



EDITED BY BRUCE M. BEEHLER

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Birds of Missouri: Their Distribution and Abundance.—Mark B. Robbins and David A. Easterla. 1992. University of Missouri Press, Columbia, Missouri. xii + 399 pp., 8 color plates, 33 figures, 83 maps, 26 graphs. ISBN 0-8262-0791-X. Cloth \$59.95.—Both authors of this book, the most comprehensive treatment of the past and present distribution and abundance of birds within the state of Missouri since Widmann's *A Preliminary Catalog of the Birds of Missouri* (1907, Academy of Science, St. Louis), have extensive field experience with and knowledge of birds statewide. The introduction: summarizes the history of ornithology in Missouri; briefly reviews the state's relief, climate, and natural communities; and gives detailed descriptions of the format, definitions, and conventions used in the species accounts. The species accounts provide: status (brief summary of seasonal and geographic abundance and breeding status); documentation (specimens, photographs, sight records); habitat; and records (subdivided into seasonal categories) sections. Certain species accounts are concluded by a Comments section, which includes mention of taxonomic problems, references for further reading, identification tips for difficult species, or explanation of dubious records. Data from Breeding Bird Surveys and Christmas Bird Counts, as well as density and nest-record data from other sources, are presented for numerous species. Extensive unpublished field notes of several observers from disparate portions of the state also were incorporated. Records are rigorously documented (the authors made their own judgments using strict criteria on records made prior to the formation of the Missouri Rare Birds Records Committee) and photographic confirmation (most in black-and-white, six in color) is provided for some species. Seven attractive watercolor plates by David Plank depict species of special note in Missouri, and the text contains a few of his pen-and-ink drawings.

Only a few minor problems detract from the overall high quality and usefulness of this book. Some tables and figures are not clearly delimited from the text, or are poorly placed and referenced. The keys for Maps 2 and 3 do not quite match the patterns indicating natural divisions on the maps, and Map 4 lacks a key. The species accounts would have been more readable had the section headings for each season been hierarchical under "Records." A more flexible, taxon-specific approach to seasonal divisions would conform better to migration periods of most shorebirds and certain other species than the invariant seasonal scheme chosen. Several useful features typical of state

books are absent, such as: a summary bar chart giving seasonal and/or regional abundance; habitat photos; and county records.

Overall, *Birds of Missouri* is meticulously researched, comprehensive, informative, and relatively free of careless errors. This book will certainly be the standard reference for local ornithologists, conservationists, and birders. While it is compact enough to take into the field, oddly it is only available in a rather expensive cloth binding, making it less than practical for use in the field in combination with a field guide, despite the authors' stated intentions. I heartily recommend *Birds of Missouri* for libraries of North American colleges and universities, museums, birders, environmental organizations, and midwestern communities.—PAMELA C. RASMUSSEN, *NHB Room 336, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, USA.*

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Neotropical Wildlife Use and Conservation.—John G. Robinson and Kent H. Redford, Editors. 1991. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois. xvii + 520 pp. ISBN 0-226-72258-7. Cloth, \$62.00; Paper, \$28.00.—This volume has, to my mind, an appealing coverage that includes many chapters (28, discounting the foreword and preface, prepared by 47 contributors) of potential interest to a great many readers. There are five chapters, for example, that bear directly on studies of birds: in one, human impact on populations of chachalacas, guans, and curassows in Venezuela is discussed; in another, the subject is factors influencing use and continuity of the Eastern White-winged Dove; a third is on balancing economic costs and benefits of whistling-ducks as a manageable and sustainable resource in Venezuela; still another dwells on sustainable use of Neotropical parrots; and, finally, there is a chapter on the psittacine trade in Mexico. The last two, in particular, present contrasting views on the importance of Mexico as a supplier of parrots to the international market.

The first part of the book, comprising two chapters by the editors and one by J. H. Shaw, is entitled "Framing the Issues." It contains a potpourri of information on the use and conservation of wildlife. Most ornithologists will find this section interesting

reading, in addition to the chapters dealing directly with birds. There is also a part on subsistence hunting, one on market hunting and collecting, and a good review of wildlife farming and ranching. A part on sport hunting, one on commercial uses, and a part on the future round out the volume.

