

- WHITE, T. 1986. Collared Dove: the next new North American species? *Birding* 18: 150-152.—Brief discussion of species spread through western Europe and Iceland; its presence on the Bahamas; and field marks. Includes photo from Homestead, Dade Co., June 1986.
- WOOLFENDEN, G. E., AND J. W. FITZPATRICK. 1986. Sexual asymmetries in the life history of the Florida Scrub Jay. Pp. 87-107 *in* *Ecological aspects of social evolution* (Rubenstein, D. I. and R. W. Wrangham eds.). Princeton Univ. Press, Princeton.—Based on work done at Archbold Biological Station, Highlands Co.
- ZINK, R. M., AND J. V. REMSEN. 1986. Evolution processes and patterns of geographic variation in birds. *Curr. Ornithol.* 4: 1-69.—Lists dark, pale, and other subspecies of the Florida peninsula.

Florida Field Naturalist 16: 16-21, 1988.

REVIEWS

Birds of south Florida, an interpretive guide.—Connie Toops and Willard E. Dille. 1986. Conway, Arkansas. River Road Press. 150 pp., 1 figure, 51 photographs, 2 maps. Soft cover, \$9.50.—This is an introduction to the birds of south Florida for beginning birders and visitors. It is an attractive, generally well-written guide to a fascinating region. The many photographs add to the appeal of the book; they are of fine quality.

Chapters One and Two describe the birding environment in south Florida. Chapter One, *Wings Over South Florida*, discusses the geographical, climatological, and historical framework of birding in this area. In it are discussed such topics as plume hunting and the influence of the Caribbean on this avifauna. "South Florida" is not closely defined, which is perhaps as it should be. The map is difficult to interpret with all the similar colors and overlays. Chapter Two, *Land Unlike Any Other*, describes the major habitats of birds in south Florida. The comments on appropriate birding behavior around rookeries are especially well put. I like the treatment of urban and suburban habitats. South Florida has some very fine city parks that provide excellent birding.

Chapter Three, *Best Birding: a Review of Parks and Refuges*, describes the many parks and refuges. A nice feature is the addresses and phone numbers given for many of the areas. Some of the information is a little dated; Bayfront Park in downtown Miami has not existed for two years.

Chapter Four, *The Birds of South Florida*, is an annotated list of birds. The list scrupulously follows the Sixth Edition of the A.O.U. Check-list (American Ornithologists' Union 1983, Check-list of North American Birds, sixth edition, Lawrence, Kansas: Allen Press) in nomenclature and order. Each species account follows a similar pattern: abundance, season, habitat, and notes.

For the most part, this list is extremely up-to-date. Mentioned in the notes are the nesting of Black-shouldered Kites in Broward County in 1986 and the Collared Doves, which were first noticed in south Dade County in 1986. There is no mention, however, of the Bahama Mockingbird in a suburban backyard in West Palm Beach in 1985. The Shiny Cowbirds that appeared in the Keys in 1985 and 1986 are not mentioned. There is some dated information here, as well. The Snail Kite, for instance, is listed as "most likely to be seen at Loxahatchee, where it nests." Snail Kites have become very scarce at Loxahatchee in recent years, at least in areas accessible to the casual birder. I was particularly distressed to see the Java Sparrow still on the main list. Unfortunately, that bird is harder to exterminate in print than in the wild!

This list was obviously compiled from the published lists of the major parks and refuges with some help from Christmas Bird Counts; smaller, often as productive, areas are given

short shrift. How can one discuss Turkey Vultures in south Florida without mentioning the wintering flocks at the Dade County Courthouse? There is likewise no mention of the Peregrine Falcons that winter regularly in the "canyons" of downtown Miami. The Ring-necked Duck is listed as "fairly common," but is actually abundant on small ponds throughout the suburban areas in winter. There is no mention anywhere of the tremendous numbers of shorebirds in the sugar cane fields of Palm Beach County.

I am generally sorry to see accidentals given such attention, especially in a book intended for a general audience; in a book of this type, they should probably be relegated to an appendix. If accidentals are to be listed, the list should be complete. The Cuban Martin is listed, yet there are no recent records. La Sagra's Flycatcher is not listed, although there are two thoroughly documented records in recent years. Ruddy Quail-Dove is not mentioned, although there are more records than for Antillean Palm-Swift, Thick-billed Vireo, or Bahama Yellowthroat (American Birding Association 1986, ABA Checklist, third edition, Austin, Texas: ABA.). The record of the Bahama Yellowthroat, by the way, is not considered fully documented by either the AOU or the ABA. The comments on abundance also can be seriously misleading with regard to the accidentals. For instance, Brant is listed as "a visitor to the Everglades from early December through March" and the Tawny-shouldered Blackbird is "possible to see with flocks of native blackbirds or grackles."

A few species accounts particularly bothered me. Roseate Spoonbills are noted to "spend the summer near Sanibel Island," implying that they are found nowhere else. The Sharp-shinned Hawk is described as "secretive"; my friends with feeders tell me otherwise. "Flocks of 50 to 100" Dunlin are described. I hope they meant 50 to 100 *thousand*. The Monk Parakeet is described as "uncommon," which it certainly is not. "Vermilion Flycatcher" is misspelled, as is "nuptial" on several occasions. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck and Purple Finch are reported from Everglades National Park, though neither appears on the most recent checklist (Robertson et al. 1984, Birds of Everglades National Park, Homestead, Florida: Everglades Natural History Association), which is cited in the bibliography of this book. Conversely, Golden Eagles are passed off as immature Bald Eagles, though Golden Eagle appears on the Everglades National Park checklist.

Chapter Five, Exotic Update, discusses exotic birds in south Florida. The introductory material is excellent, but the list is very spotty and dated. Anything written about exotics in south Florida is guaranteed to be out of date before it hits the bookstores. Unfortunately, this chapter was out of date several years ago. At least the Blue-gray Tanager has been relegated to a small epitaph in the text. Hispaniola Parakeets have not been reliably reported in Dade County since 1977. The Brown-throated and Orange-chinned parakeets are described as "increasingly common in the Miami area." If so, the colonies are not known to this reviewer. Some recent arrivals, like the Crested Myna, are listed, while others, like the Yellow-fronted Canary, are not. No mention is made of the two distinct races of Canary-winged Parakeets flying around Miami, if I may return to Chapter Four for a moment. The Green-cheeked Parakeet can be confused with the Red-crowned Parrot only in the somewhat idiosyncratic nomenclature of Forshaw and Cooper's "Parrots of the World" (1977, Neptune, New Jersey: TFH Publications/Doubleday), in which *Amazona viridigenalis* is called Green-cheeked Amazon because they used Red-crowned Amazon for another species.

This book is not intended as a field guide or bird-finding guide, except in the most general way. I feel that the book could have benefitted from more local review. There is too much emphasis on accidentals, which will mislead birders new to the area. As an introduction to a fascinating region with an equally fascinating avifauna, however, it succeeds quite well. I already find myself wondering "what Toops has to say." My advice is to go out and get one, tear out the exotics chapter, and enjoy. Too bad you will lose the wonderful photo on page 139.—**Bruce D. Neville**, 8221 SW 72 Avenue, Apt. 273, Miami, Florida 33143.