ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

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BIRDS OF THE GREAT PLAINS: BREEDING SPECIES AND THEIR DISTRIBUTION. By Paul A. Johnsgard. Univ. Nebraska Press, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1979:539 pp., 30 color photographs with captions, 5 black-and-white photographs with captions, 330 range maps, 8 numbered text figs., numerous line drawings, 6 tables. $25.00.—Prior to the publication of this book there existed no summary of the distribution and breeding biology of the birds of the Great Plains. This was a deficiency regretted by many biologists and biogeographers, for the Great Plains contains the most extensive grasslands in North America, and is a region of faunal transition, where north meets south, and east meets west (it is said that more bird species reach a limit to their distribution in Kansas than in any of the other United States).

The Great Plains is neither a sharply defined nor easily delimited region. Johnsgard states that it extends from the vicinity of Great Bear Lake in the Northwest Territories of Canada south to the Pecos River and Balcones Escarpment in Texas, and from the Central Lowlands in the Mississippi and Ohio river drainages west to the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains. He writes that after contemplating a book about this entire region he felt constrained to deal with a more restricted area; he chose one that corresponds more or less to what is called the "central plains"—extending from the 49th parallel (the U.S.–Canadian border) south to southern Oklahoma and thd 34th parallel (in Texas and eastern New Mexico), and lying essentially between the 95th and 104th meridians. He selected this region because its ornithology is rather uniformly well known, and because it includes "as many of the essentially grassland dominated states as feasible (p. xix)."

However, the common conception is that the Great Plains is the extensive, fairly level region of semiarid grassland extending from central Saskatchewan southward to central Texas (Webb, The Great Plains, Grosset and Dunlap, New York, New York, 1932)—a region more properly called the central "prairies." If some restriction were required, I would have preferred that Johnsgard had chosen the prairies, a biotically defined region that conforms to the popular conception of the "Great Plains."

The introduction is a series of useful and clearly written essays on the topography, climate, vegetation and avian zoogeography of the central plains region—the region covered by the book. It is perhaps only here that it is imperative that the reader remember that this is not a book about the prairies, for the included region contains not only a major portion of the prairie grasslands, but also boreal forests (northwestern Minnesota, Black Hills), southern floodplain hickory-oak-pine forests (eastern Oklahoma) and pinyon-juniper scrub (northeastern New Mexico and western Oklahoma). In the faunal analysis of the "Great Plains" the effect of including birds that breed only in these habitats is striking. For example, of the 37 northern woodland species listed in Table 1 (p. xl–xli), most are restricted in their breeding to the Black Hills and northwestern Minnesota; perhaps one (the American Woodcock [*Philohela minor*]) might qualify as a prairie species. Table 6 (p. xlv) summarizes the zoogeographic data; Johnsgard calculated that no fewer than 17% of the plains birds are of northern origin. Were we to exclude the species characteristic only of boreal forests (e.g., Spruce Grouse [*Dendragapus canadensis*]; Gray Jay [*Perisoreus canadensis*]; Red Crossbill [*Loxia curvirostra*]), however, the proportion is more like 2%! Similarly, the "eastern woodland element" is inflated by the inclusion of eastern Oklahoman birds (Red-cockaded Woodpecker [*Dendrocopos borealis*]; Fish Crow [*Corvus ossifragus*]; Brown-headed Nuthatch [*Sitta pusilla*]), etc. The total effect of these inclusions is to underestimate the significance of the "endemic" element in the prairies. A breakdown of the species associated with grasslands

is given in Table 3 (p. xliii). The reader can calculate that of these, 42% are endemic; this is to be compared to the figure of 5% for the entire avifauna given in Table 6. I have no quarrel with Johnsgard's analysis; he chose a region and described it. But because the region is a quiltwork of different habitats, the result is of limited ecological meaning.

