

Her labors have provided, for the first time, a virtual gold mine of raw distribution data from which future ornithologists will find the basic building blocks for countless field studies in speciation. If bird banders ever have questioned their importance in making significant contributions to current ornithological research, they need merely consider the major contributions which bird banding could play in conducting speciation studies for just a few of the taxa considered in this book. It does not matter that this volume deals with African birds. The same basic problems exist in the New World and banding can and should be included in the varied tools which both amateur and professional ornithologists use in conducting speciation investigations.

For this reason alone, I urge serious banders to examine this book even if they can not afford to purchase it. Perhaps some institutional libraries will purchase the book thereby enabling banders to have ready access to this major ornithological work. Perhaps some very ambitious bander will even undertake the preparation of a similar volume for the North or South American Continents! When that happy day arrives all persons engaged in studying New World birds will be their debt, for then we can really begin the study of the complex problems which have led to birds being what they are today.

The authors of this book, and the British Museum, deserve the very highest praise for publishing such an important contribution to ornithology and biology in its broader scope. It upholds the distinguished standard which scientists have come to expect of the British Museum.

--Reviewed by Donald S. Heintzelman.

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