

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

**Birds of my Kalam Country.**—Ian Saem Majnep and Ralph Bulmer. 1977. Auckland Univ. Press and Oxford Univ. Press. 219 p. \$29.50. Kalam is in the central highlands of Papua New Guinea. A Kalam hunter has collaborated with a social anthropologist (and amateur naturalist) to make this unusual book. The appearance and habits of local birds (and bats) are described according to the local people's classification, drawing on first-hand observations. Saem talks at length about bird lore in Kalam customs, beliefs, and myths. The book is illustrated with fine drawings of birds by Christopher Healey and photographs of people and places by Bulmer. It will fascinate those who care about the birds and people of New Guinea.

**Canvasback habitat use and production in Saskatchewan parklands.**—Lawson G. Sugden. 1978. Canadian Wildlife Service Occasional Paper No. 34. 30 p. Paper cover. Available: Printing and Publishing, Supply and Services Canada, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0S9, Cat. No. CW60-1/34. Canvasbacks were studied for five years in an area near Saskatoon to determine to what extent, if any, habitat was limiting their production. This report will be of interest to waterfowl biologists.

**Bird Flight.**—Georg Ruppell. 1977. Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., New York. 191 p. \$18.95. This is an authoritative yet easily understood book about how birds fly. It deals with the structure of wings and feathers, basic aerodynamics, forms of bird flight, maneuvering, and bird flight as adaptation (not the same as adaptations *for* flight). The task of explaining is shared with many excellent photographs, most of them by the author. Glossary, list of references, and index. We may be grateful that this work was translated from the German because it is probably the best nontechnical modern book on the subject.

**The Coot and the Moorhen.**—Jon Fjeldså. 1977. AV-Media AS, Copenhagen. 56 p. Paper cover. Available: AV-Media AS, Nørre Søgade 35A, 1370 Copenhagen K, Denmark. This booklet is one of a series of elementary guides on the natural history of common European animals. It concentrates on the feeding and breeding of two species, using them to show some general aspects of behavior and ecology. Many nice drawings and photographs. Supplementary slides and other teaching materials are available for each of the booklets in the series.

**Guide to the Identification and Ageing of Holarctic Waders.**—A. J. Prater, J. H. Marchant, and J. Vuorinen. 1978. BTO Field Guide No. 17. 168 p. Paper cover. £2.50. Available: British Trust for Ornithology, Beech Grove, Tring, Hertfordshire, HP23 5NR, U.K. This is a manual for identifying the species and, where possible, race, age, and sex of charadriiforms (Rostratulidae through Scolopacidae) that regularly breed within the Holarctic. It is aimed for those who can examine birds in the hand—i.e., banders and museum workers. The species accounts give plumage details, critical dimensions, weights, and references. Drawings and monochrome photographs illustrate diagnostic features. A useful reference for

those who already have some experience with shorebirds.

**The Environment of Amchitka Island, Alaska.**—Edited by Melvin L. Merrill and R. Glen Fuller. 1977. Technical Information Center, Energy Research and Development Administration. 682 p. \$20.00. Available: National Technical Information Service, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Springfield, VA 22161. Catalog No. TID-26712. In preparation for the underground test of a very powerful nuclear warhead, Amchitka was intensively studied from 1967 to 1973. This book summarizes the the wealth of findings about the island's geology and biosphere. Among these are the results of avifaunal investigations by C. M. White, F. S. L. Williamson, and W. B. E. Emison. Important concluding chapters assess environmental contaminants and the ecological consequences of nuclear testing. Illustrations, bibliography, index and separate maps in rear pocket. A variety of scientists who study the Aleutians will be interested in this book.

**Cavity-nesting Birds of North American Forests.**—Virgil E. Scott, Keith E. Evans, David R. Patton and Charles P. Stone. 1977. Agriculture Handbook 511. Forest Service, U.S. Dept. Agriculture. 112 p. Paper cover. \$2.75. Available: Supt. of Documents, Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20902. Stock No. 001-000-03726-4. It is now Forest Service policy to leave certain numbers of dead trees per acre for the sake of cavity-nesting birds. This booklet was prepared in order to provide foresters and land managers with a convenient, up-to-date source of information on the specific requirements of these species. For each of 85 species, it concisely describes the habitat, nest, and diet. The accounts are illustrated with color maps and drawings prepared by Arthur Singer for *A Guide to Field Identification: Birds of North America* by Robbins, Bruun, and Zim. A bargain, this pocket-size book may be useful for birders and teachers as well as its intended audience.

**Lories and Lorikeets/The Brush-tongued Parrots.**—Rosemary Low. 1977. Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., New York. 180 p. \$18.95. Lories are among the most attractive of parrots for bird-fanciers, but keeping them poses special problems. This book for aviculturists provides instruction on the care of lories in captivity, first in general, and then according to species. Classification mainly follows Forshaw (1973) but the author has used her own arrangement for certain species. Color photographs, distribution map, list of references, and index.

**Wild Geese.**—M. A. Ogilvie. 1978. Buteo Books, Vermillion, SD. 350 p. \$25.00. This book gives a comprehensive treatment of the biology of geese, covering all species except the aberrant Hawaiian Goose. Ogilvie has done a remarkable job of compiling and examining a great deal of research in an ordinary-size volume. He has accomplished this by synthesizing material according to subject (e.g. classification, ecology, breeding, population dynamics) instead of arranging it in species accounts. The author has drawn on the copious literature as well as his own considerable experience, yet he carries his scholarship lightly and he writes in an interesting manner. Carol Ogilvie has provided 16 semidiagrammatic color

plates, many nice drawings, and clear range maps. Highly selected bibliography and index. Taxonomists, goose biologists, and other ornithologists will be stimulated and informed by this book.

**HELP! A Step-by-Step Manual for the Care and Treatment of Oil-Damaged Birds. Second Edition.**—Emil P. Dolensek and Joseph Bell. 1978. New York Zoological Society. 39 p. Pamphlet. 50¢ (reduced prices in quantity). Available: Publications Dep., N.Y. Zool. Soc., Bronx, NY 10460. This edition is the same as the original (*Condor* 79:510) except for an important change recommending that flammable solvents such as Shell Sol 70, white gas, or lighter fluid should not be used as cleaning agents.

**Saving Oiled Seabirds.**—International Bird Rescue Research Center. 1978. American Petroleum Institute. 35 p. Single copies free, additional copies 35¢ each. Available: Distribution Services, Am. Petroleum Inst., 2101 L St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037. This manual resembles the foregoing in aim, scope, and treatment. It has fewer illustrations and no guides for identifying birds, but gives more instructions on record-keeping, feeding, and releasing

birds. Rescuers of oiled birds should probably have both booklets. We should be grateful to the sponsor of this one for making it freely available, and refrain from asking why it is necessary in the first place.

**Wading Birds.**—Edited by Alexander Sprunt, IV, John C. Ogden, and Suzanne Winckler. 1978. Research Report No. 7, National Audubon Society, New York. 381 p. Paper cover. As the National Audubon Society has been concerned about ciconiiform waders since its inception, it is fitting that it should have co-sponsored, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the North American Wading Conference, which was held in October 1976. This well-prepared volume presents the papers at that conference, organized according to theme: behavior and evolution, conservation and management, populations and surveys, and ecology. Included with each paper are the questions and comments that it elicited, and a list of literature cited. Maps, diagrams, photographs, and an index are furnished. While the papers are valuable as sources of information and ideas about wading birds, they are perhaps even more important for giving an overview of current research on them, particularly in North America.

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