

## REVIEWS

EDITED BY JOHN WILLIAM HARDY

**A guide to the birds of South America.**—Rodolphe Meyer de Schauensee; illustr. by Earl L. Poole, John R. Quinn, George M. Sutton, and Maude T. Meyer de Schauensee. 1970. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia. Wynnwood, Pennsylvania, Livingston Publ. Co. Pp. xiv + 470, 31 col. pls., 19 black-and-white pls., 22 line drawings, 4 maps, cloth, 6 × 9 in. \$20.00.—This latest book by Rodolphe Meyer de Schauensee is essentially a list of the species of South American birds with brief descriptions, summaries of their ranges, and some illustrations. It is not a field guide, but as many field observers will be inclined to use it as such for want of something better, I must warn them that they will be frustrated in their attempt—too few species are illustrated, some of the illustrations are inadequate, the descriptions of the birds often do not emphasize diagnostic field marks, and ranges occasionally are abbreviated to the extent of being misleading. Rather than serving as a field guide, the book presents capsule descriptions and ranges, and hence is a reference work. A debt of gratitude is owed to Meyer de Schauensee for his industry in compiling, in his two books that treat all of South America, the avian species, ranges, and descriptions of birds of the entire “bird continent.” These books serve to stimulate zoogeographic studies, to facilitate all manner of avifaunal investigations dealing with different regions of South America, and to encourage the listing of species for particular areas by amateur and professional ornithologists preparing to visit South America. As a result we can look forward to filling more rapidly the gaps in our knowledge of the distribution, behavior, and ecology of South American birds.

The new book obviously is built about the nucleus provided by the species list and ranges in his earlier “The species of birds of South America” (see *Auk*, 86: 150, 1969), together with descriptions of the many species covered in his “The birds of Colombia” (see *Auk*, 82: 516, 1965). Of the 50 plates illustrating the new book 20 are Earl Poole’s from the latter work.

Species included total 2,926, representing 865 genera and 93 avian families. Except for the book’s short introduction, index, a two-page bibliography, a brief addendum (a further “addenda and corrigenda” came with my copy, and is available from the author if not included with the book at the time of purchase), and an appendix (several pages listing casual, accidental, doubtful, and introduced species), the text is devoted to an “account of the birds.” Within this main section, the order of species follows that of his 1966 book. Each family, and some problem genera such as *Myiarchus*, are introduced by a brief statement summarizing habits, general field marks, and coloration of the included species. A helpful “aid to identification” section often follows, in modified “key” fashion. This section serves to group the species in several categories. From the species listed (by number) in each category one can begin to devise a key to identify birds for a particular region, by eliminating listed species not occurring in that region. The species follow, each being given an initial paragraph for its description (including overall length, sometimes bill length, and coloration). The description is often keyed by number to distinctive races or racial groups, which are not cited by name; they are cited by number in the following section on distribution. A second paragraph includes the life zone occupied (for some species only), an abbreviated description of the range, and in a few words, the habitat in which the species is likely to be found. The brevity of the range description can be misleading because discontinuities in range are not readily apparent (refer to the more detailed range given in Meyer de Schauensee’s 1966 book to clarify uncertainties).

Overall, the author has packed a great deal of material into the modest amount of space in the book, which is not at all unwieldy.

Most of the errors in Meyer de Schauensee's earlier book have been corrected in this treatise, as one would expect. There are a few minor slips, some of them difficult to comprehend. The flycatcher *Gubernetes yetapa* barely enters northern Argentina, and its distribution is correct in the 1966 book, but it has "expanded" its range in the new book to include Argentina south to Buenos Aires and San Luis. Apparently someone transferred this information from the text on the range of *Yetapa risoria*, which indeed reaches those two provinces. The range of *Stigmatura napensis* includes Loreto, Peru, as a stated correction from "Ecuador" of earlier authors in the 1966 book; in the new book it inexplicably has reverted to "E Ecuador" with no explanation. An additional error is the apparently incorrect replacement of "rio Juruá" in the 1966 book by "rio Madeira" in the range for *Stigmatura napensis* in the new book. Some errors in the 1966 book recur, including omission of the extensive Argentine range of *Myiarchus tyrannulus*, the incorrect occurrence of *Philydor lichtensteini* in western Paraguay (it occurs instead in eastern Paraguay), omission of Paraguay from the range of *Columba picazuro*, and the listing of *Embernagra platensis* for eastern Paraguay, inferring that it does *not* occur in the western part of that country—it does. These areas involving the part of the continent with which I am most familiar suggest that those specializing in other areas of South America inevitably will uncover more minor mistakes.

