

11 and a single bird was seen as late as May 13, suggesting that some may breed on the island at Benner Bay, where nesting was reported in 1978. A flock of ten Blue-winged Teal lingered at St. C until the last week in April (RP, MH). A single Osprey remained at Benner Bay until Apr. 16 and a Peregrine was seen late in its migration Apr. 29 at Saba Cay. The occurrence of Peregrines at small offshore islands in March and April coincides with the arrival of thousands of terns preparing to nest in the Region.

PLOVERS THROUGH TERNS—A single Semipalmated Plover was observed May 8 at St. C (RP). Twenty Ruddy Turnstones were also seen May 8 (RP) and a single bird was seen May 16 (RLN), suggesting that some may indeed over-summer as past records indicate. Several other late migrants or summer visitors were observed at St. C May 8, including four Semipalmated Sandpipers, one Spotted Sandpiper, and a Greater Yellowlegs (RP,SI,MH). The second, though not unexpected, **Herring Gull**, an adult, recorded in Charlotte Amalie Harbor, St.T., Mar. 14 may have been lured by one of the many cruise ships which stop here in the spring. The previous record of an immature occurred in Oct., 1976.

S.A.

Nesting larids, especially terns, represent a huge influx of species, commercially important to the local fishing industry. Continued poaching and "egging", of these protected birds will reduce their abundance and value in assisting the industry to locate fish. Among the ten species that nest or have nested in the area of the Puerto Rico Bank, none seem more vulnerable than the Roseate and Sandwich terns. On May 29, 1000+ Roseate Terns were observed on Leduck Cay, St. John (hereafter, St. J) (*fide* DWN) where several nests were seen. Forty Sandwich Terns were observed along the n. side of Grass and Mingo Cays, St. J May 14 and nesting is suspected in the vicinity. Sandwich Terns nested for the first time in the northern U.S. Virgin Islands last spring.

Another beleaguered species is the Least Tern, which was observed May 8 at St. C numbering 100+ (RP, SI, MH). The rarely seen 'portlandica' plumage of the Roseate Tern was observed in a single bird among a flock of 65, including four Sandwich and a Royal Tern on Mingo Cay (St.J) May 1.

PIGEONS THROUGH FINCHES—Most temperate zone passerines have departed this Region by mid- to late April, and resident species have commenced their breeding cycle. Many breeding species in the islands are also migratory, arriving on the Puerto Rico Bank as early as late February and early March. The White-crowned Pigeon, though present during the winter months in small numbers, begins to arrive at nesting sites in March. In the Virgin Islands White-crowns were carrying nesting material Mar. 3-Apr. 17 at St. T and St. J. Bridled Quail Dove, considered rare in the Virgin Islands, is ubiquitous at St. J and was observed in Cruz Bay Apr. 19. A

Collared Swift, a rare visitant from the e. Greater Antilles, was observed May 14 & 17 at Lake Guajataca, PR. (RP-R) providing the second record for that island. A single Belted Kingfisher remained at Saba Cay, St.T., until May 2. A surprising report of an E. Kingbird seen Apr. 26 from Lake Dos Bocas, P.R. (RP-R) appears to represent the second record for Puerto Rico. Single Louisiana Waterthrushes were observed feeding along steep, freshwater streams in Dorothea, St. T, Mar. 26 and in Fish Bay Apr. 17 (St.J).

ADDENDUM—David Wingate reports from Bermuda that his project for the reintroduction of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron has now proved successful with at least four nestings with young raised, and more suspected. Birds from Florida had been introduced in 1977 and 1978, in a project supported by the National Audubon Society.

DEDICATION—This report is dedicated to the memory of Alexander Wetmore whose work in the West Indies has been an inspiration to so many amateur and professional ornithologists.

CONTRIBUTORS—Margo Hewitt (MH), Shirley Imsand (SI), David W. Nellis (DWN), Robert L. Norton (RLN), Richard Philibosian (RP), Raul Perez-Rivera (RP-R) — **ROBERT L. NORTON, Bureau of Fish and Wildlife, No. 86 Estate Frydenhoj, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00801.**



New and Recent Books

A Field Guide to the Birds East of the Rockies, 4th Edition.—Roger Tory Peterson. Houghton Mifflin, Boston 1980. 384 pp. Softbound, \$9.95, Hardbound \$15, limited leatherbound, boxed \$90 (sold out). No bird book in our memory has been introduced with such tremendous fanfare, with reviews more like adulatory feature articles than critiques. The long-awaited new edition is indeed almost all new: 137 species added since the third edition, 136 new color plates with almost 1700 individual paintings—the best Peterson yet—and 360 species range maps, six to a page, a handsome addition. A review seems almost superfluous: this is one you must have.—R.A.

A Field Guide to Western Birds' Nests, of 520 species found breeding in the United States west of the Mississippi River.—Hal H. Harrison. No 25. in the Houghton Mifflin Peterson field guide series. 1979. xxx + 279 pp. 400 photos, 256 in color. \$11.95 hardbound. A companion to Harrison's eastern birds' nest guide (1975), and equally useful. There is, herein, a wealth of information in field guide guise; for each species breeding range, identification of nest and eggs, nest habitat and construction, clutch size, and special notes. With more and more states planning breeding bird atlases, the value of this remarkable compilation is patent. Belongs next to No. 21 on your field guide shelf.—R.A.