Within this framework, individual chapters tend to represent case histories of specific projects, and naturally there is some variation in presentation. However, there is evidence of considerable editorial rigor, and the quality remains high throughout. The volume grew out of a seminar series developed by the Program for Studies in Tropical Conservation at the University of Florida. Graduate-student participants in that series, many from Neotropical countries, provided considerable constructive input to the final product.

The price seems a little high, but the paper-bound volume is reasonable, and my copy has held up well to daily use for the past few months. Certainly, this tome should be on college and university library shelves, and most practicing Neotropical ornithologists will want the book handy for their own ready reference. The volume is well put together from a production point of view, as is the norm for this scholarly press.—DON E. WILSON, *National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, USA.*

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The Mountain and the Migration.—James J. Brett. 1991. Revised edition. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York. xii + 144 pp., 25 color-tinted illustrations, 13 black-and-white photographs, 8 maps, 18 black-and-white plates, and 3 tables (appendices). ISBN 0-8014-9613-6. Paper, \$13.95.—Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Pennsylvania has an annual visitation of tens of thousands of people with a variety of interests, and a visit there, for hawk watchers, is akin to a Haj to Mecca. The stated purpose of this book is to be a visitor's guide to the Sanctuary; it is designed to provide the reader with the information necessary to get the most out of a Sanctuary visit. The short Foreword by Roger Tory Peterson, who has spent lots of time there, ends with "I love this place." This book will make anyone's visit to the Sanctuary more rewarding; it prepares one for the wonderful—but hard to describe—experience of being on the North Lookout on a beautiful autumn day watching the close passage of migrating raptors.

The little book, nevertheless, is packed with information, and is well written and pleasantly illustrated (but see below). The first chapter tells some of the interesting human stories from the local area and of

the founding of the Sanctuary. Especially interesting is the short history of Schaumbach's Tavern, long the headquarters of the Sanctuary, including stories about its ghosts. More important is the account of how Rosalie Edge started the Sanctuary and hired Maurice Broun as its first curator. Chapter 2 is a short geological history of the area and includes some informative and understandable illustrations. Chapter 3 discusses the varied flora and fauna of the Sanctuary grounds.

The phenomenon of the migration of raptors is introduced in chapter 4. The treatment here is necessarily terse and elementary, but is well written; it more than satisfies the book's objectives. Particularly well done are descriptions and illustrations of "slope lift" and "thermals," the mechanisms used by migrating raptors to travel overland, and the local map showing how the raptors pass through the Sanctuary.

Chapter 5 is devoted to raptor field identification. The introduction is good and includes basic descriptions and silhouettes of each type of raptor commonly seen at Hawk Mountain. Jim Brett is certainly one of the gurus of hawk identification, and no one would question his ability to identify passing raptors. But descriptions of raptor identifications are only as good as the illustrations that accompany them. The illustrations of the 14 species described are poor, in particular because the shapes of wings and tails are not correct, but also because the drawings just do not look like the species that they represent. I do not understand why most bird illustrators do not study flight photos of hawks so that they can depict correctly their shapes and plumages. One example of the inaccuracies in these illustrations is the wing tips on the Bald Eagles; these are drawn showing only four "fingers" or emarginated outer primaries. They should have the same number of these as do Golden Eagles (6) and certainly more than the five shown on Red-tailed Hawks. It is too bad that the illustrator who drew the excellent flying Red-tailed Hawk figure on page 55 did not illustrate all of the flying raptors (compare this drawing with those of the Red-tailed Hawks on page 75). In spite of these poor illustrations, the reader can learn much about raptor identification from the written species accounts; particularly interesting for the visitor is the section called "Lookout Tips" under each species. These describe behaviors peculiar to that species while flying past Hawk Mountain.

The book ends with a short epilogue on raptor conservation that begins "Every raptor passing the North Lookout is a success story." Three short tabular appendices covering life cycles and diets of the raptors, annual counts at Hawk Mountain since 1934, and a checklist of plants and animals at Hawk Mountain round out the book.

An attractive fold-out pamphlet comes with each book. One side is a very wide panoramic photo of the surrounding countryside taken from the North Lookout that includes the numbers used to denote different areas where distant raptors are spotted. The re-

verse includes a map of the local area showing nature trails on the Sanctuary and drawings of flying raptors.

