

## BRIEFLY NOTED

**A Guide to Bird Education Resources - Migratory Birds of the Americas: An Annotated Bibliography.**—Sarah B. Laughlin and Diane M. Pence, eds. 1997. ix + 142 pp., numerous illustrations. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Washington, D.C. \$13.70 (paper). (Available from American Birding Association Sales, P.O. Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO 80934, 1-800-850-2471).

This guide lists 42 bird-oriented programs that can be incorporated into an elementary or secondary education curriculum. Selected by a panel of bird educators, each program is ranked from 1 (some value) to 5 (excellent) in terms of content, concepts, presentation, and usability. Also presented are a list of 11 vital statistics, e.g., target audience, format, length of unit, a map of the Americas highlighting places where programs would be relevant (both target and secondary regions), and a sample page from the program itself. At the end of the book are appendices that present sources for ancillary materials, such as useful books and videos on birds, and a thorough index. This book should be of great use to any educator wanting to get young children through teenagers interested in birds.

**A Guide to the Birds of the Galápagos Islands.**—Isabel Castro and Antonia Phillips. 1996. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. 144 pp., 32 color plates, numerous pen and ink drawings. ISBN 0-691-01225-3. \$24.95 (cloth).

If you are going to visit the Galapagos, you will of course want to purchase a guide to the birds. Prior to this new book, the book of choice was M. Harris' *The Collins Field Guide to the Birds of Galapagos*, revised in 1982 and first published in the United States in 1989. I used that book when I visited the islands and found it to be a perfectly adequate book that would fit in your back pocket. I particularly liked the map inside the front and back covers, where I plotted our trip each day.

This new volume purports to be an important update of the Harris volume. Of course, the birds have not changed that much and most are pretty easy to identify, except for some of Darwin's finches, which, as the saying goes, only God and Peter Grant can tell apart. (Grant wrote the foreword in the book.) The back cover says the book covers every species ever recorded and a bibliography is a nice improvement, but it appears that the book and bibliography only cover up to early 1990, e.g. no mention of Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) reported in 1990 (*Am. Birds* 44: 1094). The introductory section on the history and ecology of the islands is informative and full of useful background information. Personally I would have liked to see more on continental drift, volcanism, and habitat and vegetation distributions, but, after all, this is a bird guide. Those wanting more background information should consult M. H. Jackson's *Galapagos: a Natural*

*History Guide* (1989, The University of Calgary Press).

I think that I would have been equally happy taking the Castro and Phillips book to the islands as I was with the Harris book. They both present basic information about the birds in a similar, clear manner. However, the new book would not have fit in my back pocket.

**Where to Watch Birds in Asia.**—Nigel Wheatley. 1996. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. 464 pp., numerous maps. ISBN 0-691-01212-8. \$35.00 (cloth).

This book is the third in a series that characterizes where to go to watch birds on the major continents; the previous two covered Africa and South America. For each country, there are some introductory remarks, followed by descriptions of good places to go to watch birds, with a list of birds possible at each place, divided into "specialties" and "others." The four places mentioned for South Korea, the country in Asia I am most familiar with, are great places to go bird watching, although there are several others that are not mentioned. There is a short list of references at the end of each county account that may be useful; however, for South Korea, it is misleading that Pyong-Oh Won's wonderful field guide is called *A Field Guide to the Birds of Korea*, because the guide is actually written in Korean and not available in English. Wheatley's book will be of interest only to those people lucky enough to travel widely on the Asian continent.

**Extinction Rates.**—John H. Lawton and Robert M. May, eds. 1995. Oxford University Press, New York. 233 pp., numerous tables and figures. ISBN 0-19-854829-X. \$40.00 (paper)

This relatively small volume is an updated and rewritten version of a symposium held in 1993 in Great Britain, which was subsequently published in the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* in 1994. As pointed out by several authors, birds are only second to mollusks in the number of species that have gone extinct in the last several centuries, and 2 of the 14 chapters deal exclusively with bird extinctions. I doubt that there is enough here for a semester-long graduate seminar, and the price seems high for a paperback book of this size.

**Migration—The Biology of Life on the Move.**—Hugh Dingle. 1996. Oxford University Press, New York. vi + 474 pp., plus numerous illustrations. ISBN 0-19-508962-6, \$80.00 (cloth). ISBN 0-19-509723-8, \$40.00 (paper).

Many ornithologists may be uncomfortable with this book. Being one of those ornithocentric persons referred to in the book, I did find the title misleading, as Dingle's definition of migration encompasses

what I would have called dispersal, a term he dismisses as too confused. Thus, Dingle discusses a wide variety of animal (and some plant) movements in this book, all under the heading of migration. Birds and insects (Dingle's specialty) are featured most prominently and many examples are drawn from the ornithological literature. Some treatments

seem cursory, whereas others are in more depth, giving the book a rather uneven approach. This book will be useful as a general reference to the phenomena associated with animal movements.—KIMBERLY G. SMITH, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, kgsmith@comp.uark.edu