Possibly confusing to readers of both of Meyer de Schauensee's South American books is the use of rather broad, largely altitudinally based, climatic zones. Certain species stated to occur in tropical and subtropical zones range south to northern or even central Patagonia (e.g. *Myiospiza humeralis* to Río Negro, and *Molothrus bonariensis* to Chubut, Argentina). Others listed as "tropical" actually nest in temperate southern Buenos Aires and La Pampa provinces, Argentina (e.g. *Empidonomus aurantioatrocristatus*, *Pitangus sulphuratus*). Hence these zones are used very generally, not precisely. Likewise, habitat information may be imprecise, usually because it is overly restrictive. The ibis *Theristicus caudatus*, for example, is as stated a savanna and marsh bird, but it frequents open forests lacking standing water in southern Argentina. *Gubernetes yetapa* may frequent (p. 289) "open woodland" elsewhere, but in northern Argentina I saw it only on fences in open country, and in reeds at edges of flooded pampas.

Illustrations depict 676 species, less than one-quarter of the continent's avifauna, and these represent 640 genera. Problems of identification most often involve closely related, that is, congeneric species, so these data indicate the dearth of illustrations for critical comparisons. The plates, bound together in the center of the volume, are arranged in taxonomic order within each of four categories, namely Quinn's color plates, his black-and-white plates, Poole's color plates, and lastly his black-and-white plates. Surely these could have been placed in one sequence for the reader's convenience. Many species have only their heads illustrated, despite the fact that these are less than satisfactory as Blake (Auk, 82: 518, 1965) pointed out, I am no artist, and I cannot appreciate the possible effects of color reproduction (most of Poole's color plates seem darker in tone, and particularly less yellow and orange than they are in the Colombian book), but I can state that many birds in both the color and the black-and-white plates are not illustrated adequately enough to serve the purpose of identification. The fewer plates by Poole are better than the 30 prepared, possibly in some haste (?), for the present volume by John Quinn. Poole's birds generally approximate the species depicted, although they tend to be "heavy-footed." Quinn has

moderate success with larger birds, although his choice of background colors (e.g. *brown* for tinamous, quail, and others, plate 1) reduces the effectiveness of some. However his smaller birds are afflicted with many maladies. From the standpoint of identification, major distortion is caused by overly large eyes, large bills, and inaccurate colors. Examples can be furnished from most plates, but extremes include: the eyes of *Catharus dryas* (plate 29), the fantastic eye-bill-head combination of *Chlorothraupis carmioli* (plate 19), and, for color problems plates 12 and 13. I found it necessary to check captions (plate captions, incidentally, are more complete than in the Colombian book) of about half the birds with which I am familiar, in order to make certain I was correct. About 10 percent of the species that I should have recognized could be determined only with use of captions, and, in some cases considerable imagination. Of Quinn's smaller birds perhaps his hummingbirds are the best executed. Promise for improvement is suggested by his fine flamingo and sunbittern in plate 3, parrots (plate 4), and the falconet and vulture in plate 22. Sprinkled through the text are 22 line drawings of various species by George M. Sutton, rendered in his usual, excellent manner. The end sheets are decorated by four maps drawn by Maude T. Meyer de Schauensee, showing in varying detail the political divisions and drainage systems of parts of South America.

This book will be a useful, indeed almost essential, element in the library of every person interested in South American birds. Compared with prices of recent books similar in scope and size, its cost is not excessive, even allowing for the less than satisfactory quality of some of its illustrations.—LESTER L. SHORT.

