *Cygnus columbianus*, and Torrent Duck *Merganetta armata*. The range maps and comments on identification suffer from

similar lapses. Each species account includes a color photograph; however, the majority are probably of captive birds, many with bands showing or against obviously unnatural backgrounds (e.g., a pair of Spectacled Eiders *Somateria fischeri* on brilliant green grass). The index is abysmal. On the positive side, there is an interesting list, alphabetically by country, of important wetlands for wildfowl, although Alaska has been elevated to a full nation and the USA is curiously placed between the Netherlands and Norway.

**Ducks, Geese, and Swans of the World** — Paul A. Johnsgard. 1978. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press. xxiii + 404 pp., 59 color plates, many black and white illus., 132 maps. \$35.00 (University of Nebraska Press, 901 N. 17th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588).

The format of this book resembles that of most large-scale monographs, but lacks color paintings. Each species account covers the following items: other vernacular names, subspecies and range, measurements and weights, identification and field marks, habitat and foods, social behavior, reproductive biology, status, relationships, and suggested readings. There are distribution maps for each species, some color photographs, and numerous line drawings. The dry, terse text makes this a reference book, rather than easy reading for a slow Sunday afternoon. The most interesting sections of the text are the comments on taxonomic relationships of the waterfowl; Johnsgard brings together analyses of plumage, structure, behavior, and feather proteins and makes authoritative comments on the likely relations of subspecies, species, and genera.

**A Guide to North American Waterfowl** — Paul A. Johnsgard. 1979. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press. viii + 274 pp., 31 color plates, black and white illus., maps. \$15.95 (Indiana University Press, Tenth & Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47401).

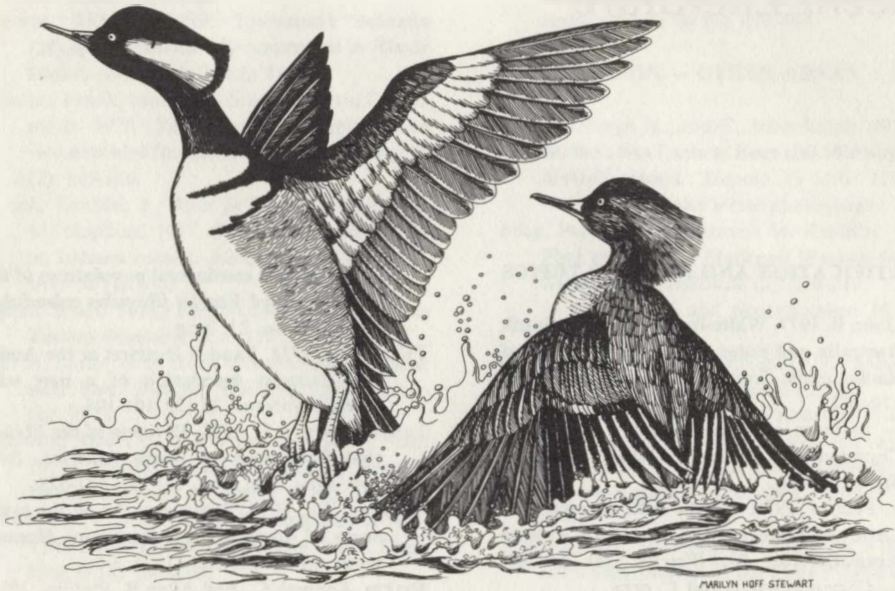
This is a rewritten version of the preceding book limited to species regularly occurring in North America. Unfortunately, the interesting sections on taxonomic relationships in *Ducks, Geese, and Swans of the World* are omitted here. As with Johnsgard's other writings, however, this book may be counted upon as an accurate source of information.

**North American Ducks, Geese & Swans —**

Donald S. Heintzelman. 1978. New York, N.Y.: Winchester Press. xiv + 236 pp., maps, illus., 16 color plates. \$15.00 (Winchester Press, 205 East 42nd Street, New York, New York 10017).

Only 53 pages of this book directly discuss waterfowl. And unfortunately, the information covers only the species' size, field recognition, flight style, habitat, and range within North

America. The field identification material is rehashed from field guides and the ranges are described incompletely. Most of the rest of the book is a list of United States waterfowl refuges. All the information in this section is available from the U.S. Department of the Interior, which presumably explains why Canadian refuges are not included.



**NEWS FROM THE FIELD GUIDE FRONT —** It is widely known, perhaps common knowledge, that Roger Tory Peterson is in the process of redoing his eastern *Field Guide to the Birds*, with new plates, new text, and the addition of range maps. *Birds of North America* by Robbins, Bruun, Zim and Singer is also being overhauled and updated. Now another entry in this category is in the works: a guide covering all birds of North America north of Mexico is being prepared under the sponsorship of the National Geographic Society.

While the National Geographic might seem an unlikely contender in this competitive field, their book is already off to a good start. Dr. George Watson, of the U.S. National Museum, and Claudia Wilds, well-known Washington D.C. birder, have been contracted to research the basic information (including every imaginable identification problem). For the all-important question of illustrations, the Geographic reportedly has been negotiating with Guy Tudor and H. Douglas Pratt, both of whom are brilliant and experienced bird illustrators. Although we may wonder what will happen to the book if the final editing is done by non-ornithologists, for the moment at least the project shows considerable promise.