A Garland of Nightingales.—Hockley Clarke. Gordon and Cremonesi Publishers, London and New York. 1979 (Distributed by Atheneum Publishers, New York.) Ill., drawings, photographs 122 pp. \$15.95 hardbound. Artistically printed and illustrated, this charming book is also informative, concise and well written. The British author is the editor of *Birds and Country* magazine. He knows wildlife and his enthusiasm for his subject is infectious. Clarke includes personal experiences, observations of other naturalists and poetry which the nightingale has inspired. This is the first volume devoted solely to nightingales and it certainly does justice to their seductive magic.—K.S.

A Guide to North American Waterfowl.—Paul A. Johnsgard. Indiana Univ. Press, Bloomington. 1979. viii + 274 pp. Ill., maps, drawings, 16 pp in color. \$15.95. The prolific and productive Dr. Johnsgard works another change on the waterfowl he knows so well, this one a shorter version of his *Waterfowl of North America*. Fifty-two species are treated, most with information on vernacular names, range, subspecies, if any, identification, and natural history. Good range maps are provided. An identification key and six pages of head profiles are interesting features.—R.A.



A Guide to the Behavior of Common Birds.—Donald W. Stokes. Ill., drawings by J. Fenwick Lansdowne. Little Brown, Boston and Toronto. 1979. x + 336 pp. \$9.95 hardcover. The birding public, long deprived of a non-technical work on avian ethology, will find in Donald Stokes' well-planned and enjoyable guide an accessible tool with which to study a subject traditionally confined mainly to scientific conferences and treatises. The book ingeniously provides a wealth of useful information on both vocal and visual display—the behavioral signatures of 25 well-known species. Those who have found themselves ignoring Hairy Woodpeckers as too familiar will watch with renewed interest for a demonstration of Bill Waving accompanied by energetic calls of "eetickiwickiwickiwicki." Those who have wondered about the size of a kestrel's breeding territory, the Tumble Flight and Dawn Song of the Eastern Kingbird, or behavioral clues to locating the nest of the American Goldfinch will find themselves richly rewarded.—C.A.S.

An Owl Came to Stay.—Claire Rome. Crown Publishers, Inc., New York. 1980. Drawings by the author. Black-and-white photographs. 144 pp. \$6.95 hardbound. Owl fanciers will wish this delightful book would go on forever. A couple of the anecdotes might strike some readers as a bit too "sentimental", but almost everyone will laugh and cry with pleasure. Laymen will learn a great deal about Tawny and other British owls, not only from the text, but from the lovely illustrations by the artist-author. Mrs. Rome describes her experiences with the owls she has cared for in her studio over a five-year period. Each owl brings its own devastating charm and peculiar problems. A dedicated conservationist, the author succeeds in returning the owls to the wild, while keeping them and their progeny as friends.—K.S.

Arctic Summer: Birds in North Norway—Richard Vaughan. Anthony Nelson Limited, Shropshire, England. 1979. Maps. Color and black-and-white photographs. 151 pp. £6.25 hardbound. Available in the United States from Buteo Books, P.O. Box 481, Vermillion, S. Dak. 57069. Velkommen to this emi-

nently readable, distinguished investigation of the Varanger Peninsula and the birds that breed there. Not only are the author's bird photographs dramatic, his landscapes catch the spell of northern Norway and all its wild, moody crag-giness. Vaughan has spent more time on the peninsula during the nesting season than have other ornithologists, and he presents the most detailed information to date. The convenience of roads transversing the area and the lack of published records from its northern coast inspired the British historian to travel to this remote spot. It was a lucky trip for us too. Skål!—K.S.

Beached Marine Birds and Mammals of the North American West Coast: A Manual for their Census and Identification.—Ainley, D.G., *et al.* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Biological Services Program, FWS/OBS-80/03. 1980. vii + 207 pp. Ill., 39 plates and 37 figures by Helen C. Strong, from Jay Watson, U.S.F.&W.S., Lloyd 550 Bldg., Suite 1692, 500 NE Multnomah, Portland, OR 97232. In an increasing number of coastal areas, bird groups like P.R.B.O. lead Beached Bird Surveys in which the participants regularly walk the tide-lines, tally the species and numbers of carcasses washed up, and try to determine the cause of death. It is for this purpose that this field guide was designed. This is a working manual, with more than 50 pages of keys, and almost 40 pages of life-size line drawings of birds' heads, bills, feet and wings to aid in identifying dead or moribund marine birds. (There is also a section on mammals). Included are species accounts of more than 150 waterbirds and shorebirds that occur from the Bering Strait to the s. tip of Baja California. Since oil spills and other man-induced disasters are now adding to the natural forces to which birds fall prey, this commendable book will help furnish significant information from a heretofore essentially ignored source.—C.A.S.

Bird Finding in Tennessee.—Michael Lee Bierly. Published by and available from Michael Lee Bierly, 3825 Bedford Ave., Nashville, Tenn. 37215. 1980. 255 pp. \$8.00 paperbound ppd. Clear and detailed maps accompany almost every description of 112 productive birding areas in Tennessee. An annotated unofficial check-list of 342 species of Tennessee birds includes references to abun-