**Mating systems, sexual dimorphism, and the role of male North American passerine birds in the nesting cycle.**—Jared Verner and Mary F. Willson. 1969. Amer. Ornithol. Union, Ornithol. Monogr., No. 9. 76 pp. \$2.50.—I find it difficult to comment on a report which, by the authors' own admission, "proved generally of little value for the original purpose." The study is based on an extensive search of the literature to test the hypothesis that males of species whose mating system is polygamous spend less time on nesting activities than their counterparts in monogamous systems. For this expressed purpose, their analyses are not adequate, and to my mind the hypothesis remains untested. Considering, however, that the paper presents data on 291 species of birds gleaned from more than 1,500 sources, it could be a useful reference to the literature on the nesting behavior of North American passerine birds. But again, the review falls short of this purpose because it was not conducted with this goal in mind. The serious student will still find himself turning to the Zoological Record for complete references on a given species. Thus Verner and Willson have provided a curious hybrid that will serve primarily as a moderately useful guide to the literature on the nesting of North American passerine birds.

The authors' general approach was to gather information on mating systems and sexual variation of birds, combined with observations on the role of the male in nesting activities during the nest building, incubation, nestling, and fledgling periods. All data were taken at face value, which, among necessarily arbitrary criteria, is probably the best. Participation and stated lack of participation of the male in various nesting activities are recorded separately for each species. Verner and Willson's analyses show that sexual dimorphism is prevalent among the thrushes, Old-World warblers, wood warblers, icterids, tanagers, and finches. Only the wrens and icterids are commonly polygynous, although a few finches and warblers are also.

Analysis of the role of the male in nesting activities shows that although two

sexually dimorphic polygynous icterids do not feed their young, most of the differences in male behavior between sexually monomorphic and dimorphic species appear during the incubation period. It is striking to me that in all activities concerned with the energetics of nesting, that is with feeding the incubating female, the nestlings, and the fledglings, the male plays a significant role. During the incubation period, males in a substantial proportion of species do not participate in incubation, regardless of sexual variation or mating system. It does appear though, and significantly so, that participation of the male in this activity is most lacking in dimorphic, and particularly in polygynous species.

In this study, the authors try to distinguish between two hypotheses: first, that in dimorphic species the bright plumage of the male attracts predators, thus selecting for males that do not frequent the nest, and second, in polygynous species the participation of the male in nesting would require time that could otherwise be used for the attraction of additional mates. The results show primarily that sexual dimorphism is highly correlated with a reduced role of the male in incubating or covering the eggs. Among dimorphic species, the males of those that are polygynous appear to have a further reduced role, extending in a few cases to the nestling period. Among monomorphic species there seems to be no difference in the role of the male in incubation with respect to the mating system. But here most of the polygynous sample are members of the wren family, which are atypical of most polygynous species in that they inhabit forests and undergrowth rather than open areas and marshes that characterize most polygynous species.

The problem is clearly too complex to be resolved by the kinds of analyses employed by Verner and Willson, and we are still confronted with finding a more fruitful approach. The authors call for more complete knowledge and coverage, particularly with quantitative data, of many more species before generalizations can be made about the role of males in the nesting cycle. There is some question in my mind, however, whether this approach is at all efficient. There are some 8,600 kinds of birds in the world, and I wonder how many of these need be studied. The beauty of a truly useful generalization lies in prediction rather than empirical qualities. To understand the factors that determine the relative role of the sexes in nesting one should not have to go much beyond the level of comparative empirical knowledge that Verner and Willson have brought us to. For the particular phenomenon involved here, comparative data are also difficult to acquire. Behavior is not so readily quantified as are such nesting parameters as clutch size and the incubation period, without the detailed and time-consuming observation that is outside the scope of most of the life history studies on which this monograph is based. For these reasons, I would suggest that the most fruitful approach will be through detailed studies on well-chosen subjects. Experimental approaches may be well-justified. Papers by Verner and Willson on Marsh Wrens and Yellow-headed Blackbirds, respectively, are themselves exemplary.