Following the introduction there are accounts of the distribution and breeding biology of 330 species that have been known to breed in Johnsgard's area. It is these accounts that make the book of value. Each is a carefully compiled summary of a species' biology, with special reference given to information from the central plains region, and contains information on nest placement, clutch-size, time of breeding, etc. The information is accurate, succinctly presented and (when possible) broken down by local area. Thus, we learn that the American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) nests from late May to late July in North Dakota, and from May to June in Kansas; that Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) clutches average 3.6 eggs in North Dakota, and 3.4 in Oklahoma.

The maps that accompany each account are clear; the "usual" breeding ranges are shaded, and dashed lines enclose peripheral or sporadically used areas; isolated dots show local breeding sites. There is, in the text, an accompanying statement of the range with limited citations to the literature about some extralimital records. It was a massive job to put these maps together, and I have not studied them all critically. There are a few minor errors or inconsistencies in the Kansas ranges—the region that I know best. For example, the Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) is found regularly along the Cimarron River in southwestern Kansas; the reproductive condition of specimens indicates that they breed there. This is one of the few places where this species is sympatric with the similar Great-crested Flycatcher (*M. crinitus*), and it would have been nice to note their cooccurrence there. There is a good breeding record of the Poor-will (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*) in Cowley County (Bull. Kans. Ornithol. Soc. 26:17–19, 1975). The Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) breeds regularly throughout western Kansas, as does the Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*), etc. But these "oversights" are minor; in some cases interpretations are involved (to my knowledge there are no actual nesting records of the flycatcher, bluebird, or vireo outside the shaded areas on the maps); no two people would draw the maps precisely the same way.

Birds of the Great Plains was written for "a rather broad, nontechnical audience," and it has been assembled with enough precision and care that it will be widely appreciated in the central plains region. It is a handsome book with many pleasant illustrations. It does not contain new information, but it is a useful compilation; there are enough citations to original sources that serious students will value it both as an overview and as a point from which thorough local work can be initiated. A similar book written about the entire plains region, or about an ecologically defined portion of the plains, would have been of more interest to biogeographers, but even they will find much in this volume of interest.—JAMES D. RISING.

ELEONORA'S FALCON: ADAPTATION TO PREY AND HABITAT IN A SOCIAL RAPTOR. By Hartmut Walter, illus. by Noel L. Diaz. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois, 1979:410 pp., 36 black-and-white plates with caption figs., 59 numbered text figs., 28 tables including 4 appendices. $35.00.—The Eleonora's Falcon (*Falco eleonorae*) is similar in length to a Peregrine (*F. peregrinus*) with extremely long wings and tail, but with a much slighter build. Adults show an almost 3:1 ratio of 2 color phases; the more common with throat, cheeks and belly of cream-color to buffy, and the least common with a dark brown to slate-black plumage. Its reproductive life separates Eleonora's Falcon from the mainstream of the raptor world. Not only does it breed colonially, as do few other *Falco* species, but it breeds in late summer

and early fall (eggs laid mid-July to early August). From 1965 to 1977 Hartmut Walter visited some islands of southern Europe and northern Africa where approximately 12,000 falcons occur in some 148 breeding colonies. He mainly studied a western colony (Moroccan Mogador), and another in the eastern range, Greek Paximada. In this book, Walter presents what he has learned of the natural history of this species and compares his findings with those in the literature.

The reproductive habit that makes this species so interesting is adaptation to an abundant food source, the estimated 5 billion migrant birds that cross from Europe into Africa and beyond every fall. About 15 species make up 90% of the diet for this falcon, with shrikes (*Lanius* spp.), Whitethroats (*Sylvia communis*) and other Old World warblers (*Phylloscopus* spp.) comprising the bulk. Walter calculates that Eleonora's Falcons use 0.02–0.04% of the total migrants for food. Migrants are caught over open waters of the Atlantic and Mediterranean just as the autumn breeding Sooty Falcon (*F. concolor*) catches migrants over the sands of Libya.