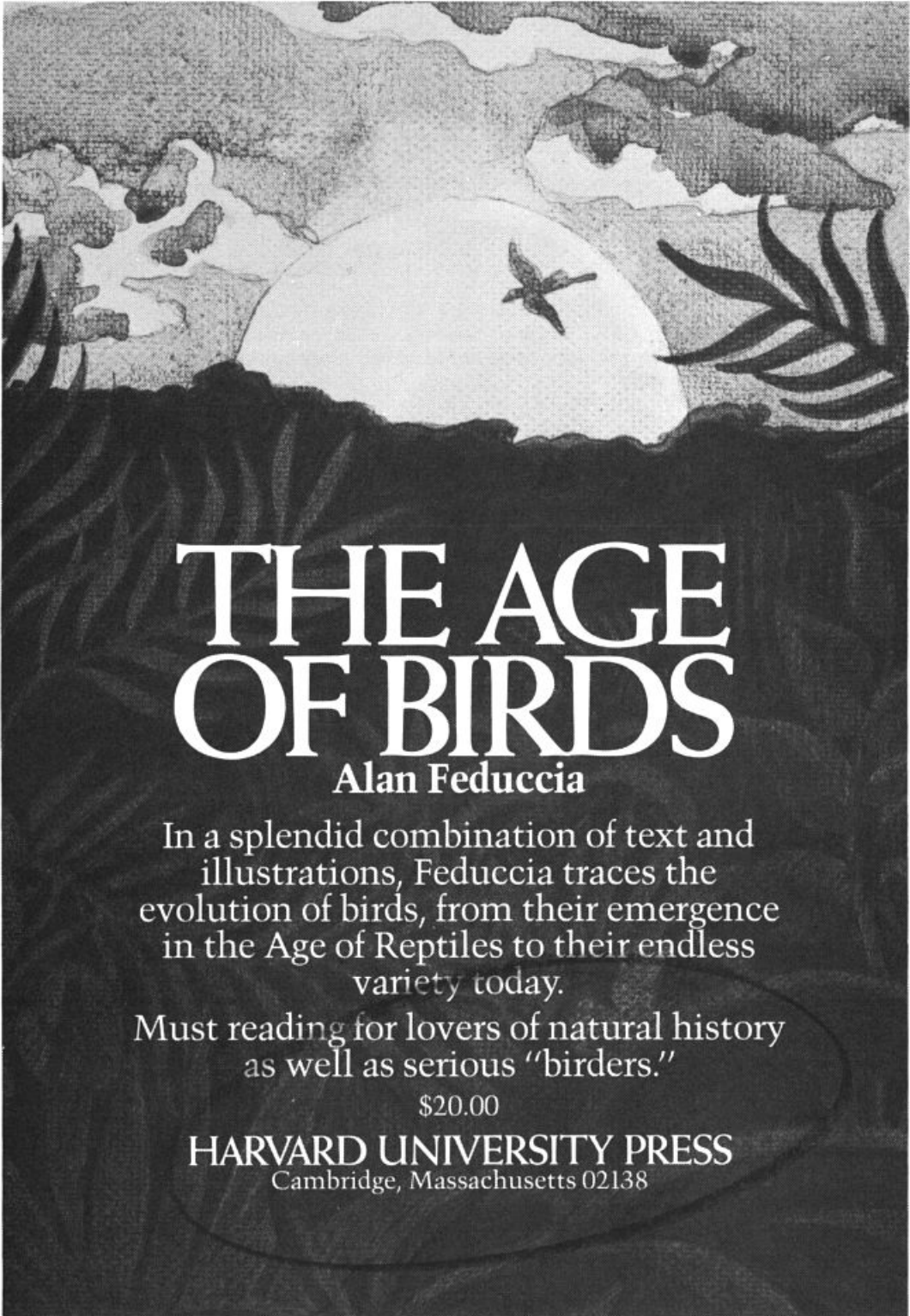
dance, distribution, breeding status and occasionally identification. The guide contains a directory of Tennessee birders and bird clubs and a species and site index. Birders exploring Tennessee will find this site-guide pleasurable and profitable to use.—C.A.S.

Birds in Fact and Legend.—Walter Harter. Illustrations by Minn. Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., New York. 1979. 128 pp. \$5.95 hardbound. Many of the legends, myths and histories presented will be familiar to the inveterate reader, but this small book would be a thoughtful present for an emerging avian enthusiast. It will also appeal to the fact fancier and the adjective addict. Minn's drawing of the Kiwi, one of the eleven black-and-white illustrations, is worth the price of the book.—K.S.

Birds of Colorado's Gunnison Country.—A. Sidney Hyde. The Western State College Foundation, 120 N. Boulevard, Gunnison, Colo. 91230. 1979. 140 pp. Illustrations by Donald Radovich. \$15.95 clothbound; \$6.95 paperbound. Two-hundred-sixty-eight species of birds studied during the author's thirty years of observation of this 60 x 80 mile section of west central Colorado are described in his annotated checklist. Not specifically a bird-finding guide, the book consists principally of entries briefly describing plumages, behavior, general habitat preferences and arrival and departure dates. A large-scale map gives general locations for about 25% of the species, including rosy finches, Flammulated Owl, and White-tailed Ptarmigan. Donald Radovich's watercolors provide a fine accompaniment to this useful regional guide.—C.A.S.

Birds of the Carolinas.—Eloise F. Potter, James E. Parnell and Robert P. Teulings. Univ. of North Carolina Press, 1980. Ill., 338 color photographs, map. viii + 408 pp. \$14.95. Three knowledgeable Carolinians have joined to produce this attractive, popular update of the avifauna of this rich eastern province. A total of 415 species are

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Birds of the West Coast, Volume Two.—Paintings, drawings and text by J F Lansdowne. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 1980. Ill., 48 paintings in color, 48 drawings. 10 1/2" x 14 1/2". 161 pp. \$40 00. If you are an admirer of Lansdowne's art you will consider this latest collection another prize to be cherished. Beautifully printed and produced in Italy, this volume—mainly of common western North American species—varies somewhat in quality and appeal, from the superb Red-shouldered Hawk (see George Miksch Sutton's dust-jacket appraisal) to somewhat less successful House Finches. Lansdowne's text on plate-facing pages synthesizes well-known information for the uninitiated. A few of the paintings are year-dated; if all were we could better trace Lansdowne's development.—R.A.

