

BRIEFLY NOTED

Key Areas for Threatened Birds in the Neotropics.—David C. Wege and Adrian J. Long. 1995. BirdLife Conservation Series No. 5. Smithsonian Institution Press. Washington, DC. 311 pp., numerous maps and drawings. ISBN 1-56098-529-1. \$32.00 (paper).

Apparently an outgrowth of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, this volume, dedicated to Ted Parker, presents information on 290 species of threaten birds found in Central and South America. For each county, a list of threatened bird species is presented, with occurrence within key areas, defined as “the most important places currently known for globally threatened bird species in the Neotropics,” within that country for each species. Locations of key areas are presented on a country map and a description of each key area follows with annotated lists of the threatened species found in each area. This book will be a useful reference for anyone interested in conservation of birds in Central and South America.

Conservation Genetics. Case Histories from Nature.—John C. Avise and James L. Hamrick, editors. 1996. Chapman & Hall, New York, NY. xvii + 512 pp. ISBN 0-412-05581-3. \$69.95 (cloth).

This volume arose from a symposium at the Society for the Study of Evolution meeting held in Georgia in 1994. Chapters cover a wide variety of taxa, both plant and animal, although the skew is towards vertebrates. One chapter by Susan Haig and John Avise is devoted to avian conservation genetics and there is a brief discussion of the “Cajun” Carolina Chickadee in another chapter by Avise. This volume could be the basis of a graduate seminar, but the price is probably prohibitive.

Bibliographie d’Ornithologie Francaise.—Yves Muller. 1996. Service des publications scientifiques, Museum National d’Histoire Naturelle. Paris, France. 407 pp. ISBN 2-9506548-3-5 290 FF (cloth). (Available through Universal Book Service, Dr. W. Backuys, P.O. Box 321, 2300 AH Leiden, Holland).

This second volume in a series on ornithology in France lists 6,660 references published (primarily in French) between 1966 and 1980 (the first volume covered 1945 to 1965). The references are presented alphabetically, then cross-referenced by journal (e.g., 1 reference from *The Condor*), geographic location, taxa, and topic. The last section shows maps of the breeding and nonbreeding distribution by department for 422 bird species known to occur in France. This

volume is the French equivalent of the Zoological Record for birds.

The Summer Atlas of North American Birds.—Jeff Price, Sam Droege and Amy Price. 1995. Academic Press. San Diego, California. x + 364 pp., 450+ maps. ISBN 0-12-5646607. \$47.95 (cloth).

This book depicts the summer distribution of approximately 450 species of birds in North America based on data collected by the North American Breeding Bird Survey, mostly during 1985–1991. An introductory section discusses how the maps were constructed; a frequency of 0.5 birds per route per year determined the edge of the distributions. Maps are shaded in 4 colors from <5 individuals per route per year to >50 individuals. By and large, the maps for Arkansas are pretty good, e.g., there are no Turkey Vultures in the Mississippi Delta in summer. A summary map of overall species richness of all species combined, and those for all herons, waterfowl, flycatchers, thrushes, warblers, and sparrows, are presented at the end of the map section. All maps are presented without commentaries, which is unfortunate given the expertise of the authors. The next section contains habitat information on about 531 species and usually a list of three Breeding Bird Survey routes where one could go to find each species. The last section addresses population trends and conservation issues. This book started as a project to help birders plan trips to find birds, but it also will serve as a general reference for distribution of birds in summer in North America.

Bird Brains: The Intelligence of Crows, Ravens, Magpies, and Jays.—Candace Savage. 1995. Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, California. ix + 134 pp., numerous color photographs. ISBN 0-87156-379-7. \$25.00 (cloth).

Written for the layperson, this “coffee-table” book attempts to summarize what is known about corvids in the context of animal behavior. The author draws heavily on the works of Balda, Mazluff, Kamil, Heinrich, and Vander Wall in the text and the emphasis is generally on behavior of North American species. Whereas the text may be a little over-done, the color photographs are super, and depict species from around the world engaged in all kinds of corvid antics. Remember this book when you are looking for that perfect bird-book present!—KIMBERLY G. SMITH, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701.