

REVIEWS

Hall, George A. 1983. *West Virginia Birds*. Special Publication of Carnegie Museum of Natural History, No. 7, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. 180 pp. color frontispiece, 21 black-and-white photographs, numerous maps and line drawings. \$20.

Here is one of the ornithological book bargains of the decade! "West Virginia Birds" is a state bird book that was done with the user in mind. The text is divided into four main sections: a description of the West Virginia environment, a history of ornithology in the state, an analysis of the origins and affinities of West Virginia's avifauna, and the species accounts. A preface to the species accounts defines terms denoting status and abundance and discusses the types and sources of data used in preparing the accounts. Each of the species accounts is organized into categories which allow the user to quickly determine species' status, arrival and departure dates, seasonal records, and location of specimens. A "Remarks" section for many species includes such things as comments on population changes, conservation, and taxonomic problems.

The utility of the book is enhanced by a gazetteer of localities mentioned, a compilation of uncited literature arranged by county, and a lengthy compilation of literature cited. The frontispiece and line drawings by George Miksch Sutton and the 21 black-and-white photographs by Hal Harrison add greatly to the "visual appeal" of the book.

"West Virginia Birds" is a book done with a level of expertise that is rarely matched. George Hall knows West Virginia birds! It will be an extremely useful reference book for anyone interested in the avifauna of West Virginia or any of the surrounding states. Finally, "West Virginia Birds" is a fine model for efficiency and clarity of writing. I highly recommend it.--J.A.J.

Jordan, W.J., and J. Hughes. 1983. *Care of the Wild*. Rawson Associates, New York. 223 pp. \$13.95.

This book is about caring for injured and sick wild animals, and it is obviously a British book adapted for an American audience. Only the first 83 pages deal with birds.

These are divided into chapters on waterfowl, other swimming birds and seabirds, waders, gamebirds, raptors, other birds, and oil pollution. Simple line drawings effectively illustrate such items as methods of restraining, force-feeding, and bandaging birds. Advice given seems sound and useful, although I would have much preferred to see more about small birds, and some of the claims made for the book on the dust jacket are preposterous: it does not "identify all major species indigenous to the U.S.A.," nor does it include "a full list of organizations that offer help and support for wildlife, plus wildlife laws for each state." A few rehabilitation centers are listed and two pages mention some federal laws dealing with wildlife. The non-bird parts of the book also seem useful, but incomplete. A few subjects seem strangely out of place - such as a whole section on the benefits of having some insects in your garden and problems with others. Spiders are included in the chapter on insects!

I found this book interesting and easy to read and generally useful in the recommendations given. In assigning a "grade" to it, I would mark it down for comprehensiveness and some problems lost in "translation" from the British fauna to the American fauna. But it still rates a "B" and would be a useful addition to any public library.--J.A.J.

Cooper, J.E., and J.T. Eley, (eds.). 1979. First Aid and Care of Wild Birds. David & Charles, North Pomfret, Vermont. 288 pp., numerous black-and-white photographs and line drawings. \$26.00.

This book is a compilation of chapters by numerous authors, each of whom is an expert in the subject discussed. Most of the authors are British, but the problems discussed and recommendations given are quite applicable to North American birds. The styles and quality of writing vary from author to author, but in general this is a very readable and useful volume. Introductory chapters deal with general care given to a wild bird, legal aspects of caring for wild birds, general anatomy and physiology of birds, and classification and behavior of birds. Other chapters deal with examining birds, diagnosing disease, feeding birds in captivity, treating injuries, and coping with infectious diseases, parasites, poisons, and oil pollution. A chapter on anaesthesia and euthanasia may be of use to a veterinarian, but is not of much use to the backyard

birder. However, many veterinarians have only minimal knowledge of avian medicine and it might not hurt to take this book along if you decide to take an injured bird to a vet who doesn't normally deal with birds. Chapters on raptors and waterfowl and on cage and aviary design are oriented more toward "bird-keepers" and are limited in scope. Appendices reveal the British origin of this volume in that the list of "useful addresses" includes no American ones. It is too bad that a similar list could not have been inserted for the American audience.

In general this is a fine volume that is worth a place on any serious bird lover's shelf - if he or she is prone to taking in injured and sick birds. There is a great deal covered in the book, but chapters are often very narrow in scope, but detailed in what is covered. For the average concerned birder, I would prefer a more broader coverage with a less clinical approach.--J.A.J.