Birds: Readings from Scientific American.—Introductions by Barry W. Wilson. W.H. Freeman and Company, San Francisco. 1980. Ill., drawings, photographs. Maps, charts. 276 pp. \$8.95 paperbound. This collection of 25 articles is designed for the general reader, birder or aviculturist interested in becoming more bird-wise. It also affords

excellent supplemental information for college biology courses. The articles are effectively organized into seven sections; distribution and diversity, flight, how birds find their way, evolution, behavior, physiology and song and human impact on birds. Barry Wilson's introduction to the last section is a moving and highly quotable essay on conservation. Included at the back of the book are bibliographies, a short list of ornithological journals and a list of all *Scientific American* articles on birds that do not appear in this publication.—K.S.

Bird Student: An Autobiography.—George Miksch Sutton. Univ. of Texas Press, Austin, 1980. 20 ill. including field sketches, paintings, and ten color plates. viii + 216 pp. \$15.95. Born in 1898, Sutton recounts memories from his early childhood years when his keen interest in birds was awakened, through his years with the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, his early expeditions, mainly to the North country, his years as Pennsylvania state ornithologist and chief of the Bureau of Research of the state's Board of Game Commissioners, his graduate days at Cornell University in the early 1930s and his position there as curator of the Louis Agassiz Fuertes Memorial Collection of Birds. At ten Sutton was already spending as much time as possible drawing birds, collecting specimens, and taking copious notes. While yet only 16, a short article he wrote and illustrated on a Roadrunner he had reared was published in *Bird-Lore*. This gave him the "courage" to first write Fuertes—the start of a relationship that stimulated his interest in becoming a professional artist and ornithologist. Sutton ends this book with the year 1935. The reader can only hope that he will continue his story in another volume.—L.H.H.

Chesapeake Bay Island Breeding Season Birds: Hooper's Island south to Smith Island with notes on vegetation and general island features.—Henry T. Armistead. 1968. 63 pp. \$3.00 postpaid from the author, 28 East Springfield Ave., Philadelphia, Pa., 19118. An impressive regional study of both colonial nesters and passerines, including management proposals for the fragile islands they inhabit.—C.A.S.

Ecology and Evolution of Lek Mating Behavior in the Long-tailed Hermit Hummingbird.—F. Gary Stiles and Larry L. Wolf. A.O.U. Ornithological Monograph no. 27. Washington, D.C. 1979. vii + 78 pp. 26 figures. A highly scientific, technical study of lek mating dynamics, including investigations of foraging patterns, territoriality and lek evolution and behavior. The study, conducted over a four-year period in the lowlands of northeastern Costa Rica, describes the adaptive behavior of males liberated from the nesting process and concentrated in territories dominated by certain flower species. The book's substantial bibliography will provide an excellent source of scholarly data to the avian biologist.—C.A.S.

Edward Lear's Birds.—Susan Hyman. Wm. Morrow & Co., New York 1980. 96 pp. 10 1/2" x 14 1/2" 40 color plates, 30 other plates. \$37.95. Although less well known than Audubon during his lifetime and even today, Edward Lear was the first truly modern bird artist. No other 19th century European rivalled his talent, and increasing numbers of devotees today rank him the equal (in "contemporary" realism the superior) of Audubon himself. This book is a treasure: filled with stunning bird portraits, humorous drawings, nonsense verse, rough sketches and studies, and a text that illuminates Lear's life and times. Several of the plates are from the portraits of the *Psittacidae* (1830-32), done when Lear was 18-20 years old. They will astonish you. Enthusiastically recommended.—R.A.

Ernest Thompson Seton in Manitoba 1882-1892.—Introduction by C. Stuart Houston. Manitoba Naturalists Society, 214-190 Rupert Ave., Winnipeg. 1980 \$11.95. A collection of the major publications, under the name of Ernest E Thompson, on Manitoba zoology, including "The Mammals of Manitoba," 1886, "The Birds of Manitoba," 1891 (Proc. U.S. Nat'l Mus., XIII, 841), which at 189 pages, is the major entry, and brief papers on the fish, reptiles and amphibians. Mainly of historical and literary interest today—and there are many literate passages. But the bird list has strange lapses: nowhere does one find the now-common Ruby-throated

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Hummingbird! Houston's introduction gives the chronology of Thompson Seton's Canadian experience.—R.A.

Fool Hen, The Spruce Grouse on the Yellow Dog Plains.—William L. Robinson. The University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, Wisconsin. 1980. xvii + 221 pp. 2 maps. 9 black-and-white and 6 color photographs. Pen and ink drawings by Deann De La Ronde Wilde. \$18.50. Scholarly, lively and humane, this is the first monograph devoted to the tame but frequently elusive Spruce Grouse. Twenty-five square miles of northern Michigan spruce/jack pine provides the background for a solidly but unflinchingly scientific analysis of Spruce Grouse habitat, behavior, physiology, and ecology. The author's enjoyment of and sympathy for his subject during four years of field research are communicated with an appealing light touch. Scholars will appreciate the extensive data and references in the twenty-five tables, fifteen figures and imposing bibliography. Not a few birders will appreciate the author's generous, if understandably ambivalent appendix: Where and How to See a Spruce Grouse in Upper Michigan. Recommended.—C.A.S.

