

Ross Silcock. Single birds were seen near Townville, S.C., on 26 January and 10 March by Harry LeGrand.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: Several were found in open pinewoods near Bolton in Brunswick County, N.C., on 15 through 17 December by Jay Carter, John Fussell, and Harry LeGrand. Two also were found at Bulls Island, S.C., by Perry Nugent on 16 March.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: Reports of this species wintering in good numbers in the Carolinas were highlighted by counts of 40 in Anderson County, S.C., on 2 December by Harry LeGrand and 25 in Wake County, N.C., in the Lake Raleigh area on 24 February by Ken Knapp.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: One was observed near Bolton in Brunswick County, N. C., on 15 December by Harry LeGrand.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: Five reported on the Southern Pines Christmas Count at Lake Surf (*Chat*, 38:14) were still present 16 March, observed by Chris Marsh and party. On the North Carolina coast, three were seen at Cape Hatteras on 2 December by Gilbert Grant, and a later sighting of five was noted in that locality on 18 February by Richard Rowlett and Berit Edsburg.

BOOK REVIEWS

The World of the Wood Duck

F. Eugene Hester and Jack Dermid. J.B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and New York, 1973. \$5.95 160 p. Index. Illus.

The latest is the series of Living World Books edited by John K. Terres, *The World of the Wood Duck* was written and illustrated with a generous number of photographs by two North Carolinians who need no introduction to CBC members. Aside from the expected life history facts arranged according to the four seasons, the book contains many highly readable stories about the relationship of these beautiful birds to people, including an account of breeding Wood Ducks at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson in Charlotte. Material on the protection and propagation of the Wood Duck includes instructions for making and placing nest boxes. This is an attractive and informative book that will appeal to hunters and bird watchers alike. Unfortunately the modest price did not permit the publisher the luxury of a full-color reproduction of one of Jack Dermid's stunning Wood Duck portraits.—EFP

The Dictionary of American Bird Names

Ernest A. Choate. Gambit, Boston, 1973. \$6.95. 261 p.

This dictionary at first glance seems to duplicate the recently released *Words for Birds* by Edward S. Gruson, but the two books are radically different in arrangement of material and general point of view. The Gruson book presents the species in *A.O.U. Check-list* order, and its strong point is the lively biographical sketches of the men and women for whom birds have been named. The Choate book has an alphabetical listing of common (and some colloquial) names, an alphabetical listing of scientific names by genus, an appendix of biographical data, a bibliography, and an English/Latin glossary. Serious bird students probably will find the latter treatment more to their taste even though categories above the level of genus are not included.—EFP

Adventures in Birding—Confessions of a Lister

Jean Piatt. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York, 1973. \$7.95. 265 p. Chapter headpieces by Matthew Kalmenoff.

I wrote this book 10 years ago. Unfortunately, I didn't have Dr. Piatt's (his research field is embryology) life list of 666 North American birds, his puckish sense of humor, his skill with pointed literary references, his precise vocabulary ("uxoriousness" of phalaropes, the "crepuscular" auklets, the "hubris" of arrogant man, the "only voyager in the Ark educated beyond his intelligence"), and his absorbing way with a story of bird-finding in Alaska, the Tortugas, or his own backyard.

Only two chapters of my book were ever published. You read all 265 spicy pages of Dr. Piatt and wish for a sequel.

Everybody who has kept his own life list will want to quote this book to his friends: On the A.O.U. Check List: "hiss the 'lumpers' and applaud the 'splitters,' as all good listers do."

On species: "A species is anything the taxonomists say it is."

On coyotes: "If every town had more coyotes and less people, the world would be a much safer place in which to live."

On "music" in national parks: "Among the several million idiocies perpetrated by the human animal, amplified, cacophonous noise deluging the countryside is one of the least forgivable. Aural pollution is as serious as air or water pollution."

On people who profess not to keep a life list: "A man who does not know how many dollars he has in the bank is either extremely wealthy or a liar."

On the cost of joining the 600 Club: "Marybelle (Mrs. Piatt) and I shall spend our declining years in some home for the indigent."