At Paximada, the falcons rise to a given altitude and "float" into the wind in almost uniform distribution, forming a 3-dimensional "net" that must be run by migrating birds. Once prey is sighted, several falcons converge in competitive, yet frequently successful, pursuit. On Mogador, where migrants approach almost at sea level, low altitude searching flights are used more often.

The author presents interesting ideas relating to the dependence of this falcon upon the migrational pulse of its prey species, most of which are nocturnal fliers. Eleonora's Falcon colonies are placed to intercept these migrants. The combination of strategic location and migration routes of individual prey species allow concentrated hunting by the Paximada colony only during the morning, whereas the Mogador falcons hunt almost all day. Food availability may be a major factor influencing the existence of a larger clutch, and therefore accounting for the greater number of young fledged per pair at Mogador during the study. The greater density of nesting pairs at this location may be influenced by both food supply and the more complex structure of the substrate, which allows increased visual privacy from neighbors. Stressing the migrational food supply, Walter suggests Eleonora's Falcon could not have existed in the Mediterranean basin 18,000 years ago, when glaciation would have decreased bird migration to half the present volume. He postulates further that both absence of appropriately placed islands and differences in migration routes for North American birds account for the lack of a raptorial counterpart of Eleonora's Falcon in the Carribean area.

A colonial raptor is an ideal subject for sociobiological studies and this pioneer effort has revealed a number of problems for further analysis. At Paximada clutches range from 1–4 eggs, and hatching is correlated with the arrival of migrant prey; adults eat insects until this time. Walter determined that laying of large clutches begins before that of smaller clutches, but could not determine whether larger clutches were produced by older, dominant birds. One might ask if large clutches in a colony are associated with central nest-sites, most elevated sites, or the position of a pair in dominance hierarchy. Because raptors frequently pirate prey from each other, a colonial bird exposing prey in its feet would be susceptible to piracy. The author includes a few such observations with a short discussion. Again it would be useful to know if certain individuals specialize in piracy and if low ranked males are more often pirated. Prey plucking, which other raptors may complete away from the nest, in this species is almost always done at the nest. Also, the female rarely takes aerial food transfers from her mate as do other falcons. Both behaviors presumably result from the pressure of piracy by other members of the colony. The sedentary behavior of the young following nest departure is unusual in the genus. Perhaps this is due to the territoriality of adult neighbors. One wonders how the flight and pursuit skills so essential to this aerial predator are perfected.

Eleonora's Falcons leave the colonies in October and early November. Although their migration routes are not known, they winter in Madagascar and the Mascarene Islands, where they mingle with wintering Sooty Falcons and hawk insects above the forest canopy. From late March to early May they begin returning to their breeding grounds and eat both insects and the avian migrants that have started returning north. Insects comprise the mainstay of the diet until breeding begins again.

In his discussion of dispersion, territoriality and sociability, Walter compares raptors to illustrate a social spectrum ranging from solitary to extremely sociable. He includes the Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) in a group of falcons not in regular contact with other breeding pairs, and which he "guesses" will never show a significant overlap of home ranges between neighbors. This is contradicted by the dense population (some 150–200 pairs) that nest along less than 100 miles of the Snake River. The author also considers the selection pressures responsible for reversed sexual dimorphism in raptors. He suggests that functional retention of both ovaries in birds of prey makes females more vulnerable to egg breakage (by struggling prey). A larger body size would allow more protection against this hazard. Those raptors showing the greatest disparity in size between sexes are those that undertake the most daring chases. In turn large female body size would afford the greatest protection for eggs. Considering that nearly all male raptors feed the female during courtship, pre-egg-laying and egg-laying phases of reproduction the above size hypothesis would seem without foundation.