Great Blue, The Odyssey of a Great Blue Heron.—Marnie Reed Crowell, Ill. by Mary Champeois. Times Books, New York. 1980. 143 pp. \$10.95. A fictionalized account of the first year of life of a Great Blue Heron, hatched in Penobscot Bay, Maine. We follow Great Blue through his first migration to Trinidad, by way of Bermuda, his winter there, his return migration via the Lesser Antilles, Florida, and the East Coast to his natal site. Well researched, well-written, with nuggets of knowledge strewn through the narrative like raisins in the bran. There is something familiar in all these single-individual stories but this is better than most. The vocabulary is about high school level, but this post-school days reader enjoyed it.—R.A.

Habitat Preservation Abstracts.—Office of Biological Services, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Washington, D.C., 20240. 1980. Ninety-two abstracts from ten categories of publication in the field of habitat preservation are listed, with author and subject indices and information to facilitate ordering.—C.A.S.

Handbook of the Birds of Europe the Middle East and North Africa; The Birds of the Western Palearctic, Vol. II, Hawks to Bustards.—Stanley Cramp, Chief Ed. Oxford Univ. Press, Oxford, London, New York. Ill., drawings, paintings, sonograms, maps, life cycle charts. 695 pp. \$85. The second of seven planned volumes in this outstanding handbook must be the ornithological book of the year. As a commentary of the state of ornithology in Europe vs. North America, it makes us a little ill. Twelve editors, hundreds of contributors, and lavish funding combined to produce this truly monumental work just three years after the appearance of Volume I. Subsequent volumes are scheduled at *two-year* intervals. The present volume treats 97 species of the 740+ total, from Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*) to Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*), 25 of which are on the North American list. There are no less than 80 color plates of birds, by C.J.F. Coombs, Peter Hayman, and Ian Willis, and 16 more plates of life-size eggs. If you are serious about your ornithological library, take out a bank loan and invest!—R.A.

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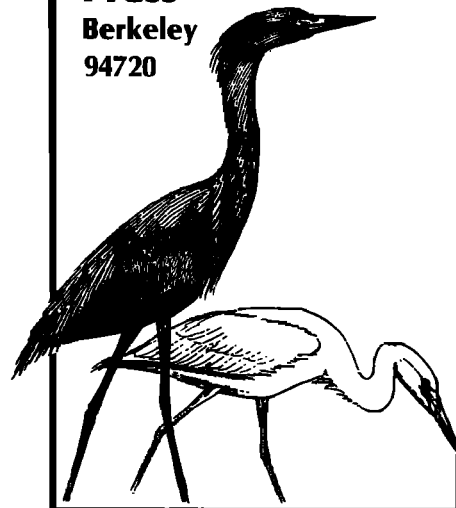
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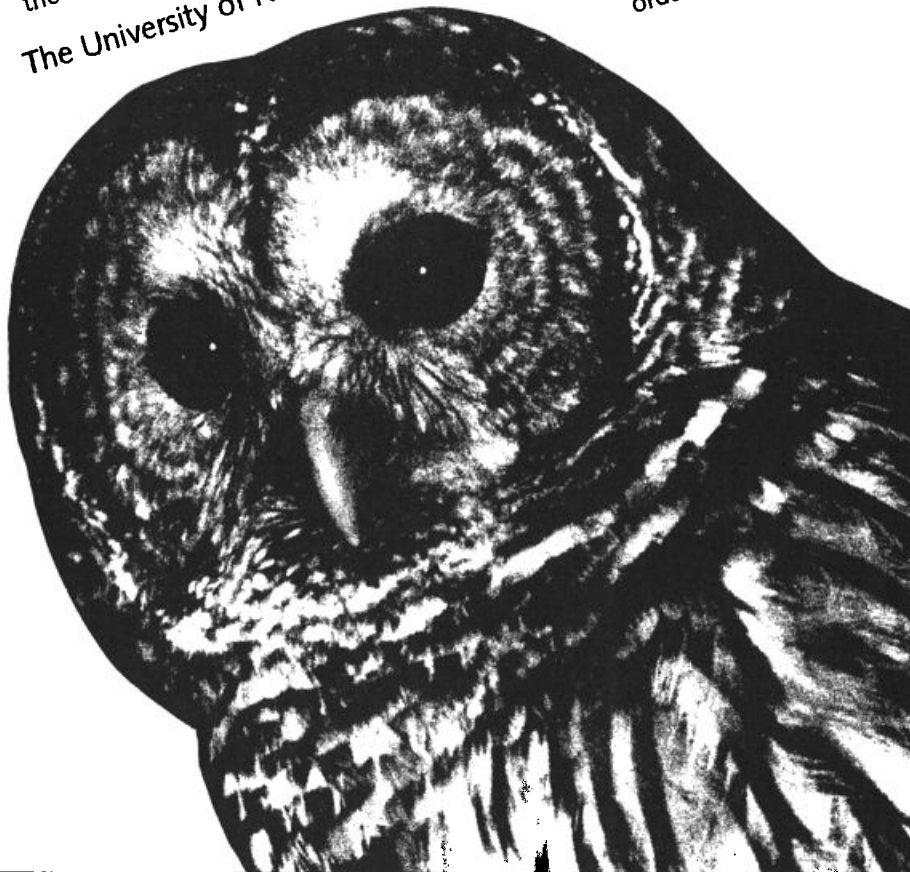
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The Age of Birds.—Alan Feduccia. Harvard Univ. Press, Cambridge. 1980. Ill., photos, drawings, figures. 196 pp. \$20.00. In his preface the author states his purpose as “to tell the story of the evolution of birds in a way that will appeal to people of diverse interests.” As a person of diverse interests, this reviewer found Feduccia’s purpose beautifully fulfilled; this is a lucid and engrossing study, not quite like any you may have read, of avian evolution. Chapter headings give some indication of the scope: the feathered reptile, the ancestry of birds, the evolution of flight, toothed birds and divers, shorebirds, ducks, and waders, the evolution of flightlessness, birds of prey, the rise of landbirds. The reader will be delighted to discover here that palaeontology is neither a terrifying, nor a bone-dry subject; he will be challenged by the author’s original and still “untested” ideas. Recommended.—R.A.