From one end of the country to the other — through 49 States — Dr. and Mrs. Piatt saw 666 species of North American birds, not far behind Joseph Taylor's record of 702. There is not a cliché or a banal phrase in the book; no tedious lists — just high adventures on the part of two sophisticated people who went after 600 birds for fun, and had fun every step of the way. —LOUIS C. FINK

The View from Hawk Mountain

Michael Harwood. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1973. \$6.95. 191 p. Line drawings by Fred Wetzel.

Maurice Broun, the first curator at this famous observation post in Pennsylvania, told its story in *Hawks Aloft* — and Mr. Harwood brings the report up to date. He tells how more and more people climbed Blue Mountain near Dreher'sville to see at close range the hundreds or thousands of Broad-winged Hawks that might pass in a day, or to spot an Osprey, or Bald Eagle, or even a Golden Eagle. Finally, the visitors taxed its capacity, and Maurice Broun wondered if Hawk Mountain had become too successful.

The author also notes how the meticulous record-keeping was distorted. Proponents of DDT cited the high counts of Ospreys at Hawk Mountain to disprove what Rachel Carson said about pesticides. But Alex Nagy (who followed Maurice Broun as curator) points out that he now has many more people counting birds, and that new observation perches on the mountain are being used. In short, there is danger in counting wild birds for a day, or a week, and believing you have a true picture of the population.

To anyone who has been to Hawk Mountain, this book is pure nostalgia. You'll remember the fairly steep climb to one of the lookouts, and then the fantastic panorama or farms and forests below you. You'll remember how hard those rocks became after you sat a few hours, and how you forgot everything when the Red-tails, or Cooper's, or Goshawks, or eagles, or (most plentiful of all) Broad-wings came in view — sometimes

almost close enough to touch; frequently below you, so you could study hawks from above.

Mr. Harwood fleshes out this book with a great deal of information about birds of prey taken from standard reference books, and he has put it all together in a highly readable fashion. —LOUIS C. FINK

The Dell Encyclopedia of Birds

Bertel Bruun. Dell Publishing Co., Inc., New York, 1974. \$2.45. 240 p. Illustrated in color by Paul Singer.

With 625 entries and about 400 illustrations, this pocket-sized book gives the beginning bird student easy access to a basic ornithological vocabulary. On the whole the subjects are well chosen, but I cannot understand the inclusion of pecten (a structure of unknown function within the eyeball) and the exclusion of pigeon's milk. The large number of typographical errors is distressing, and the cutlines are often inaccurate even when the text is correct (J.F. Audubon instead of J.J. Audubon, redwing instead of Red-winged Blackbird, confusion regarding use of hyphens in names of goatsuckers). The above shortcomings can be forgiven, but the confusing, incomplete, and downright inaccurate labeling of the Blue Jay accompanying the discussion of topography is absolutely inexcusable. The basic concept of the book is good, the definitions are generally neither too simple nor too technical, and often the illustrations clarify the definitions. There are enough good features in this book so the publisher should be willing to undertake major revisions (notably pages 214 and 215) before the book goes into another printing.—EFP

Birding from a Tractor Seat

Charles T. Flugum. No publisher indicated, 1973. \$8.95. 435 p. Illustrations by Walter J. Breckenridge.

This is a series of monthly columns written for *The Community Magazine* of Albert Lea, Minnesota, from 1952 to 1964. Mr. Flugum ran a farm, and he writes of the hawks, plovers, larks, bluebirds and scores of other birds he watched from his tractor seat. He went on field trips with bird clubs and describes some of the good birding spots in Minnesota. As chairman of the local Audubon Wildlife Films Committee, he met some of the country's well-known naturalists. —LOUIS C. FINK

Autumn of the Eagle

George Laycock. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1973. \$6.95. 180 p. Photographs and maps.

Mr. Laycock, a field editor for *Audubon Magazine*, has gathered a wealth of information about the Bald Eagle.

As an indication of the contents, consider:

—Benjamin Franklin said the eagle was a coward and "often very lousy."

—An eagle's nest at Vermilion, Ohio, was 12 feet deep, 8½ feet across, and weighed 2 tons.

—After retiring from banking, Charles Broley banded 1,200 eagles.

—There are between 750 and 1,000 eagle nests in continental United States, but 4,000 breeding pairs in Alaska and 8,000 in the world.

There is a great deal of basic information about the Bald Eagle in this book, and the illustrations add interest. The proof-reading is careless: the name of the President Emeritus of the National Audubon Society is misspelled three times. —LOUIS C. FINK