

ornithology. Scholarly but not dry, this book should interest biologists in the various fields to which ornithology has contributed.

**The Life of Birds, 2nd edition.**—Joel Carl Welty. 1975. W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia. 623 p. \$18.50. With this revision, Welty has improved and updated what was already one of the best introductory textbooks of ornithology. New material on many subjects, such as respiration, brain structure, temperature control, circadian rhythms, dialects, magnetic sensitivity, and evolution reminds us how much has been learned since 1962, when the first edition of this book was published. A chapter has been added on birds and mankind. This is a readable and attractive text.

**Sociobiology/The New Synthesis.**—Edward O. Wilson. 1975. Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass. 697 p. \$20.00. This monumental book sets forth the general biological principles

that govern social behavior and social organization in creatures ranging from bacteria and colonial jellyfish to human beings. Concepts and observations from many disciplines have been drawn together in exploring the means by which self-sacrificing behavior, the binding force of animal societies, has evolved through natural selection. The lucid text is generously illustrated with drawings and photographs, and the volume is laid out in a large, yet not wasteful, format.

**To Save a Bird in Peril.**—David R. Zimmerman. 1975. Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, Inc., New York. 286 p. \$9.95. This book is a collection of ten case histories about new and manipulative methods for saving bird populations that are threatened with extinction. It is a timely account of present-day bird conservation, told accurately and well. Although ornithologists are more or less familiar with the plight of peregrines, whooping cranes, nenes, cahows, and others, they will find details here that are new to them.

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