The Bird Year. A Book for Birders, with special reference to the Monterey Bay Area.—John Davis and Alan Baldrige. Ill., photographs. The Boxwood Press, 183 Ocean View Blvd., Pacific Grove, CA 93950. 224 pp. \$.95 paperbound. Of the many regional treatments *American Birds* receives, none has proved such a delightful surprise as this little book, perhaps because it turns out to be so much more than the “Birds of Monterey Bay.” Actually, it is a gem of an introduction to ornithology, its first ten chapters lucidly summarizing, with copious references to important literature, the avian life cycle as understood today. Following is a well-illustrated description of the bird habitats of the region, a chapter on local history, a good bibliography, and the local bird

list. Deserves a far wider audience than its limited area focus would suggest.—R.A.

The Birdhouse Book.—Don McNeil. Pacific Search Press, Seattle, Washington. 1979. 112 pp. 96 line-drawing illustrations. \$8.95 paperbound. A clearly illustrated, step-by-step guide to the production of 17 different kinds of houses, from the elementary “Brown Creeper Cranny” to the intricate Martin House with detailed information about materials, dimensions, and tools required (and including instructions on sparrow traps, predator guards, birdbaths and feeders). Helpful, practical suggestions are included to insure success with a particular species, and are complemented by information on the birds’ range, food, nesting preferences, and unique characteristics. A useful bibliography, (although it mentions only the rough field guide) alerts the reader to methods of attracting and caring for the injured of numerous species. Both the neophyte and the experienced houser of birds from the east coast to the west will find their ambitions fired and the prospect of upcoming long winter evenings considerably brighter.—C.A.S.

The Complete Birds of the World.—Michael Walters, David & Charles, North Pomfret, VT 05053. 1980. 340 pp. \$35.50. One more world bird list to put on the shelf next to the Edwards, Clement, Gruson, Morony *et al.*, and your set of Peters. Of the one-volume lists, this, by an Englishman, may be the best and most informative to date. It purports to list every species known to exist,

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The Hawaiian Goose.—Janet Kear and A.J. Berger. Buteo Books, Vermilion, S. Dak. 1980. Ill., drawings, black-and-white photographs, color frontispiece. Maps. 154 pp. \$30.00 hardbound. A definitive study of the propagation programs for a species which declined from 25,000 in Hawaii in the 18th century to less than fifty birds in the 1940s. The authors explain that the outcome of this well-known conservation experiment, which has increased the population of Hawaiian Geese to more than 2000, is still unpredictable. Although the price of this book seems high, it is certainly a fascinating, scrupulously-illustrated history of near extinction, rescue and restoration to the wild.—K.S.

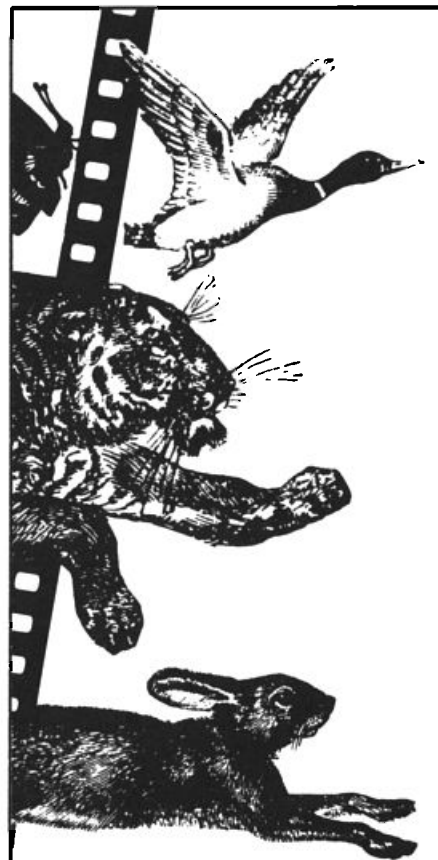
The Life of the Hummingbird.—Alexander Skutch. Crown Publishers, Inc., New York. 1980. 95 pp. Ill., color paintings of more than 80 species by Arthur B. Singer. \$15.95. A captivating treatment, richly and profusely illustrated. Smoothly flowing prose reveals an abundance of detail from the hummingbird's life history, exploding myths and balancing an appreciation of the bird's magic with substantive scientific data and frequent references to the work of other scholars. Diagrams of hummingbirds engaged in courtship flights and insect-chasing are well complemented by fine details of heads, tails, and wing structure. Singer's paintings illuminate the book's conclusion: "To have a satisfactory explanation of hummingbirds' loveliness might deepen our understanding of this so enigmatic universe—and of ourselves."—C.A.S.