It also seems unreasonable to limit oneself to North American passerine birds. Among nonpasserines and tropical birds, some of which are passerines, other mating systems, particularly that of lek behavior, are found. Any general theory will surely have to incorporate these uncommon, but odd systems. Moreover it is often most difficult to provide ecological studies with adequate controls. Among North American passerine birds, for example, sexual dimorphism may be related to several different behavioral and ecological phenomenon. Among icterids, many of which also happen to be polygynous, dimorphism is almost surely related to the mating system. In wood warblers, however, dimorphism seems to be linked to the male's role in securing the territory, because it occurs primarily among long-distance migrants in which the male arrives

first on the nesting grounds and secures the territory. Similarly, should we seek identical causes for polygyny among wrens and icterids? Again, it seems wise to choose species carefully to provide adequate controls in testing hypotheses. How could one better understand sexual dimorphism in the Red-winged Blackbird, for example, than to study it in comparison with the monomorphic representatives of the genus *Agelaius* that occur in the West Indies?

Verner and Willson have emphasized how little we know about one of the most basic aspects of population organization and reproduction in birds. Their survey of our present knowledge also convinces me that understanding will come only through detailed, quantitative studies of a relatively small number of well-chosen species.—  
ROBERT E. RICKLEFS.

**Ethology: the biology of behavior.**—Irenaus Eibl-Eibesfeldt. 1970. New York, Rinehart & Winston. \$10.00.—Just when the instinct-learning, nature-nurture dichotomy appeared to have been finally laid to rest, Eibl-Eibesfeldt has come out forcefully and unequivocally on the side of instinct. Classical ethology, it seems, is alive and well on the European continent. This text may well revive the old controversy and if so, let us hope it will be productive of information and ideas, instead of rhetoric. Actually, the much ballyhooed recent synthesis of genetic and environmental explanations of behavior was at least in part a healthy reaction to the excessive one-sidedness of the earlier disputes. But it may be that in their hastiness to bury the hatchet, ethologists have over-reacted and buried some valuable distinctions and concepts as well. In this regard, "Ethology: the biology of behavior" may remind students of the substantial contribution of genetically programmed, "phylogenetically acquired" information.

In the introduction to his recent behavior text, W. Tavolga stated that ethology lacked a theoretical framework. Eibl-Eibesfeldt clearly recognizes a framework and has built his book around the Lorenzian system of fixed action patterns, releasers, and innate releasing mechanisms. It makes a coherent, if one-sided, picture. The book's organization appears peculiar at first glance, although careful reading reveals a logical progression not apparent from the table of contents. Thus after a brief historical review and introduction to the ethogram, the author presents fixed action patterns as the fundamental behavioral repertoire, after which the remainder of the Lorenzian scheme unfolds almost inexorably. (However it does seem stretching things to consider the dance of the bees as part of a chapter on releasers instead of communication.)

Although somewhat argumentative at times, as when discussing Kuo's behaviorism, the text contains a vast amount of information, smoothly presented. Illustrations are a particular strong point, and the book has clearly benefited from its author's passion for photography—many of the photographs are Eibl-Eibesfeldt originals. In fact the substantially greater number of photographs of animals than charts or graphs reflects its holistic, animal-oriented nature. Unfortunately when charts are presented, they tend to be under-interpreted, as in the confusing treatment of Kramer's sun-compass experiments.

There is considerable concern with methodology, including criticism of incorrectly-analysed previous studies such as C. V. Hess' unfortunate conclusion that bees are color-blind. This approach is of great heuristic value and is not often found in general texts. However, interpretive errors occur as well; thus when removal of seaweed by a nest-relieving male cormorant results in aggression from the female, this is reputed to "show" that the seaweed served as an aggression substitute.

However aggression may be released simply by a change in the total stimulus configuration presented to the female. In addition, after defending the Lorenzian "dynamic instinct" concept of aggression, the author states that "an aggressive drive can atrophy when an animal does not have an opportunity to discharge it for some time." If true, this would contradict the classical theory of Action Specific Energy (defended in the book) according to which the absence of suitable releasing stimuli would lower the threshold for performance of the consummatory act, and aggressivity should not atrophy but rather increase.

