

would sit quietly in some nearby tree.

The other birds here showed him no special notice, nor did he exhibit any discernible reaction to them. They mingled together while feeding.

We do have a few previous records of the Black-headed Grosbeak in Mississippi, but to my knowledge this is the only photograph taken of the species in our state.

The Black-headed Grosbeak is a western species, normally ranging from the eastern foothills of the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific and from British Columbia to Saskatchewan and south to Mexico. The species winters mainly in Mexico.

The occurrence of this Black-headed Grosbeak this far east at this season of the year is unusual; some of us suspect that its arrival here was aided by the extremely strong and persistently prevailing westerlies, unusual for our latitude, that we have experienced all winter.

Reviews

A Guide to Bird Finding East of the Mississippi, Second Edition. By Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. Oxford University Press, New York, New York, 1977: 689 pp., black-and-white drawings by George Miksch Sutton. \$15.95 (hardcover).

As a young bird-watcher, aside from my field guide, there was one book which made my hobby more pleasurable and which always had the answer when I visited a new area and wanted to find new birds. That book was "A Guide to Bird Finding East of the Mississippi", which had been published in 1951. I never ceased to be amazed at the accuracy with which Pettingill's directions would lead me to the bird I sought - and I was using the book in the 1960's, over ten years after it had been written. Now the guide has been revised and brought up to date. As with the first edition, "A Guide to Bird Finding" is a series of chapters organized by state and arranged alphabetically. The section on each state first describes the physiographic regions of the state and the kinds of birds to be found in each. Often there is a brief comment on the state of ornithological knowledge of the area. The general comments are followed by several guides to specific, good birding sites within the state. These site guides tell you what can be found where and when it will be there. Directions for getting to a particular place are very easy to follow. Sewall credits the accuracy and clarity of these directions to his "pilot" and wife, Eleanor. Doc Sutton's line drawings add a fine touch to the book. I was particularly pleased to find his Red-cockaded Woodpecker drawing on the page for Starkville, Mississippi. Bird-finders in Mississippi will find the 17 page chapter on our state to be very useful. Site guides are included for Biloxi (and the Gulf Islands), Clarksdale (Moon Lake), Greenville (Lake Washington, Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge), Gulfport (Harrison Experimental Forest), Iuka (Tishomingo State Park), Jackson

(Ross Barnett Reservoir), Rosedale (Legion Lake, Lake Bolivar, Lake Concordia), and Starkville (Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge).

Without a doubt, if you're interested in bird-watching, you'll want a copy of this book to pack along with you wherever you go!--J. A. Jackson, Box Z, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Alabama Birds, Second Edition. By Thomas A. Imhof. The University of Alabama Press, University, Alabama, 1976: 445 pp., numerous paintings, drawings, black-and-white and color photographs. \$22.50 (hardcover).

The first edition of Alabama Birds was, in my opinion, one of the best, most useful state bird books. The second edition maintains that status. It contains more recent bird records and some interesting analyses of range expansion (e.g., Barn Swallows) and Christmas Bird Counts (e.g., waterfowl) populations have been declining in the Birmingham area). The systematic arrangement of birds includes a brief description of each species, its nesting, food, distribution, and status in Alabama. Maps showing seasonal distribution in the state are very helpful. In addition to the fine artwork by Richard A. Parks and David C. Hulse which appeared in the first edition, this edition has 24 small, color photographs and several new black-and-white photographs by a number of individuals. These add interest to the book and will no doubt stimulate more interest in Alabama birds because Imhof has "allowed" so many people to contribute to the book's production. The second edition is nearly 150 pages shorter than the first. Much of the reduced length is probably due to the smaller margins and generally more "crowded" pages. These and the thin paper on which the book was printed, resulting in some annoying "bleed through" from one page to the next, detract from what is otherwise a very scholarly, very useable, and very important contribution to American ornithology. Without a state bird book of our own, Mississippians will find Alabama Birds to be an excellent reference.--J. A. Jackson, Box Z, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Another Penguin Summer. By Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, New York, 1975: 80 pp., numerous black-and-white and color photographs. \$10.00 (hardcover).

Sewall Pettingill doesn't need to be introduced to most of us. We've seen his wildlife films and used his books and know that he is a master at wildlife photography and popular writing. This book is another enjoyable "Pettingill production". From it you will learn about the unusual social behavior and everyday lives of five species of penguins that can be found on the Falkland Islands. Following a 32 page narrative there are 48 pages

of photographs which depict penguins in all their splendor. While penguins are mostly black-and-white, variation in color and pattern on the head and chest distinguish the various species. Pettingill has captured in words and photographs the efforts of penguins migrating across land from the sea to their nesting grounds, their courtship, struggles in building and protecting their nest, the long incubation period, and caring for chicks. This is a book that can be appreciated by young and old. I thoroughly enjoyed it and I can hardly wait to see the lecture film by the same title that the Pettingills made on the trip to the Falklands.--J. A. Jackson, Box Z, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

For The Love of An Eagle. By Jeanne Cowden. David McKay Company, Inc. New York, 1976: 165 pp., 16 pages of color pictures, 4 pages black-and-white photographs. \$9.95.

This book deals with the observations and filming of a family of Black Eagles in South Africa. During this time the eagles were successful in fledging one eaglet each year. It is difficult to determine if the behavior described was actual or a figment of the imagination since the author often writes of the eagles as if they were human. The book does make interesting reading if you like stories about eagles. Part of this book was published in the National Geographic Magazine in 1969.--Ray E. Weeks, Huntington House, Apt. 5, Kosciusko, MS 39090.

