Hawks in flight.—Pete Dunne, David Sibley, and Clay Sutton. 1988. Boston, Houghton Mifflin Co. 167 pages of text; 77 pages of black and white photographs; numerous pen and ink drawings. $17.95.—An entirely new approach to the art of raptor identification is brought to light within this book. Dunne, Sibley, and Sutton take what some consider to be "magic" and simplify it to the point where even the novice hawk watcher stands a good chance of identifying that barely discernable raptor soaring over the mountain ridge. The authors base their book on the holistic or gestalt school of bird identification. Instead of focusing on fine points of plumage or on eye color, the holistic approach emphasizes the use of size, shape, color and behavior to give an overall impression of the bird in question. For those well versed in the Peterson System of bird identification, it is a simple and rather obvious leap over to the holistic approach.

This book is not meant to be a field guide in the traditional sense, yet it should prove useful there. Instead, this book is meant to be read and studied *before* going in the field. The seven chapters on identification provide detailed descriptions of each species, including portrayals of their ranges and behaviors, identifying field marks and sections comparing and contrasting similar birds. The pen and ink drawings accompanying each chapter depict the birds as they are likely to be seen by the observer and show age and sex differences where they occur.

Of the some 38 species of raptors found within the geographical limits of North America, only 23 species are treated. These being selected for their extensive ranges and long or medium distance migrations. "Hawks in Flight" has an admittedly eastern bias and is useful only for those birds which migrate in great. numbers each fall and spring. Hawk watchers in the southwest, especially Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, may find this book somewhat frustrating. No mention is made of the many raptors restricted to this area except for the Zone-tailed Hawk which is discussed only in enough detail to avoid confusion with the Turkey Vulture. Floridians will find that the Florida race of the Red-tailed Hawk, the Short-tailed Hawk, the Snail Kite and the Caracara are omitted. All of these omissions are readily acknowledged by the authors as being outside the scope of this book, but a section on these birds would greatly expand its usefullness.

The only other problem I have with this book is the photographs. In terms of quality, they range from very good to poor. Many of the photographs are out of focus or enlarged to the point where they are too grainy to be of much use. The authors selected the photos because they "best illustrate key points and present images that will be seen from the hawk-watching arena." Adequate photographs of distant raptors are admittedly difficult to achieve, but I think the authors could have done much better in their choice of photographs.

I enjoyed "Hawks in Flight" and found it very helpful in clarifying many of the finer points of raptor identification. The few critical comments I have made about the book are not serious ones and I would recommend this book to the novice as well as to the experienced hawk watcher. It is, as the authors intended it to be, entertaining as well as informative and well worth its modest price.—**Sean J. Kirkpatrick,** Department of Biology, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida 33124.

REPORT

Summary of the 1988 fall meeting.—The fall 1988 meeting of the Florida Ornithological Society was held at the Marriott Dadeland in Miami, Florida, from 7-9 October. Tropical Audubon Society was the host chapter, and Bruce Neville was the local committee chairman.

During the Board meeting on Friday, Wayne Hoffman was appointed to the FOS Records Committee. Rich Paul reported that Cynthia Wolf of the University of Florida had been awarded the Helen and Allan Cruickshank Research Award for work on "Growth and