Another theoretical shortcoming concerns Eibl-Eibesfeldt's apparently uncritical acceptance of Wynne-Edwards' views, without even acknowledging their controversial nature. Further, he discusses the evolution of altruistic behavior in terms of group selection only, ignoring the important theoretical contributions of Hamilton and Smith. However, the text is generally well-referenced and provides an exceptionally valuable review of the German literature.

Despite its translation from German, this book lacks the verbal density of Hinde's recent texts. Dangling clauses abound, necessitating rereading of occasional sentences; e.g., "it opens its mouth when the cleaner butts against its corners and allows the cleaner outside." Some intellectual sloppiness is also apparent, as when discussing behavioral rudimentation: "It is possible to release flying movements in ostriches although these animals have not flown in millions of years." On the whole however, the work is passable English while excellent, if controversial science.

This book shows very clearly the imprint of its author's particular interests. Thus, considerable space is devoted to the behavior of mutualistic cleaner-fish. The final chapter on human ethology is a particular treat. While some instructors may prefer to omit this as premature and far-fetched speculation, it provides a healthy counterbalance to the Ardrey nonsense and may well prove especially popular among students. In fact, the book as a whole, suffused with abundant information and the author's obvious fondness for animals and what they do, should prove popular to both teachers and students as a basic text in introductory ethology.—DAVID P. BARASH.

**Portraits of tropical birds.**—John S. Dunning. 1970. Livingston Publ. Co., Wynnewood, Pennsylvania. Pp. xx + 154, 72 col. photo pls.,  $11\frac{1}{4} \times 6\frac{5}{8}$  in. Cloth. \$20.00.—Author-photographer Dunning is a field collaborator of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and a research associate of Florida State University. A retired businessman, he has, according to the foreword (by O. S. Pettingill, Jr.) set himself the task of photographing close-up and under controlled conditions, using habitat props, as many neotropical bird species as time and effort will allow.

Following the foreword, an introduction by the author tells how his photographic interest in tropical birds evolved from an interest in helping to record color and form as part of the scientific record of birds caught in Dr. Horace Loftin's Panamanian banding program. Dunning then discusses the problems of netting birds and holding them in captivity for photography. Details of his methods follow the presentation of the color plates in a closing section entitled Methods and Equipment. Briefly, he sets up an enclosure roughly 3 by 10 feet and about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet high. This is made of heavy unbleached white muslin. Inside he arranges habitat materials—sprays of leaves, logs, leaves, etc., appropriate to the bird being photographed. Lighting is by stroboscopic units suspended from the roof of the

enclosure. The whole is under a canopy to keep out rain and most natural light. The camera is mounted on a tripod outside the enclosure with the lens projecting in through an end wall. When a bird is netted it is released in the enclosure, allowed to calm down, and then photographed, after which it is released.

Each photograph in this book is on a right-hand page. Below each plate is the common and scientific name of the subject, a brief statement of its geographic range, and its approximate length in inches. On the facing page is the plate number, and a paragraph of information on the species, the individual, and sometimes on the circumstances of photography. The 72 species of 21 families represented include 25 tanagers. Many of them are known primarily from museum study skins, and for most the author can state that little or nothing is known of them in the wild. One species, a hummingbird, *Eriocnemis mirabilis*, plate 2, was not known before the photograph was made!

The results are for the most part highly successful. Like Greenwalt's hummingbird portraits, each photo here represents probably the best, usually the only color representation ever published of its subject. Nevertheless some problems are evident. The strobe lighting occasionally creates garishly hard and glistening highlights and silvery sheens that give the feathers a glaring artificiality they would never have in the soft lighted interior of a forest (pls. 45, 48, 49, 60). The close-up work sometimes allows the camera to "plague us with needless detail" (to paraphrase Ambrose Bierce), concentrating our attention on the submacroscopic structure of the feathers rather than the bird (pls. 7, 13). The close-up photos also occasionally allow the bird to fill the picture giving us an impression that the bird is larger than it really is (pl. 59). Occasionally a bird has seemingly not been allowed to become calm and settled in the enclosure so that the results are disturbingly unnatural (pl. 63). At other times (pl. 19) the haste necessary to allow the bird back to its freedom has forced photography before the bird has recovered from handling and gotten its feathers back in place.

