

and 21 figures. No price given. (cloth).—This book honors the life and accomplishments of Allan R. Phillips (1914–1996), a prominent taxonomist and collector who for over six decades actively studied North American birds, particularly those of the southwestern United States and Mexico. The volume is introduced by two papers dealing with Phillips' life, character, and personality by two of Phillips' close professional associates; an affectionate biography prepared by Bob Dickerman, the compiler, and a long essay by John Hubbard. In the same vein, Roy Johnson reviewed ARP's specific contributions to Arizona ornithology. Phillips emerges as a study in high contrasts—at once a brilliant, indefatigable colleague and mentor with exhaustive knowledge of the birds and literature in the regions where he worked but at the same time a person knotted with so many complexes that irascibility, abrasiveness, and paranoia came to be the features that defined his interactions with a significant number of America's ornithologists. I remember him mostly from the latter perspective.

Whatever his mixed set of descriptors might be, Allan Phillips was easily one of the century's most unswerving advocates of specimen-related ornithology, and this volume appropriately reflects these interests. Thus, original investigations of geographic variation, taxonomy, and distribution of selected species form the core of this Festschrift. These include papers on the Flammulated Owl (*Otus flammeolus*) by Marshall, Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis*) by Dickerman, Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) by Browning, Scaly-throated Foliage-Gleaner (*Anabacerthia variegaticeps*) by Winker, Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*) by Unitt and Rea, and Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) by Parkes. One paleontologic paper is included, Rea's description of a new species of Late Pleistocene parrot (*Rhynchopsitta phillipsi*) from cave material in southern Nuevo Leon, Mexico. Webster offers an analysis of skeletal features that form the basis for a key to the genera of New World warblers. In an especially thought-provoking paper on the Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris*) and King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) complex, Olson argues persuasively for their species status, despite hybridization and phenotypic near-identity, and for

THE ERA OF ALLAN R. PHILLIPS: A FESTSCHRIFT. Compiled by Robert W. Dickerman. Horizon Communications, Albuquerque, New Mexico. 1997: 246 pp., 5 color plates, 12 black and white photos, 32 tables,

the transfer of Pacific Coastal Californian, Baja Californian, and central and western Mexican populations from the Clapper Rail, where they are currently included, to status as subspecies of the King Rail. (A broadscale genetic treatment of all populations of these rails could provide the data for a fascinating doctoral thesis.) In keeping with the collection-related theme of the book, two papers discuss specimen identification of species in difficult genera (*Empidonax* and *Contopus*; Pyle) and (*Catharus*; Patten) and another contribution by Pyle et al. offers new data on timing of molt and age criteria in North American hummingbirds. A brief nomenclatural paper by Banks unravels the complexities surrounding determination of the correct binomial for Lawrence's Flycatcher (*Lathrotriccus flaviventris*). Finally, in a paper assembled by Hubbard from partial manuscripts, Phillips discusses the problem of accurately tallying the numbers of species and subspecies of Recent birds. As a splitter, he concluded, unsurprisingly, that estimates presented by others are overly conservative.

Additional papers are clearly ecological in approach. In this category would fall the well-documented study by Ouellet on geographic variation in comparative foraging in the Downy Woodpecker and Hairy Woodpecker (*P. villosus*). Two papers in Spanish, centered in El Valle de Cuatrociénegas, Coahuila, Mexico, described the summer and autumn avifaunas of creosotebush desert (by Garcia-Salas et al.) and the breeding avifauna of mesquite-acacia shrubland (by Gonzales-Rojas et al.). With accompanying eye-popping photos, Monson noted the occurrence in 1963 of a flock of millions of Dickcissels (*Spiza americana*) in Sinaloa, Mexico, perhaps "the first and only time that probably the entire species migrated up the Pacific coast."

The book ends with (1) a list of the names and references of the nine subspecies and three species named in Phillips' honor; (2) an annotated list prepared by Dickerman and Parkes of the names, references, type localities, and, where known, the catalogue numbers and disposition of type specimen material for the 131 taxa described by Phillips; and (3) a list prepared by Hubbard et al. of Phillips' 172 publications (1933–1997). This material

will be exceptionally useful to avian taxonomists and geographers generally.

The book received minimal editing. Thus, in my review copy, the text only makes sense if one connects the words at the bottom of page one with those at the top of page 3 and if one connects the bottom of page 2 with the top of page 5 (page 4 is a photo). A page of "Corregida" corrects errors discovered on other pages as of 15 June 1997. The casual editing also allowed authors occasionally to indulge in off-the-wall ramblings (see Marshall's hysterical account of how one European buffoon maligned the taxonomy of New World *Otus*).

My copy of the Festschrift is attractively bound and should withstand regular use. The narrow margins and lack of an index are trivial weaknesses.

Overall, the contributions of this Festschrift form a solid body of new information worthy of close attention. Furthermore, *en masse* they implicitly convey the inescapable truth that collections of birds anchor ornithology both to science and to reality. The volume will be a valuable reference for anyone working in New World avian systematics and distribution, and several sections will be required reading for ornithological historians. The compiler and authors deserve appreciation for their efforts.—NED K. JOHNSON.