

Where to Find Birds in New York State: The Top 500 Sites. Susan Roney Drennan. The Syracuse University Press. Cloth: \$38.00. Paperback: \$18.95.

More than 400 of North America's 800-plus bird species have been recorded in New York State, but state birders have never had a comprehensive handbook which would provide them with the information to locate and observe such diverse year-round and seasonal bird residents. It was to fill just such a need that Susan Roney Drennan was asked by the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs to write *Where to Find Birds in New York State: The Top 500 Sites*, just published by Syracuse University Press.

In his Foreword to the book, the noted naturalist, artist, and author of many field guides, Roger Tory Peterson, describes *Where to Find Birds in New York State* as the "most detailed and sophisticated state directory yet produced."

This book is the first comprehensive birding site guide for *all* of New York State, with information on and directions to more than 500 top birding sites from the St. Lawrence area and Adirondacks, to the Tug Hill region, to Long Island. Each site has a seasonal rating, physiographic description, a list of species likely to be found there, tour information, and statistics on the site. The 106 maps drawn especially for this book which accompany the site descriptions make it easier for birders to explore those areas previously unfamiliar to them.

Also included in the 520 page book is information on the 25 best hawk-watching sites and the sites and habitats of the state's rare, pelagic, resident, and migrant birds. Drennan provides information on how to report the observation of a rare bird and includes the New York State Avian Records Committee's prescribed list of rarities.

Susan Roney Drennan is associate editor of *American Birds* and author and editor of numerous books and articles designed to aid birders, including *The Birder's Field Notebook* as well as *Audubon's Birds of America*. *Where to Find Birds in New York State* took five years to research and write. In order to assure that the book be as accurate as possible, Drennan asked birders from all over the state to go over their specific regions described as well as to provide the latest information on directions and the availability of sites. The result is a book which will be invaluable in the field and treasured reading for birders and naturalists at home.

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Bird Island in Antarctic Waters. By David F. Parmelee, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1980. 140 pp., numerous black and white and color photographs, line drawings, and paintings by the author. \$18.95.

Books about far away places and birds one has never heard of, let alone seen, may whet the spirit of adventure in some, but they are often never picked up by others who prefer to learn more about the places and things they already know. "Bird Island in Antarctic Waters" will certainly excite those who thirst for adventure, but I commend it also to the backyard dicker-birder. Here is an enjoyable blend of good art, good photography, and good natural history writing.

The Bird Island of this book is in the South Atlantic between South America and Antarctica. It is inhabited by some 30 species of birds plus fur seals and elephant seals. While "Bird Island" is first of all about the thousands of nesting penguins, albatrosses, and other birds, the story here is of an ecosystem dominated by the sea and a harsh terrestrial environment. Readers will be further interested in this book because of recent human activities near Bird Island — this is an island in the South Georgia group, ownership of which has recently been contested by Britain and Argentina. Why not bone up on current events while learning about the wonderful residents of Bird Island!—JAJ