

REVIEWS

Nature guide—8th edition.—Tahoma Audubon Society, 34915 4th Avenue South, Federal Way, Washington 98003. \$6.00 plus \$1.50 postage.—All naturalists who travel will find this directory useful because it contains a wealth of material that will enable them to zoom in on special birds in particular places and because of its additional natural history information. Listed are names, addresses and telephone numbers of local birders and guides in the United States (29 for Florida), Canada, Mexico, and some 30 other countries in Central and South America, Europe, the Middle East, the Western Pacific, and Africa.

Symbols following the names of the guides indicate the particular interest, if any, of each guide, with birds being assumed to be of universal interest. Other listed interests include botany, edible wild foods, geology, mammals, insects/butterflies, mushrooms, natural history, photography, reptiles/amphibians, trees, wildflowers, wildlife artists. This classification index could be invaluable.

Other information includes: detailed directions for 10 U.S. and one Canadian hawkwatching lookouts with some contacts; telephone numbers for Rare Bird Alerts in more than 30 cities; 2 maps (U.S. National Wildlife Refuges and National Wildlife Areas of Canada); a list of suggested publications (books and magazines) for reference; and nature centers in the U.S. and Canada listed by cities, with 64 for Florida. We noted one error—under nature centers in New York City—Rockland Lake is listed as 18 miles south of NYC when in fact it is north of the city.

The Seattle Audubon Society offers a Code of Birding Ethics, which includes actions relating to thoughtfulness of birds, thoughtfulness of habitat, and thoughtfulness of birders—good suggestions to follow.

We are listed in this guide, and we occasionally receive telephone calls and letters. We try to direct the enquirer to the birds they are seeking and suggest suitable birding spots.

We have used this guide on several occasions, most recently on a July birding trip to British Columbia. Before leaving home we contacted (by letter) a listing from Victoria on Vancouver Island, and we made a telephone contact in Vancouver city upon arrival. The information we received led to some spectacular sightings in both locations. Our Vancouver contact brought us a Blue Grouse that performed its amazing display within a few feet. Our Victoria contact directed us to a possible location for the introduced Eurasian Skylark. During our stop for the Skylark we observed a handsome male Yellow-headed Blackbird, a “vagrant” in Victoria, that subsequently was featured on the Victoria Hotline. Then came an unbelievable sighting of 2 Curlew Sandpipers—a bird that had only been dreamed of and admired in our field guide!

In Victoria we were invited to meet with a group that each Tuesday morning searches out the “good” birds and visits locally productive spots. At the first stop, we found the earliest migrating Black Turnstones of the season. The group was interested to see that we found the birds we wanted. Other

people we have contacted in Manitoba and Texas through this guide have responded just as eagerly as our British Columbia contacts and done their utmost to assist us.

Thus, having been on both ends of the information exchange, we endorse the cooperative spirit on which this nature guide is founded, and we regard this 8th edition as a helpful addition to any trip and recommend it.—**Stanley Stedman and Annette Stedman**, 1156 Casey Key Road, Nokomis, Florida 33555.

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The Living Bird Quarterly.—Published by the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850. "Free" to members of the Laboratory; but annual membership is \$25.—Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology has a rich and honored tradition of promoting the knowledge and appreciation of birds in North America. Cornell was the first institution on the continent to grant advanced degrees in ornithology; a list of its graduates is a Who's Who of Ornithology (e.g., Dean Amadon, Stephan Eaton, Ernest P. Edwards, John Emlen, Robert and Millicent Ficken, and Ludlow Griscom only get us a quarter-way through the alphabet). In the early 1960s when the Laboratory considered an annual publication, board member Roger Tory Peterson urged that the journal be aimed at amateur ornithologists as well as professionals, and he suggested the name *The Living Bird*. The first annual *Living Bird*, published in 1962, quickly established itself as unique among bird journals. It published major reviews of disciplines and taxonomic groups, original reports of research, and exciting new discoveries and all were combined with beautiful art and photography. *The Living Bird* continued annually through 1978; a biennial was published for 1979-1980.

In truth Peterson's desire for a lay-oriented journal was never really satisfied by *The Living Bird* beyond the aesthetics of its art; the annual was too technical to appeal to a wide audience. The future of *The Living Bird* is unclear; it may resume. Meanwhile, the Laboratory has designed *The Living Bird Quarterly* "to present current research and other technical ornithological information in a manner easily understood by nonprofessionals." The first issue was for Summer 1982; now four issues are available, allowing an assessment of the journal's first year of published material.

Anyone interested in birds should enjoy seeing this journal. An 8½ x 11 inch, 25-30 page package allows easy handling. The color is lavish and well-registered. The art and photography are excellent. Articles are nicely written and illustrated but more importantly, they are authoritative. Included are migration papers by Brian Harrington and Charles Walcott, Walter Spofford on raptors, and Tom Cade on Peregrine Falcons. James L. Gulledge in "Sounds we call songs," the first of a series of articles on bird communication, presents the acoustics of bird song in a manner that avoids the normally dry technical quality of the subject. A soundsheet included with the article reproduces the lovely songs of thrushes first normally and then at one-quarter speed, the latter revealing an extraordinary complexity. A valuable part of each issue is the Research & Review section, which presents readable synopses of research reports from technical journals such as *Animal Behaviour*, *Oecologia*, and *The American Naturalist*.