This work contains a few statements that could mislead the reader, due to a lack of comparison with other species, or by the isolated context in which an observation was made. For example, Walter ascribes bowing primarily to the male and repeatedly interprets it as an appeasement behavior toward the female (pp. 208, 211, 251 and elsewhere). Bowing in most falcon species is exhibited by both sexes in a much wider context, ranging from courtship to sheer aggression. Elsewhere (p. 242), the author describes males perching above rival males in "an upright posture with wings slightly spread and bill half-open." No doubt such a posture was used in this context, but again, such displays are common for both sexes, (including half-grown nestlings of all *Falco*, indeed, of many Falconiformes in general) as the most severe agonistic expression toward another raptor or other threatening object, followed by either attack on foot or retreat. In places, Walter has a tendency toward anthropomorphism that is somewhat aggravating, at least to this reader.

Despite the above, as well as the absence of a list of tables and figures, the greatest faults of the book lie in the sometimes too lengthy presentations and the occasional redundancy. Each subject is covered for each colony, as opposed to reducing the material for the entire topic into a single, but meaningful comparison. Choosing to discuss each colony results in a longer and more expensively produced text and considering the tedious nature of some subjects, it is more difficult for the reader to follow. Occasionally the author seemingly collected more data than he could make complete use of but decided to present in raw form anyway. However, the book is of considerable interest and is a valuable contribution to the literature of the Falconidae. It will probably be too detailed for the casual reader but is certainly intriguing for the serious biologist and a welcome resource for raptor or colonial bird enthusiasts.—STEVE K. SHERROD.

PENGUINS. By Roger Tory Peterson. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Massachusetts, 1979:238 pp., 4 photographic essays, 137 line drawings. $25.00.—The word "penguin" triggers a series of images of Antarctica and the "comical, adorable, and handsomely attired"

Adelie Penguins (*Pygoscelis adeliae*). However, there are 17 species of penguins, and most are found, not in Antarctica, but in the sub-Antarctic.

This book is a pictorial essay of all penguin species and their associates, not an in-depth academic work. The photographs are stunning. Adelie Penguins cascading off an ice lip, a female Galapagos Penguin (*Spheniscus mendiculus*) standing next to her mate yawning, Chinstrap Penguins (*Pygoscelis antarctica*) negotiating the surf and a Gray-headed Albatross (*Diomedea chrysostoma*) on its final landing approach are, to my eye, some of the best. Many of the color photographs capture penguins sharply and clearly in magnificent settings. Two photos, one of an Emperor Penguin (*Aptenodytes fosteri*), another of a group of Royal Penguins (*Eudyptes schlegeli*) with elephant seals (*Mirounga*) are of lesser quality; one of rusting boilers would have been better left out. The other photos draw the reader back again and again: they are too rich to absorb in one sitting. The line drawings are excellent, and illustrate well a variety of penguin poses and behaviors.

The specialist will be frustrated by the lack of references, but many original observations are presented. For example, Peterson has seen both melanistic and albinistic chicks and adult penguins. He gives graphic descriptions of Giant Fulmars (*Macronectes giganteus*) and leopard seals (*Hydrurga leptonyx*) eating penguins. It is noted that a rockhopper (*Eudyptes crestatus*) was paired with an Erect-crested Penguin (*Eudyptes sclateri*) on Macquarie Island, and that an introduction of several King Penguins (*Aptenodytes patagonica*) on an island in Norway was unsuccessful. All are useful bits of intriguing information that make the book worth reading.

Although not given in great detail, salient natural history features of many species are discussed. Penguins show a variety of reproductive traits: Emperor and King penguins, the largest species, lay 1 egg; the other species lay 2. King Penguins may raise 2 young every 3 years, but Jackass Penguins (*Spheniscus demersus*) can raise 4 in 1 year. Some species, like the Royal Penguin, nest in dense colonies, but others, like the Galapagos Penguins, nest solitarily or in small aggregations.

The history of discovery and exploitation of penguins, from the human-aided demise of the Great Auk (*Pinguinus impennis*) (not a penguin, of course) to the boiling down of 400,000 Falkland Island penguins in 1857, is well told, as is the present-day conservation story. However, careful editing could have eliminated much redundancy in the text, e.g., Peterson notes three times that a reduction in whales is correlated with an increase in penguins. Much of the information presented in the text can also be gleaned by reading the picture captions; this benefits the browsing-only reader.

