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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The Question of Animal Awareness/Evolutionary Continuity of Mental Experience. Revised and enlarged edition.—Donald R. Griffin. 1981. Rockefeller University Press, New York. 209 p. \$13.95. This book challenges the long-held assumption that no other animals share the human capacity "for conscious thinking, planning of future actions, or any of those mental experiences which are known under the general term 'awareness.'" Drawing widely on studies in neurology, psychology, linguistics, behavior and cognate fields, Griffin builds a sober and well-reasoned argument. In this edition, he replies to the criticism levelled at the first (1976) edition. He concludes "that there may be no qualitative dichotomy, but rather a large quantitative difference in complexity of signals and range of intentions that separates animal communication from human language." This in turn opens the possibility that animals have mental experiences and communicate with conscious intent. These ideas have profound implications for research and understanding of animal behavior—and our own. At a time when most scientific books are references, monographs, collections of papers, or texts, it is a rare pleasure to find an intellectual yet readable treatise such as this, a book to be read straight through. An important book for all behaviorists, it also deserves to be read and pondered by those who believe in the uniqueness of the human mind. References, indexes.

Instinctive Navigation of Birds.—Edward Gerrard. 1981. The Scottish Research Group, Skye, Scotland. 185 p. Paper cover. \$12.00. Source: Scottish Research Group, Pabay, Broadford, Skye, Scotland IV49 9BP. This book offers a new explanation for navigation/homing abilities of birds and rejects theories hitherto proposed. Gerrard argues that birds have an instinctive, enforced urge to fly tangentially

at a light source when encountering low-angle glare, and directly toward bright lights that do not produce glare at low angles and toward all high-angle bright lights regardless of any glare. Such behavior, maintained by natural selection and coupled with attraction toward recognizable features, is claimed to be able to account *generally* for nearly all avian navigational performances. The author has "not attempted to offer any experimental evidence of [his] own in support of [his] ideas although [he has] made considerable use of the experimental errors of others." The last portion of the book is devoted to a sharply worded critique of the experiments conducted by several of the most notable researchers in this field. While Gerrard may have some valid points, his imprecise writing, lack of his own data, and harsh tone make his polemic at times difficult to follow. Maps, diagrams, references.

Birds of the North Solomons.—Don Hadden. 1981. Handbook No. 8, Wau Ecology Institute, Papua New Guinea. 107 p. Paper cover. \$9.50. Source: Bishop Museum Press, Box 19000-A, Honolulu, Hawaii 96819. Bougainville and Buba islands are the easternmost province of Papua New Guinea, about 725 km northeast of the main island. Ornithologically, the first has received much attention, whereas the second hardly any. This book compiles present knowledge of the avifauna, including the author's own observations, and serves as a guide for field identification. Covering 155 species, it treats sea- and shorebirds (including numerous migrants) as well as land and freshwater birds. The species accounts each concisely give the appearance, voice, habitat, habits, and distribution—so far as known. Color photographs of many species are shown in 24 plates. Appendices summarize the entire list and give lists of species for certain localities. References, index.