

BRIEFLY NOTED

Neotropical Migratory Birds.—Richard M. DeGraaf and John H. Rappole. 1995. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY. ix + 676 pp., numerous black-and-white maps. ISBN 0-8014-8265-8. \$27.50 (paper).

Nearctic Avian Migrants in the Neotropics.—John H. Rappole, Eugene S. Morton, Thomas E. Lovejoy, and James L. Ruos. 1995. 2nd ed. Conservation and Research Center, National Zoological Park, Smithsonian Institution, Front Royal, VA. v + 324 pp., numerous black-and-white maps. ISBN 0-9638408-5-1. \$12.00 (paper).

The first book summarizes life histories and distributions of 361 Neotropical migratory species. Each species account includes a distribution map showing breeding and wintering range, a description of the range including northward and southward migration routes, population status, and habitat requirements. A short list of references also is given for each species. The book also includes an introductory chapter defining a Neotropical migratory bird, and a chapter on current concerns and research regarding population changes in Neotropical migratory species. The two appendices contain useful information summarizing breeding and wintering habitat use, and population changes classified by physiographic regions. This is a worthwhile quick reference book for life history information pertaining to Neotropical migratory species.

The second book includes five appendices detailing the distribution, status, e.g., breeding, wintering, or transient, of each species in the countries within their range, and winter habitat and food use for 338 Nearctic migratory species. The rest of the book, nearly 200 pages, is devoted to an extensive bibliography on all topics related to Nearctic species in the Neotropics. Although some information in this book can be found in the previously described book, the bibliography alone is worth the modest price of this book.—C. JEANETTE BIDER, Oklahoma Biological Survey, University of Oklahoma, 111 E. Chesapeake, Norman, OK 73109, e-mail: jbider@ou.edu

Tropical Forest Remnants.—William F. Laurance and Richard O. Bierregaard Jr., eds. 1997. University of Chicago Press, Chicago. xv + 616 pp. numerous tables and figures. ISBN: 0-226-46898-4. \$105.00 (cloth). ISBN: 0-226-46899-2. \$38.00 (paper).

The subtitle of this book is "Ecology, management, and conservation of fragmented communities" and it appears to fit the volume well. Many different taxa, both plant and animal, are covered in this volume, which was an out-growth of a symposium held at the 1995 meeting of the Ecological Society of America at Snowbird, Utah.

The book is divided into 7 sections, each with an introduction section by Laurance. Five of the 33 chapters explicitly deal with avian ecology, both in the Neotropics and Australia. Several other chapters make reference to avian studies. There are subject, author, and taxa indexes, and the literature cited section is over 50 pages long. This book is an excellent candidate for

a graduate seminar on tropical ecology and will be a must reading for anyone interested in tropical ecology.

A Neotropical Companion.—John Kricher. 1997. 2nd ed. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. xvi + 451 pp. 177 color prints, plus numerous pen-and-ink drawings. ISBN: 0-691-04433-3. \$29.95 (cloth).

I took the author's advice and read this book in an airport and on a crowded plane; unfortunately, I was not on my way to the tropics as he further suggests, but I wished that I was. I did not read the first edition, so I cannot compare the two, but I feel that the current volume must be a great improvement from the first, because it is expanded to cover most of South America. In particular, the reader gets a good sense of the geography, biological history, and biogeography of the Southern Hemisphere.

This book apparently grew out of an undergraduate course that Kricher taught on the Neotropics, and extensive trips and courses lead by him in Central and South America. People familiar with the ecology of the Neotropics will find this fast reading, although they probably will discover a few new facts. However, this book would be perfect for students in a course that were actually going to go to the Neotropics, or the perfect recommendation for anyone traveling there for the first time. At times, the writing is folksy and casual, but overall it will be pretty entertaining for someone anticipating a trip to the Neotropics.

Food Webs.—Gary A. Polis and Kirk O. Wine-miller, eds. 1996. Chapman and Hill, New York. xiv + 472 pp. numerous figures. ISBN: 0-412-04051-4. \$69.95 (cloth).

This volume is the product of an international symposium held in September of 1993 in Colorado. It is divided into 6 sections, beginning with detritus and nutrients and ending with synthesis. Birds are mentioned only in passing and apparently do not figure into many aspects of food web theory, although they certainly transcend several tropic levels. Nonetheless, this volume contains many interesting chapters, most of which deal with theory rather than specific examples, so that anyone interested in trophic dynamics will want to read this book. It would be appropriate for a graduate seminar, although it is somewhat expensive and currently only available in hardcover.

Women Scientists in America: Before Affirmative Action 1940–1972.—Margaret W. Rossiter. 1995. Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, MD. xviii + 584 pp. numerous illustrations. ISBN: 0-8018-4893-8. \$39.95 (cloth).

This is the second volume of Rossiter's research on women scientists in America; the first was published in 1982 and documented the "struggles" up to the beginning of World War II. As this book attests, apparently the struggles continued from 1940 through

1972, particularly after World War II, although that 30-year period did signify the "golden years" for women's colleges and universities in this country. The information presented is very detailed and the reading is relatively slow going. The last 200 pages of the book contain notes, sources, and an index. There are few direct references to important women in the natural

sciences, although there are numerous summary tables that compare scientific disciplines in terms of gender. This (and its companion volume) would be important references in any library dealing with the history of science.—KIMBERLY G. SMITH, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, e-mail: kgsmith@comp.uark.edu