The information presented is generally correct, but two speculative conclusions are unfounded and probably erroneous. Peterson puzzles about the lack of penguins in the Arctic and discusses their Northern Hemisphere ecological equivalents—the auks (Alcidae). He suggests that predators like foxes and wolves, and steep cliffs, might preclude flightless birds in the North, but also points out that the Great Auk bred safely on a few rather flat islands where flight was unnecessary. Otters and foxes do appear to be more important predators of seabirds in the Northern Hemisphere than in the Southern, but they alone cannot account for the lack of flightless Northern Hemisphere species. The distribution of aboriginal people in Arctic waters and their reliance on the sea and islands for food may be an equally important selective factor favoring flight and cliff nesting.

Second, Peterson believes that because penguins are flightless, the Equatorial countercurrent would have prevented them from going deep into the Northern Hemisphere. Swimming against currents is problematic, but warm tropical waters also lack suitable food. Penguins are confined to relatively productive waters where upwelling is common, so I believe that the scarcity of food in tropical waters is a more important barrier to their spread

northward. When penguins do get into the Northern Hemisphere (in the Galapagos) they are dependent on the rich waters of the Cromwell Current.

It would have been preferable to have less discussion of taxonomy and population size, as both topics are fraught with problems. The casual estimates of seabird numbers given are a grave disservice; these "guess-timates" are prone to be quoted and misused to document changes in population size.

This book provides an entertaining and informative text about penguins, their ecological equivalents and their associates, despite redundancy, lack of references and undocumented assertions. It goes well beyond being merely a magnificent pictorial essay about fascinating groups of birds. Specialists will find the book enjoyable leisure reading, and amateurs a good survey into the lives of the penguins of the world.—P. DEE BOERSMA.

RESEARCH IS A PASSION WITH ME: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MARGARET MORSE NICE. Doris Huestis Speirs (ed.). Consolidated Amethyst Communications, Inc., 60 Barbados Blvd., Unit 6, Scarborough, Ont. M1J 1K9, Canada, xii + 324 pp. $12.95 ($9.95, soft cover).—This lovely book is an illuminating account of the decades-long education and development of a great ornithologist. Konrad Lorenz has contributed a brief foreword and an appendix describing his debt to Dr. Nice, C. O. Whitman and Wallace Craig. The introduction and second appendix describe the Margaret Nice Ornithological Club and its important role in serving as co-publisher of this book. There is an 18-page bibliography, a helpful 29-page index and a 2-page geneological chart. Scattered throughout the text and concluding pages are 11 superb photographs of the author and/or her family.

There are 32 chapters in the book. Adorned with charming sketches used as chapter heads and tails (which are taken from the author's published work) each chapter begins with descriptions of Dr. Nice's childhood in Amherst. They continue with her college years at Mount Holyoke, her graduate work at Clark University and the awakening to her vocation—the study of nature, especially birds. Six chapters cover her faunal studies in Oklahoma and another eight her work on the Song Sparrow. Others involve her trips to Europe, the tragedy of her young friend, Joost ter Pelkwijk, her happy work on precoccial birds and her great review of incubation periods throughout the ages.

In general, Dr. Nice plays down her family life and sticks somewhat impersonally to her experiences as an ornithologist. Nearly every AOU and Wilson Society meeting that she attended is mentioned, usually with references to the papers that interested her. To her, the International Ornithological Congresses were greatly attractive affairs. Like most scientists, she enjoyed meeting colleagues, although I think she was, to the very end, a rather shy person. Her comments in this book about her colleagues are, however, quite constrained—even when they were close friends or much admired. "Chicago is," she wrote me in 1950, "rather disappointing when it comes to people who are studying birds." This, and her isolation from a university community may have made scientific meetings of so much interest to her. Her autobiography does mention many of Dr. Nice's honors, but not her honorary membership in 12 ornithological and conservation societies. Was she proud of these? I think so; but she was also a very modest person.