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The World of Falconry.—H. Schlegel and J.A. Verster de Wulverhorst. With a study of falconry today in the Arab world. Vendome Press, Lausanne, distributed by Viking Press, New York. 1979. 180 pp. Illustrated. \$60. This is a big, lavishly-illustrated, beautifully produced treatise on falconry, its history, mystique, language, furnishings, practice, and wild bird capture. If you are intrigued by this sport of kings and sheiks, this is a recent addition to the lengthening bookshelf. If on the other hand, you prefer your raptors flying wild and free to being hooded, caged, or leashed to a perch, this book is an avoidable extravagance.—R.A.

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The Age of Birds.—Alan Feduccia. Harvard Univ. Press, Cambridge. 1980. Ill., photos, drawings, figures. 196 pp. \$20.00. In his preface the author states his purpose as "to tell the story of the evolution of birds in a way that will appeal to people of diverse interests." As a person of diverse interests, this reviewer found Feduccia's purpose beautifully fulfilled; this is a lucid and engrossing study, not quite like any you may have read, of avian evolution. Chapter headings give some indication of the scope: the feathered reptile, the ancestry of birds, the evolution of flight, toothed birds and divers, shorebirds, ducks, and waders, the evolution of flightlessness, birds of prey, the rise of landbirds. The reader will be delighted to discover here that palaeontology is neither a terrifying, nor a bone-dry subject; he will be challenged by the author's original and still "untested" ideas. Recommended —R.A.

The Bird Year. A Book for Birders, with special reference to the Monterey Bay Area.—John Davis and Alan Baldrige. Ill., photographs. The Boxwood Press, 183 Ocean View Blvd., Pacific Grove, CA 93950. 224 pp. \$5.95 paperbound. Of the many regional treatments *American Birds* receives, none has proved such a delightful surprise as this little book, perhaps because it turns out to be so much more than the "Birds of Monterey Bay." Actually, it is a gem of an introduction to ornithology, its first ten chapters lucidly summarizing, with copious references to important literature, the avian life cycle as understood today. Following is a well-illustrated description of the bird habitats of the region, a chapter on local history, a good bibliography, and the local bird

list. Deserves a far wider audience than its limited area focus would suggest.—R.A.

The Birdhouse Book.—Don McNeil. Pacific Search Press, Seattle, Washington. 1979. 112 pp. 96 line-drawing illustrations. \$8.95 paperbound. A clearly illustrated, step-by-step guide to the production of 17 different kinds of houses, from the elementary "Brown Creeper Cranny" to the intricate Martin House with detailed information about materials, dimensions, and tools required (and including instructions on sparrow traps, predator guards, birdbaths and feeders). Helpful, practical suggestions are included to insure success with a particular species, and are complemented by information on the birds' range, food, nesting preferences, and unique characteristics. A useful bibliography, (although it mentions only the rough field guide) alerts the reader to methods of attracting and caring for the injured of numerous species. Both the neophyte and the experienced houser of birds from the east coast to the west will find their ambitions fired and the prospect of upcoming long winter evenings considerably brighter.—C.A.S.

The Complete Birds of the World.—Michael Walters, David & Charles, North Pomfret, VT 05053. 1980. 340 pp. \$35.50. One more world bird list to put on the shelf next to the Edwards, Clement, Gruson, Morony *et al.*, and your set of Peters. Of the one-volume lists, this, by an Englishman, may be the best and most informative to date. It purports to list every species known to exist,

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either at present or in Pleistocene times; it provides: vernacular and scientific names, authority, range, location of nest, normal clutch, which sex(es) incubate, breeding and winter range, and notes on parasitism. Families are described, and frequent text notes alert the reader to unresolved taxonomic problems. Of all the one-volume lists thus far, this is the one that is fascinating to read. Vernacular names will satisfy both British and American usage, but the author "generally tried to choose the shortest, most convenient, and most euphonious name... I deplore the practice among American authors of changing established names to others which are both ugly and cumbersome." Hear, hear!—R.A.

The Coppery-tailed Trogon: Arizona's "Bird of Paradise."—Cachor Taylor. Borderland Publications, Box 122, Portal, Arizona, 85632. 1980. 48 pp 6 pencil drawings by Kathryn McLane. \$3.50 paperbound. This compact study of *Trogon elegans* treats informally the historical, physiological and even psychological dimensions of its

subject. According to the author, the book "is meant to appeal to the lay bird-watcher, but without forfeiting scientific accuracy" and it balances useful descriptive detail with both intriguing anecdotes (culled from 3 years of specialized research) and a 45-work bibliography. Readers who avail themselves of Taylor's directions for finding a trogon in the "nucleus canyons" it frequents (efficiently illustrated in a map-key on the back cover) will be well guided in discovering the bird—and inspired to encourage the proper management and essential preservation of its habitat. Recommended.—C.A.S.

The Focal Guide to Bird Photography.—Michael W. Richards. Focal Press/Hastings House, New York. 1980. 158 pp. Ill., drawings, diagrams, 8 pp. color. £3.25. This little paperback, an English import, gives advice on everything from attracting birds to the feeder to building blinds, choosing cameras and lenses, lighting, night photography, nest photography, and action photography. No brand names are anywhere mentioned, and some of the advice given

does not apply to this continent. Richards, however, appears to be an excellent photographer.—R.A.

