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RECENT PUBLICATION

Birds of Prey of the World.—Friedhelm Weich, in collaboration with Leslie H. Brown. 1980. Verlag Paul Parey, Hamburg and Berlin. 159 p. \$48.00. This book is an illustrated manual for the identification of all living falconiform birds, modelled after Peter Scott's colored key to the waterfowl of the world (1957. Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge). Written in both German and English, it first gives a key to species, using characters of size, proportions, color of soft parts, and feathering. A compendium of the Order then characterizes the morphology of every genus with a paragraph of text and a fine pen-and-ink drawing. The heart of the work is a series of 40 color plates that depict all species and all distinctive races, adult and immature plumages, males

and females, and unusual color phases. All the birds are shown in a standardized side view so as to display field marks and permit comparison. A table facing each plate gives the scientific, German, and English names; characteristics of appearance; distribution; and several measurements. Although the book is intended as a field guide for worldwide use, it would seem to be of limited practicality because of its size. Also, problems of identification can usually be simplified by considering only those species that are known to occur within one's region. On the other hand, it will be useful for its all-inclusive set of illustrations, unmatched by any other reference on these birds. Indexes, bibliography.