Several times mention is made of the scientific value of these photographs in preserving knowledge of soft part color postures, facial expressions, etc. in support to study skins. Such value could have been promoted further had the author included in fine print on the facing pages or in an appendix full scientific information, including date and exact locality of each photograph. I hope such information was preserved and is with the original photographs and that these will be placed on file with some scientific institution. If this has already been done it would have been well to say so in this book.

I make no further criticism. The color photographs and their reproduction here are otherwise incredibly advanced over most similar efforts of a decade ago, apparently the age of unpredictable color reproduction has past. No longer must we be satisfied with occasional green-headed Brownheaded Nuthatches, and the like. Thus from a scientific point of view, the color photography of a bird has seemingly taken its place beside bird painting as a means of recording information of lasting scientific value. Mr. Dunning is to be congratulated. The book is high priced, but so, alas, is practically everything else these days.—JOHN WILLIAM HARDY.

**Check-list of the birds of New Mexico.**—John P. Hubbard. 1970. New Mexico Ornithol. Soc., Publ. No. 3. 108 pp. Paper. \$2.50.—New Mexico is a strategically located state with regard to the avian biogeography of North America. The Rocky Mountains terminate in this region and several boreal forms reach their southern limits here and in adjacent Arizona. In addition, several Neotropical spe-

cies reach the U. S. only in this area. Despite its diversity, New Mexico's bird life has not been critically assessed since the publication in 1928 of F. M. Bailey's "Birds of New Mexico." The book by J. Stokley Ligon, "New Mexico birds and where to find them," published in 1961, was a generally unsatisfactory successor to the earlier work and tended to muddy the waters of New Mexico ornithology (see Review by P. J. Gould, *Auk*, 79: 490, 1962). Thus there was a real need for an accurate, concise, up-to-date treatment of the state's avifauna. This need is well met by the work here considered.

The check-list is very thorough. Many means of economically conveying information are utilized, e.g., asterisk, degree sign, ditto, apostrophe, brackets, italics, and caps, in addition to a number of categories referring to frequency of occurrence, abundance, and status. Each of these symbols and terms, plus others, is defined in the introduction, and abbreviations are listed in a glossary. Even so, the codes are not always readily remembered and the reader may find himself frequently referring back to their definitions.

The final draft of the manuscript was reproduced by an offset process, greatly reducing the expense of publication. The type is somewhat small, and this, together with the abundant use of symbols, makes the work somewhat less enjoyable to peruse than it otherwise might have been. Nevertheless, in those qualities that are most important, namely accuracy and completeness, the check-list excels.

A few specific items might be mentioned. Highly dubious sight records have been included in the main body of the text, even when they have been withdrawn officially by their originator, e.g. Least Grebe and Lawrence's Warbler. Hubbard's rationale is that these records are in the literature and therefore must be recognized, and that a single list is most convenient regardless of a species' status. I agree in part, but feel that such records, as well as certain other highly unlikely ones, e.g., Wren-tit, would be better placed in an appendix. An errata sheet is sent to purchaser's of the Check-list; its major correction is inclusion of the Gray Flycatcher account.

The Check-list unquestionably is an outstanding synthesis of the information available on the birds of New Mexico and it will be the authoritative source for some time. Hubbard and members of the New Mexico Ornithological Society, several of whom devoted much time and effort to the project, are to be commended.—J. DAVID LIGON.

#### ALSO RECEIVED

**Natural resources and public relations.**—Douglas L. Gilbert. 1971. Washington, D. C., Wildlife Soc. Pp. xxiv + 320, 93 figs., some unnumbered photographs, appendix,  $9\frac{1}{4} \times 6\frac{1}{4}$  in. Cloth. \$6.50.—A textbook for students of natural resource management and conservation workers, which better be *all of us* pretty quickly.—J. W. H.