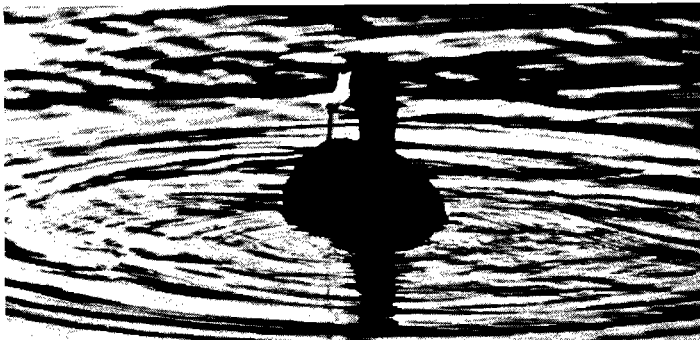
The foraging behavior of Mountain Bluebirds.—Harry W. Power. American Ornithologists' Union: Ornithological Monograph no. 28. Washington, D.C. 1980. ix + 72 pp. 4 color photographs and 37 figures and tables. \$8.50. A highly rigorous investigation of the evolution and ecological expression of sexual foraging differences among Mountain Bluebirds, including discussions of foraging tactics and results. Observations conducted in Montana over a seven-year period, supplemented by a scholarly bibliography have resulted in a comprehensive assessment — C.A.S.

The Imperative Call: a naturalist's quest in temperate and tropical America.—Alexander F. Skutch. University Presses of Florida, Gainesville, 1979. x + 331 pp. Ill.: 48 black-and-white photographs. \$20.00 clothbound. Skutch's autobiographical natural history recounts his odyssey from Maryland to Costa Rica via Maine, Jamaica, Panama, Honduras and Guatemala. Inspiring us to "care more about what we do and experience than what we possess," Skutch offers us the botanical and zoological riches of the tropics, combining a gifted scientist's powers of observation with a committed humanist's reverence for life. Even those who have never been drawn to the tropics will find themselves entranced.—C.A.S.

The Island Waterfowl.—Milton W. Weller. Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa. 1980. x + 121 pp. Ill photographs. \$10.95 clothbound. The result of field work on five archipelagoes, this valuable investigation explores a variety of compelling questions about endemic waterfowl. Colonization of and adaptation to oceanic islands have necessitated the development of unique characteristics among these species, several of which are rare or endangered. A study of his subjects' biogeography has yielded the author important clues not only to their own evolution and ultimate preservation but to the ecology of continental waterfowl as well. Weller's research and field work have resulted in a study that is illuminating without being recondite.—C.A.S.

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The Hawaiian Goose.—Janet Kear and A.J. Berger. Buteo Books, Vermilion, S. Dak. 1980. Ill., drawings, black-and-white photographs, color frontispiece. Maps. 154 pp. \$30.00 hardbound. A definitive study of the propagation programs for a species which declined from 25,000 in Hawaii in the 18th century to less than fifty birds in the 1940s. The authors explain that the outcome of this well-known conservation experiment, which has increased the population of Hawaiian Geese to more than 2000, is still unpredictable. Although the price of this book seems high, it is certainly a fascinating, scrupulously-illustrated history of near extinction, rescue and restoration to the wild.—K.S.

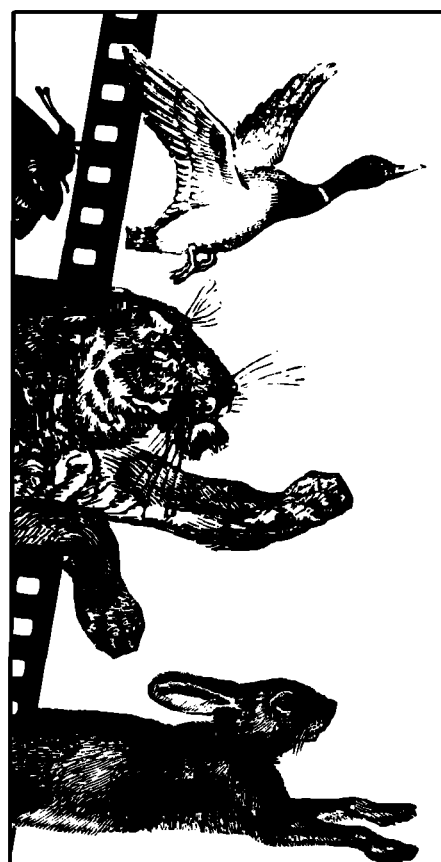
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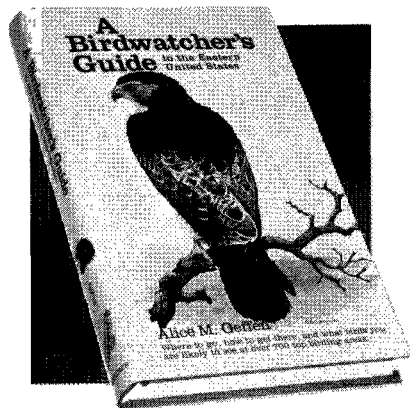
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Voices of the Loon.—Recorded by Wm. E. Barklow, narrated by Robert J. Lurtsema. North American Loon Fund,

Voices of New World Nightbirds—owls, nightjars and their allies.—Compiled, narrated and produced by John William Hardy, Bioacoustical Archive, Florida State Museum, Gainesville, FL 1980. Monaural 12" LP. \$7. Tapes of 76 night voices, from Barn Owl through Buff-fronted Owl to Oilbird, Potoos, Nighthawks, Poor-wills, Pauraques and Nightjars, many by the intrepid Ben B Coffey, Jr. Those often-mysterious voices from temperate and tropical darkness captured and (mostly) identified from Fort Churchill and Sweden south to Peru, Colombia, and Venezuela. The resonant bass of the Great Gray Owl alone is worth the price of the recording. As the jacket says, "I hope this record will give students some handles that will enable the night birds to be detected, their distributions mapped, and their life histories studied."—R.A.

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