This book tells a lot, but not everything, about Margaret Nice. Nothing is mentioned about her irritation on being referred to as "a housewife." "I am not a housewife," she once said in my presence. "I am a trained zoologist!" Nor is anything said about the dreariness of her

environs in Chicago. As one who lived in Chicago for a year as her near-neighbor, I appreciate how much her later years had to involve summer escape trips to the Delta Waterfowl Research Station, library work and writing in order to overcome an urban environment of House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) and Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Her last 25 years were indeed a triumph of the spirit.

Reading this book should be an incentive to the young. The text does reveal the extraordinary combination of enthusiastic but patient field worker that Dr. Nice always was, as well as the fantastic scholar that in the end she became. Her psychological ups and downs when writing "SS II" (p. 238) echo the feelings of most persons who have ever attempted to write a monograph (including a Ph.D. thesis). It was Darwin who wrote: "Oh if one only could but observe!" Dr. Nice undoubtedly felt the same; her fortitude in publishing her results compels admiration. I think the same can be said of this interesting volume.—JOSEPH J. HICKEY.

HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN. Vol. 1, 2nd ed. By Sálim Ali and S. Dillon Ripley. Oxford University Press, London (England) and New York (New York), 1978:382 pp., 23 plates (19 color), numerous drawings and maps. $29.95.—The standard reference work on the birds of India and adjacent regions was published in 10 volumes between 1968 and 1975. This new edition of Vol. 1 has been extensively revised and expanded, and we may hope that the intention is to continue this revision through the entire series. After brief introductory accounts of the history of ornithology in the region, the organization of the work and the zoogeography of the area are reviewed. The bulk of the text is devoted to detailed species accounts and keys for the orders Gaviiformes, Podicipediformes, Procellariiformes, Pelecaniformes, Ciconiiformes, Anseriformes and Falconiformes. One might wish for a better quality paper for such an important reference work, but the price is very reasonable considering the amount of information and the number of color plates provided.—ROBERT J. RAIKOW.

INDIAN HILL BIRDS. By Sálim Ali, illus. by G. M. Henry. Oxford University Press, New York, New York, 1980 (1949):188 pp., 72 plates (64 color). $24.95.—This is an unrevised reprint of a book first published in 1949 and out of print since 1974. The only modification is a new preface indicating changes in geographical names. It is intended as a field guide to the birds of the Indian hills, and covers 300 species, of which 117 are illustrated. The species accounts include field characters, distribution and habits.—R.J.R.

ISLAND ECOLOGY. By M. L. Gorman. Chapman & Hall, London, England; distributed in U.S.A. by Halsted Press of John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, New York, 1979:79 pp., 38 black-and-white figs., 7 tables, paper cover. $4.95.—From Darwin and Wallace to MacArthur and Wilson, island ecology has played an important role in the development of theories of evolutionary ecology. This concise and clearly written little book will serve as an admirable introduction to the subject for students and others not familiar with recent de-

velopments. The approach is analytical rather than merely descriptive. Phenomena are examined through a choice of carefully selected examples taken mostly from recent literature, questions are posed, and the merits of suggested solutions are examined. Most of the book concerns oceanic islands, including problems of colonization, numbers of species, competition and dangers of island life. Continental habitat islands are also considered, and the book ends with an enlightening discussion of how the principles of island ecology may help in the design of nature reserves. Although various groups of organisms are discussed, one is struck by the disproportionate role that studies on birds have played in the development of theories of island ecology.—ROBERT J. RAIKOW.

REPRODUCTIVE PERFORMANCE OF THE EASTERN BROWN PELICAN, PELECANUS OCCIDENTALIS. By Ralph W. Schreiber. Contrib. Sci. Nat. Hist. Mus. L. A. County, 317:1–43, 1979. Price not given.—Data on clutch-size, hatching success and fledging success from 8 breeding seasons, with a discussion of human disturbance bias.—R.J.R.

