

BOOK REVIEWS

A Guide to Hawk Watching in North America. 1979. Donald S. Heintzelman. Pennsylvania State University Press. 284 pp. \$12.95 cloth bound, \$6.95 paper bound.

The advertising brochure from Penn State Press states that until the arrival of Donald Heintzelman's book, *A Field Guide to Hawk Watching in North America*, ornithologists and bird watchers with a particular interest in North American hawks have had to do without a useful field guide. This statement is largely accurate. Other birding field guides, including Roger Peterson's and the Golden Series guide to birds of North America, have been available with good plates facilitating hawk identification, but no book until Heintzelman's has devoted itself entirely to North American hawks. In many ways it is after the mold of the book, *Flight Identification of European Raptors* by Porter, et al.

The basic approach of this book is to give the reader a written sketch of plumage characteristics concerning a given species, its range of distribution, and the location of useful hawk observation posts across the U.S. and Canada. A rough outline of a species life history (i.e., descriptions of nest, clutch size, incubation period, etc.) is included as well, but as is the case in most field guides, no major references are cited giving the source for specific life history information. The nucleus of the book is the series of approximately 184 identification plates. Most of these are photos while a few are drawings. The plates include pictures of hawks in various phases of plumage and action positions—many in flight and some at nests. Although well focussed photos of raptors in flight are not easily obtained, Heintzelman, with a few exceptions, presents a good collection from assorted photographers. Occasional drawings, such as the one depicting the two color phases of the Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*) (p. 118), are poor. There are good photographs available for this species. The photo of the Hook-billed Kite is of questionable value; it certainly won't help anyone identify this species. Additionally, some drawings are simply copies from other well-known raptor works. The sketch of an immature Gray Hawk (*Buteo nitidus*) for example, is taken from Brown and Amadon's classic work, *Eagles, Hawks and Falcons of the World*, while the sketch of the adult was taken from May's *The Hawks of North America*. While Heintzelman does acknowledge books, it seems as though the credit for these drawings is not given to the original artists nor even to the book from which they came, but rather to the artist who copied them. Nevertheless, on the whole, the plates are good and refreshingly free of birds with jesses around their tarsi.

Heintzelman's book is geared principally to hawk watching at times of migration and does not dwell on behaviors concerning the breeding season. There are figures showing how migration hawks use thermals along ridges, selected maps of bird refuges, and a figure showing when major movements of 14–17 species of raptors occur in eastern and western North America. The book has four appendices. The first gives accidental North American raptor sightings, including such notables as the Neotropical Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*) and old world Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*). The second appendix gives a list of hawks known to occur in the Hawaiian Islands, while the third lists North American Raptor Conservation Organizations. The fourth appendix consists of data sheets useful for recording information during hawk flights.

A Guide to Hawk Watching in North America will probably be most attractive to

nonprofessionals that have an especially difficult time identifying North American hawks. The item of most use to experienced field biologists may be the list and brief description of well-used hawk migration sites in regions unfamiliar to them.

W. J. Mader

The Study of Raptor Populations. Donald R. Johnson. The University Press of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83843, 2nd ed, 1981. 80 pages, \$6.95.

This is Don Johnson's second edition of his useful little booklet. The first edition was in offset format on $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ paper, this one is typeset and of a smaller size, $5\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$. Don revised his first edition after the appearance of Newton's *Population Ecology of Raptors* and has thus been able to take advantage of some of Newton's information, references, etc. The booklet contains the following chapters: Identification, Census Techniques, Productivity, Survival, Mortality, Food, Prey Base Studies, Niche Relationships, Energetics, Migration, Sexual Dimorphism and Raptors as Predators. The layout of the chapters can be represented by chapter 3 on Productivity and has the following sub-titles: Clutch Size, Brood Size, Fledgling Success, Other Related Parameters and Reproductive Strategies. Each chapter is only 4-5 pages long including the literature cited. Here Don has tried to sift through the literature and present enough to give the reader a good idea of the topic. For example, his chapter 3 contains 62 references. Some of the shorter chapters, such as Sexual Dimorphism, has only 14 references. The book treats both hawks and owls with emphasis mainly on North American forms. The concept of the booklet, as I see it, is to provide those interested in raptors, but not necessarily knowledgeable of them, a handy and ready reference. I have also found it very useful to give me a quick review of the "meat" of the subject. To be sure, there are many good references not included but on balance the booklet serves a useful purpose and for the nominal price, I heartedly recommend it.

Clayton M. White

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

An *ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY* on raptors in Alaska and adjacent portions of western Canada (Yukon Territories and western British Columbia) is being prepared for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by Alaska Biological Research. References, reprints, or unpublished articles dealing with any aspects of raptor ecology in these geographic areas (e.g. distribution, food habits, productivity) would be appreciated.

At the same time the USFWS is developing a *MAILING LIST* of knowledgeable sources and parties interested in raptors in these areas. If you are interested in being put on this mailing list or have reference material for the bibliography, please write to:

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