**The hungry bird book.**—Robert Arbib and Tony Soper. 1971. New York, Taplinger Publ. Co. Pp. x + 126, illustrated with a number of black-and-white drawings by Robert Gillmor. \$4.95.—This is one more of those publications that purports to give the bird watcher every possible aid in bringing birds into his life. Books on better bird baiting abound, and this is a fairly good one, but its competition, "Songbirds in your garden" by John K. Terres, published nearly 20 years ago, will flourish when this is long forgotten.—ELIZABETH S. AUSTIN.



**Signals for survival.**—Niko Tinbergen and Hugh Falkus. 1970. Oxford, Clarendon Press. 80 pp., 88 black-and-white photos, 31 two-color wash drawings.  $8\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{4}$  in., cloth. \$8.00.—This book is an attractive adaptation of the fine behavioral film of the same name that won the 1969 Italia Prize for television documentaries. Based on my recollection of the sound-track commentary, the text of the book may be only a slightly altered version of it. Tinbergen's still photographs and the impressionistic and attractive art work of Erik Ennion quite adequately substitute for the brilliant cinematography of the motion picture, resulting in an entertaining and informative ethological story of the reproductive life of the Lesser Black-backed Gull. Though cast in a language geared for the general reader, this book will be a valuable reference and teaching tool for the serious amateur, teacher, and researcher as well.—J.W.H.

**Inventory of zoological collections.** Part 2: Aves.—John R. Paul. 1970. Springfield, Illinois, Illinois State Mus., Inventory of the Collections, No. 1. 23 pp., offset, paper,  $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$  in. No price given.—A complete inventory (the first since the annual report of the museum, 1911–12), of the ornithological materials in this museum. A 3-page introduction outlining the history of the collection and its contributors is followed by a running table of its contents. Species are listed in the left-hand column and the quantities of holdings are listed in the body of the table under study skins, mounts, and skeletons, complete or partial. In the right-hand column under notes are given very general locality data (e.g. Alaska, Mexico, Texas, etc.). This will be a useful compendium for museum workers and students of geographic distribution who cannot afford the time to visit all the lesser systematic collections in their quest for data. Only a few misspellings of scientific names, none confusing, mar the list.—J.W.H.

**Easter Island/island of enigmas.**—John Dos Passos. 1971. Garden City, New York, Doubleday & Co., Inc. Pp. xi + 150, 49 photographs, 2 endpaper maps. \$6.95.—This beautifully written, fascinating history of the most mysterious of the world's isolated ocean islands will appeal to ornithologists. John Dos Passos, always meticulous in his research, has brought to light the bird ritual that flourished on Easter Island for a number of centuries. This is the same story that A. W. Johnson et al. speak of in "Birds of Easter Island" (*Ibis*, 112: 533–538, 1970). The cult was based on the importance of the seabird eggs to the economy of the natives. Frigate-birds and Sooty Terns are represented in ancient native carvings, and both nest on the three islets off the southwest coast in the shadow of the volcano, Rano Kao. With ceremony the Easter Islanders celebrated the return of the birds each season to their breeding grounds and the taking of the first Sooty Tern egg.—ELIZABETH S. AUSTIN.

**far afield in the caribbean** [not by e. e. cummings].—Mary Wickham Bond. 1971. Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, Livingston Publishing Co. Pp. x + 142, drawings and 2 maps by Elizabeth R. Leydon. \$4.95.—James Bond, in this book on rambles with him in the Caribbean, is as truly a hero in his wife's eyes as his namesake is in Ian Fleming's stories. Mrs. Bond's "far afield" is amusing light reading but touches even more lightly on birds and bird men, and not at all on the interesting history of ornithology in the Caribbean. I wish Mrs. Bond had given the dates, at least month and year, of her visits to the islands and that the book had been indexed. It would also add to a reader's enjoyment of island hopping if the end papers had been used for a more detailed map of the West Indies.—ELIZABETH S. AUSTIN.