A BUNDLE OF FEATHERS. By S. Dillon Ripley (ed.). Oxford University Press, London, England, 1979:241 pp. $16.95.—This is a *Festschrift* dedicated to the gifted Indian ornithologist Sálim Ali on the occasion of his 75th birthday on 12 November 1971. Although most of the manuscripts for the 21 chapters were submitted during 1972, and the book contains a publication date of 1978, the actual date of publication is 1 November 1979. Dr. Ali does not move so slowly, and he visited the United States on his 80th birthday to attend the fourth Triennial meeting of the International Wildlife Fund. Earlier that year he had been awarded the J. Paul Getty Prize of the World Wildlife Fund for his world leadership in the field of conservation, at which time he was doing fieldwork in India.

The 21 chapters attest to the breadth of Sálim Ali's interests and talents. They deal with life history and field biology, zoogeography and systematics, and migration and biomedicine. Examples of the chapters are "The food of *Collocalia* swiftlets" (Tom Harrison), "Physiological adaptations in the Rosy Pastor" (J. C. George), "The voice of the Indian Hill Myna" (Brian Bartram), "The Asian Honeyguides" (Herbert Friedmann), "Problems resulting from the discontinuous distribution of *Muscicapa latirostris*" (Erwin and Vesta Stresemann), "Two tropical forests and their birds" (H. Elliott McClure) and "The role of birds in the natural foci of tick-borne arboviruses in western Siberia" (G. Netsky, G. Malkov and I. Bogdanov). In his tribute, Yoshimaro Yamashina speaks of Sálim Ali's "warm cordialness" and his "agreeable presence," traits that anyone who has had the pleasure of meeting him will recognize with warm personal memories. The book is a fitting tribute to Sálim Ali and a valuable addition to ornithological literature as well.—ANDREW J. BERGER.

THE NESTING SEASON: THE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHS OF FREDERICK KENT TRUSLOW. Commentary by Helen G. Cruickshank. Viking Press, New York, New York, 1979:136 pp., 75 color, 29 black-and-white photos. $25.00.—Looking at the illustrations in this book is rather

like revisiting old friends. Many are superb photographs, both esthetically and scientifically, originally published in National Geographic, Audubon, National Wildlife and other magazines. It is good to have them available in more permanent form.

In this posthumous book, Truslow's photographs are accompanied by a 45-page "Commentary" by long-time friend Helen Cruickshank, who also prepared the captions for the color plates. The text is a summary of avian breeding biology with a strong conservation flavor, and is written in a popular style. As is so often the case in this type of writing, there are generalities and/or stylistic mannerisms that result in inaccuracies, e.g., the statement that after the breeding season "The fiery red of the male scarlet tanager fades [sic] and its back becomes green and its underparts yellow" (p. 54); molt is not mentioned until the following paragraph. Mrs. Cruickshank also seems to have worked largely from her personal experience, Truslow's field notes and secondary sourcebooks, and thus missed a number of recent discoveries that would have enhanced and improved the book. Surely the phenomenon of cooperative breeding deserved ample discussion in a text of this length? Nor would an author well acquainted with the recent literature have made statements such as the one in the caption on Spotted Sandpipers (*Actitis macularia*) (p. 96) that the female remains close by the nest during incubation and later helps to feed the young. It is now known that this species is polyandrous, and the female remains only with the last male she has courted. I also noticed 2 identification errors in the photographs: the "Sooty Terns" on p. 29 are Noddy Terns, and the nestling "Rough-legged Hawks" on pp. 118–119 are Ferruginous.