Anyone with an interest in raptor migration and conservation should have a copy of this delightful book; it is a must for visitors to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary.—WILLIAM S. CLARK, 4554 Shetland Green Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22312, USA.

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Birds of Prey. Natural History and Conservation of North American Raptors.—Noel and Helen Snyder. 1991. Voyageur Press, Stillwater, Minnesota. 224 pp. 169 color photographs. ISBN 0-89658-131-4. Cloth, \$39.95.—At first glance one might think that this is just another popular coffee-table book on birds of prey. But, look again; this one is different. Unlike most others, which feature pretty photos and have, at best, a journeyman text, this one has excellent photographs, and an interesting and informative text based on the authors' field experiences with each of the 34 diurnal raptors that occur in North America.

This book was written for the lay person "to awaken curiosity in the biology of all birds of prey worldwide" and "to encourage a general interest in raptor conservation," as mentioned in the short introductory chapter. Further, it is intended to serve an introduction to biological and conservation issues concerning raptors as told through the authors' experiences, but it is not intended to be as extensive in coverage as a handbook.

The second chapter covers the taxonomic classification of raptors. The meat of this book, however, is the chapters devoted to each species. These accounts are comprised of the personal experiences that this dynamic duo have had with each species, conducted in such diverse locations as Alaska, California, Arizona, Florida, New York, and Puerto Rico, with forays into Mexico and Peru. These accounts include observations at nests, and many are supplemented with summaries from selected studies in the literature. For most species, accounts describe conservation problems faced by that species. All accounts are complemented by interesting—some are stunning—photographs of each species and of its habitat and prey. Opposite the Introduction is a unique photograph of an adult Peregrine Falcon of the Eastern North American stock, a form that no longer exists.

Particularly interesting are the longer-than-average chapters on the California Condor and Snail Kite, a reflection of the considerable time spent by the authors conducting field work on these two. The condor account includes a succinct summary of the intensive study that led to the capture of the entire

population and their captive breeding, as well as a prognosis for future release of the captive progeny back into the wild.

The shorter chapters are just as interesting and contain descriptions of behaviors, prey, and habitat. For example, the Turkey Vulture account contains a clear description of the studies that ascertained that this vulture locates carrion by smelling it. And in the Harris' Hawk account, the authors relate how studies of prey remains at nests have not accurately reflected prey consumed, as determined by observations from a blind.

The final chapter deals with precautions one should use when observing raptors. A fairly extensive bibliography that includes the most important references on the biology of each species rounds out the book.

This book more than meets its objectives and is informative and easily read by the lay person; most ornithologists, behaviorists, and bird watchers also will find much herein to interest them.

No book is perfect, but try as I might, I can only find nit-picking criticisms. One of these is that the range maps are somewhat inaccurate; their inclusion was, most likely, at the insistence of the publisher. The use of "phase" for color morph and the nonstandard names, "Everglade Kite" and "Bay-winged Hawk," are, at most, bothersome and do not detract from this most interesting book. Finally, Adult Mississippi Kites do show their white secondaries while perched.

This book is recommended for anyone with an interest in behavior of birds, especially raptors; it is a must for raptor biologists and other raptorophiles.—WILLIAM S. CLARK, 4554 Shetland Green Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22312, USA.

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A Guide to Birdwatching in Hungary.—Gerard Gorman. 1991. Corvina Books, Budapest, Hungary (Kultúra, Budapest 62, P.O.B. 149, Hungary). 95 pp. ISBN 963-13-3070-2. \$9.—This excellent pocketbook is of great help for the foreign birdwatcher and ornithologist who visits Hungary. This country has quite a few southeastern and eastern Palaearctic species that are rare, or do not occur at all, west of the Carpathian Basin. The 24 bird-watching sites cover almost all of Hungary, although I would have put in one or two more in the southwest (e.g. in the hills around the town of Pécs, or at the oxbow sloughs of the lower Danube). The sites are numbered on a map, but not in the text—an omission. Before listing the birds to be seen at each site, there is an ecological description of the area, and detailed instructions are given about

the best approaches by car, bus or train. The site maps are clear. Many of the birds that are now rare in Hungary are sketched by simple but adequate line drawings. Instead of an index, a checklist of the birds of Hungary concludes the text, with English, Latin and Hungarian names, status, and a small square to tick off the bird seen by the reader.