Rocky Mountain Wildlife. By Don Blood, Tom W. Hall, and Susan Im Baumgarten. Hancock House Publishers, Seattle, Washington, 1976: 132 pp., numerous black-and-white and color photographs, line drawings, and maps. \$???? (hardcover).

This is an excellent popular account of the natural history of many of the birds and mammals of the Rocky Mountains from British Columbia and Alberta to southern Colorado. Most pages have several well-reproduced photographs, many in color. The first 30 pages of the book are an introduction to Rocky Mountain ecology and include discussion of the various plant and animal communities and how they are affected by climate, topography, and one another. Approximately the next 100 pages are devoted to the natural history of mountain mammals. A mere 36 pages are devoted to birds. The bird section is generally well done, but incomplete - at least I would have preferred more. The final section of the book is a series of vignettes giving field guide type information for nearly fifty species of Rocky Mountain mammals. This is not a field guide, but would be a handy reference. It is a fine "coffee table" book - one that can be spontaneously opened to any page and enjoyed.--J. A. Jackson, Box Z, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Birds of Utah. By C. Lynn Hayward, Clarence Cottam, Angus M. Woodbury, and Herbert H. Frost. Great Basins Naturalist Memoirs, Number 1, 1976: 229 pp., photographs, maps, paper cover. \$10.00 (Obtainable from Brigham Young University Press, Marketing Department, 204 UPS, Provo, Utah 84602.)

Though of obvious value to our western friends, this publication should be of interest to most birders from professional to weekender. The text is well written (illustrated with 65 photos) and is divided into two sections. First the introduction provides the reader with a history of ornithology in Utah, topographical and climatic data, and a discussion of the diversity of avian habitats in the state. I found a summary of past conservation efforts of interest, though ironically, because of their absence. Apparently as late as 1930 the Utah Fish and Game Department was furnishing ammunition for slaughter of native pelicans and other fish-eating birds (one trapper interviewed in 1937 estimated that 10,000 herons were taken for bounty). The remainder of the text forms the heart of the book and is a species by species account of Utah birds. For each species the status, habitat preferences, historical distribution, and subspecies classification are given. For the M.O.S. traveler this book would be a worthwhile investment as a guide to Utah's birds though for those without the opportunity to travel the book would be of less value.--Dave Werschkul, Box Z, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

The Sequence of Plumages and Moults of the Passerine Birds of New York. By Jonathan Dwight, Jr. New York Academy of Sciences, New York, New York, 1975: 360 pp + index, 7 black-and-white plates, \$8.00 (softcover).

This is a reprint of a classic and still very useful work that was published as Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, Vol. XIII, No. 2, in 1900. Basically it is a compilation of detailed descriptions of the age and seasonal variation in the plumages of eastern songbirds. An introduction by Kenneth Parkes suggests a few of the ways in which our knowledge of plumages and molts has advanced in the 75 years since publication of Dwight's work, but it also emphasizes the lack of anything better in the way of a summary of this important area of avian biology. A new index by Katherine Gillam Price brings bird names up to date and greatly facilitates use of the book. This is a volume that belongs on every birdbander's shelf. It is an important reference work that will be useful to anyone having the need to correctly age and sex birds.--J. A. Jackson, Box Z, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

A Guide to Eastern Hawk Watching. By Donald S. Heintzelman, Keystone Books, The Pennsylvania State University Press, University Park, Pennsylvania, 1976: 99 pp., several black-and-white photographs, drawings, and maps. \$5.95 (paper bound), \$8.95 (cloth bound).

This small guide for "hawk-watchers" includes brief descriptions of the diurnal birds of prey found in the eastern United States, photographs and or drawings of each in flight, description of equipment needed for hawk-watching, a brief discussion of migration and the weather conditions favoring hawk movements, and thorough descriptions of the best places to go to find hawks. The book is organized in such a way that it is a useful and handy reference. I appreciate the careful directions given for reaching each of the good hawk-watching sites. Some of the photographs were distinctly lacking in quality, but then what we often see is a blurred bird sailing past - so perhaps the photos are realistic. If you enjoy birds of prey, you'll enjoy this book.--J. A. Jackson, Box Z, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Birds: Their Life. Their Ways. Their World. By Christopher Perrins. Harry N. Abrams, Inc., Times Mirror, New York, New York, 1976: 160 pp., numerous colored illustrations by Ad Cameron. \$19.85 (hardcover).

Here is a well-written, beautifully and profusely illustrated book on bird biology. The nine chapters in the book discuss the following general subjects: evolution, feeding, habitats, social behavior, breeding, migration, bird populations, and bird study. The illustrations in the book are not just pictures of birds, but are pictures of birds doing something - each has a special story to tell. For example, on pages 72 and 73 there is a series of paintings depicting the excavation of a nest cavity by a woodpecker and the successive use of the cavity by five other species as the cavity begins to deteriorate. Most of the illustrations are of European birds, though many of our birds are figured and discussed in the text. Because of the illustrations and the clarity of the text I think this would make a fine text for an introductory ornithology course, though it is not really organized as a text book and it does not include a bibliography or a glossary. This is a book that anyone interested in birds would enjoy and learn from.--J. A. Jackson, Box Z, Mississippi State, MS 39762.