The color printing is good, although some of the photographs were reproduced better (if smaller) when they originally appeared in magazines. A few present their subjects much larger than life-size, which is annoying to some readers, but a delight to others. I would have preferred to see some not so enlarged as to cut the bird in half by extending it across 2 pages. The book also includes a Foreword by O. S. Pettingill, Jr., an Afterword by Mrs. Truslow, a peculiarly located (pp. 59–61) list of "Latin" names of the birds (with no page references), and photographic notes on the color plates, but no index.

In a $25.00 book, it is too bad that the publishers did not reduce the length of the generally unremarkable text (which is accompanied by curiously unrelated black-and-white photographs) and substitute more of Truslow's fine color work—which is, after all, the subject of the book, yet takes up only about half of the pages.—MARY H. CLENCH.

OTHER EDENS: THE SKETCHBOOK OF AN ARTIST NATURALIST. By John Henry Dick. Devin-Adair, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 1980:273 pp., maps, numerous black-and-white illus. $19.95.—Other Edens briefly outlines some of the adventures and encounters of the author during his travels to various parts of the world in search of wildlife. Among the places visited are Africa, India, New Guinea, the Arctic in Alaska and Greenland, Texas, the Falkland Islands and Antarctica, and the American tropics in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Peru and the Galapagos.

The initial chapters are about big game hunting expeditions and the author's gradual conversion to a naturalist/photographer. The latter chapters are mainly of a more appealing nature and reflect a concern for the world's rapidly dwindling wildlife resources.

While the accounts are often as concerned with the logistics of travel as with the wildlife seen, the reading is never boring. Scattered throughout are numerous black-and-white sketches by this talented artist, of birds, mammals, reptiles and landscapes, adding considerably to enjoyment of the book.—ROSS D. JAMES.

THE BIRDER'S FIELD NOTEBOOK. By Susan Roney Drennan (ed.). Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, New York, 1979: approx. 80 pp. $4.95.

THE NORTH AMERICAN BIRDER'S LIBRARY LIFELIST. By Susan Roney Drennan (ed.). Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, New York, 1979:630 pp. $24.95.—These are not books except in their physical form, but record-keeping aids for birders. The first is a pocket-sized, soft-covered field notebook in which the observer will find places provided for recording the field characteristics of birds, and notes on the date, time and place of observations, along with weather information and other data. The second is a hefty hard-cover volume to be kept at home, in which 30 years of field observations can be recorded, rather like noting births, deaths and weddings in the family Bible. Over 800 species are covered in a standard format, with places to record dates, places, habitats, etc., along with a small space for comments. The utility of these volumes is questionable. One would be limited by the space and format provided. I would think that most birders who are interested in keeping detailed or long-term records of their observations would do better to improvise their own systems, and to take advantage of the flexibility offered by ring binders. Cost is another consideration; it seems like a lot of money to pay for books that you write yourself.—R.J.R.

A GUIDE TO BIRD-WATCHING IN EUROPE. By James Ferguson-Lees, Quentin Hockliffe and Ko Zweeres (eds.). The Bodley Head, Ltd., London, England. Available in the U.S.A. from Chatto, Bodley Head & Jonathan Cape, Salem, New Hampshire. 336 pp., numerous line drawings and maps. $6.95 (paper), $10.95 (cloth).—This guide to finding and seeing birds in Europe contains 25 chapters, each covering a particular country or region, and written by an observer experienced in the area. The ornithological societies, publications, and research efforts (especially banding) are briefly introduced for each country. The main text includes discussions of topography, habitats, and specific information on what kinds of birds are found in particular areas. The book closes with a 36 page table summarizing the status of each of 432 species in each country.—R.J.R.

A GUIDE TO HAWK WATCHING IN NORTH AMERICA. By Donald S. Heintzelman. Pennsylvania State University Press, University Park (Pennsylvania) & London, (England), 1979: 284 pp. $6.95 (paper), $12.95 (cloth).—Brief species accounts of North American hawks, helpful hints on hawk watching, and a compilation of hawk migration lookouts in the United States and Canada. Illustrated by black-and-white drawings and photographs of numerous species at rest and in flight.—R.J.R.