The author obviously did the field work in the late 1980s, since he often refers to the need for special permits, of avoiding military areas, etc. In today's free and democratic Hungary, these are entirely unnec-

essary. I recommend a second edition without these warnings, and with an index of the birds mentioned. Surely, many ornithologists shall visit Hungary before or after the 1994 International Ornithological Congress at Vienna, Austria. It will ease the planning of their visit to find in an index that the White-headed Duck, for example, is found at bird-watching site No. 16, on page 55 of this edition.—MIKLOS D. F. UDVARDY, *Department of Biological Sciences 114, California State University, Sacramento, California 95819, USA.*



Also Received

The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem: Redefining America's Wilderness Heritage.—R. B. Keiter and M. S. Boyce (Eds.). 1991. Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, Connecticut. 448 pp., 53 illustrations. ISBN 0-300-04970-6. \$45.00.

The Ascent of Mind.—W. H. Calvin. 1991. Bantam Books, New York. 320 pp. ISBN 0-553-35230-X. \$12.50.

Quaternary Ecology: A Paleoeological Perspective.—H. R. Delcourt and P. A. Delcourt. 1991. Chapman and Hall, New York. Cloth, \$74.50; paper, \$29.95.

Goose Damage and Management Workshop.—M. Owen and M. W. Pienkowski (Eds.). 1991. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough, England. 84 pp. ISBN 0-86139-688-X. £5.00.

The Evolutionary Process: A Critical Study of Evolutionary Theory.—V. Grant. 1991. 2nd ed. Columbia Univ. Press, New York. ISBN 0-231-07324-0. Cloth, \$52.00.

The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Birds.—M. Brooke and T. Birkhead (Eds.). 1991. Cambridge Univ. Press, New York. 320 pp. 150 color illustrations. ISBN 0-521-36205-9. Cloth, \$49.50.

The Dynamics of Dinosaurs.—R. McN. Alexander. 1991. Columbia Univ. Press, New York. ISBN 0-2310667-8. Paper, \$12.95.

Foundations of Ecology.—L. A. Real and J. H. Brown (Eds.). 1991. Univ. Chicago Press, Chicago. ISBN 0-226-70593-5. Cloth, \$70.00; paper, \$21.95.

What the River Knows. An Angler in Midstream.—Wayne Fields. 1991. Simon & Schuster (Fire-side Books), New York. 252 pp. ISBN 0-671-74819-X. \$10.00.

Wildfowl 41.—Janet Kear, Ed. 1990. The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge, England. 183 pp. £15.00.

Wildfowl 42.—Janet Kear, Ed. 1991. The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge, England. 182 pp. ISBN 0-900806-13-3. £15.00.

Endangered Animals of Thailand.—Stephen R. Humphrey and James R. Bain. Sandhill Crane Press, Gainesville, Florida. 468 pp. ISBN 1-877743-07-0.

A History of Nature Conservation in Britain.—David Evans. 1992. Routledge, New York. 274 pp. ISBN 0-415-06653-0. Paper, \$25.00.

Bird Conservation 3.—Jerome Jackson, Ed. 1988. Univ. Wisconsin Press, Madison, Wisconsin. 177 pp. ISBN 0-299-11124-5.

A Field Guide to Tropical Forests Coloring Book.—Roger Tory Peterson, John Kricher, and Gordon Morrison. 1991. Houghton Mifflin, Boston. 66 pp. ISBN 0-395-32522-6. \$4.95.

A Field Guide to Endangered Wildlife Coloring Book.—Roger Tory Peterson, Richard K. Walton, and Gordon Morrison. 1991. Houghton Mifflin, Boston. 66 pp. ISBN 0-395-57324-6. \$4.95.

The American Littoral Society Handbook for the Marine Naturalist.—David K. Bulloch. Walker and Company, New York. 165 pp. ISBN 0-8027-7353-2. \$11.95.

One Long Argument. Charles Darwin and the Genesis of Modern Evolutionary Thought.—Ernst Mayr. Harvard Univ. Press, Cambridge. ISBN 0-674-63905-7. \$19.95.