

species to one another. Changes listed below are regarded as being of particular interest to the amateur bird student.

The Black Brant is now a subspecies of the Brant. The species name is Brant, but Black Brant remains available for *Branta bernicla nigricans*. North Carolina loses one species.

The English name for the Fulvous Tree Duck is now Fulvous Whistling-Duck. A corresponding change has been made in the common names of the other members of the subfamily Dendrocygninae.

The spelling of the scientific name for the Mississippi Kite has been corrected, *Ictinia mississippiensis* reverting to *I. mississippiensis*.

Campephilus bairdii of Cuba is now considered conspecific with the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. The birds in the southeastern United States, if any survive, are *C. principalis principalis* while those of Cuba, if any survive, are *C. p. bairdii*.

BOOK REVIEWS

Checklist of the World's Birds

Edward S. Gruson. 1976. Quadrangle/The New York Times Book Co., 10 E. 53rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10022. 212 p. Indexed. \$10.95

The globe-trotting birder often has trouble knowing what to call a bird even after he has matched the field marks to the best available description or illustration of the species. Authors often disagree on the scientific names as well as common ones, and for many birds there are no generally accepted English common names. Gruson's checklist attempts to remedy the situation by providing scientific and English common names for each species. The two names are followed by numbers to indicate the references used by the author and by letters to indicate the faunal regions where the species can be found. The faunal regions are illustrated on a world map printed on the endpapers. Although professional ornithologists may find much to criticize in Gruson's checklist, the book probably will satisfy most birders who want to record the species they find on trips abroad. Several similar works are available at prices ranging from \$6 to \$110. (Auk 92:818-830, 93:868-869). A careful reading of the various reviews should help you decide which world checklist suits your taste and pocketbook.—EFP

Birdwatcher's Guide to Wildlife Sanctuaries

Jessie Kitching. 1976. Arco Publishing Company, Inc. 233 p. Illus. \$8.95

The dust cover says that "this book fills a long-felt need" and therein lies the disappointment. The traveler does, indeed, need a guide which tells him where to find birds. But this book includes only 295 sanctuaries in all of the United States, Canada and the Virgin Islands. North Carolina is dismissed with two references; South Carolina with four. Much more information is already available in *Wild Sanctuaries* by Robert Murphy (E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc., N.Y., 1968) and *National Park Guide* (Rand McNally and Company, Chicago, 1970).

The information in *Birdwatcher's Guide* is sketchy. As one example, the author tells us that Cape Hatteras National Seashore has an undated checklist and that ducks and geese are common.

This reviewer spent a full day at Laguna Atascosa in Texas, and could have enjoyed a week. All the author tells us is that Laguna Atascosa is 60 miles to the east of Santa Ana and is "interesting." —LOUIS C. FINK, Apt. L-6, Tau Valley Estates, Rocky Mount, N.C. 27801.

A Guide to the Birds of Panama

R.S. Ridgely. 1976. Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J. 394 p. Illustrated by John A. Gwynne Jr., 32 color plates, black-and-white illustrations throughout. Bibliography. Index \$15.00

If you want to beef up your life list in a hurry, I suggest you take a week off and head for Panama. And Ridgely's *Birds of Panama* is the volume to take with you. At this avian crossroads, more than 880 species have been recorded. The Canal Zone alone—an area 10 miles wide and 50 miles long—has in excess of 500 species!

It took me over a year of frustration to begin to come to grips with this astounding avifauna. How I longed for a compact field guide, loaded with accurate color plates, with details on range, abundance, field marks, confusing species, voice and habitat! There simply was no such thing. Now all of that is changed. Bob Ridgely—the most acute bird watcher I have met—has turned his field studies, long hours of museum and library work, and the enthusiastic collaboration of Panama amateur birders and ornithological greats such as Alex Wetmore and Gene Eisenmann into just such a volume. Not the least of Ridgely's contributions was his “discovery” of John Gwynne as illustrator. The plates are marvelous.

One of the most useful parts of this useful field guide is a full section on “Finding Birds in Panama.” With this section, any birder can rent a car at the airport or hotel and be out checking off life-listers in some of the best birding spots in the world by lunch time. Though Ridgely gives direction for the whole Republic, the novice tropical bird-watcher has only to confine himself to the Canal Zone for the most rewarding and convenient birding. Indeed, the only decent tropical jungle left that anyone can get to is within the Canal Zone. Virtually all readily accessible areas of the Republic have been denuded and reduced to cow pastures and scrub. The great exception to this is the highlands of western Panama around Cerro Punta, where the specialty is the unbelievably beautiful Resplendent Quetzal. The Panama Audubon Society, Box 2026, Balboa, Canal Zone, will be pleased to get you started on your Panama adventure.

One last note: this volume should be very useful throughout Central America and in much of northern South America. With Peterson and Chalif's *A Field Guide to Mexican Birds*, Davis's *A Field Guide to the Birds of Mexico and Central America*, and the Ridgely volume, birding south of the border to Panama can now be a thing of joy instead of frustration for the beginning tropical birder.—HORACE LOFTIN.

[Dr. Loftin, a native Tar Heel, recently returned to North Carolina from Panama where he served as director of the Center for Tropical Studies. He is now working in the field of natural resources policy and planning for state government.—Ed.]

Ornithology From Aristotle to the Present

Erwin Stresemann. 1975. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass., and London, England. 432 p. Translated from the 1951 German edition by Hans J. and Cathleen Epstein. Foreword and Epilogue on American Ornithology by Ernst Mayr. Index. \$20.00

This scholarly book may seem a bit difficult for the average amateur bird student, but those who persist will be richly rewarded for the effort of reading it. The author successfully portrays the hardships, disappointments, controversies, rivalries, triumphs, and just plain good fortune that shaped the lives of many men who helped lay the foundations of modern biology. Of all the fascinating people Stresemann mentions, the one who made the greatest impression upon me personally is Christian Ludwig Brehm (1787-1864). An ingenious bird-catcher, Pastor Brehm viewed the natural sciences from a religious standpoint and encouraged many gifted young men to pursue the study of birds. It was the pastor of Renthendorf who, “more than anyone else, understood how to attract a young and energetic person to the study of nature, and to

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BOOK REVIEWS

(Continued from Page 10)

demonstrate what endless pleasure it can provide, and what a loyal friend in joy and sorrow science, and above all natural science, can be." No dedicated bird student can read this book without discovering a new appreciation of ornithology as vocation or avocation.—EFP

Wintering of the Migrant Bald Eagle in the Lower 48 States

Donald A. Spencer. 1976. National Agricultural Chemicals Association, 1155 15th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005. 170 p. Paperback. Price not given.

Dr. Spencer attempts to give a nationwide overview of migrant Bald Eagles (exclusive of our nesting population) that winter in the lower 48 states. Anyone seriously interested in the protection of the Bald Eagle will want a copy of this up-to-date, fact-filled book. It contains information on such topics such as migration, distribution, habitat preference, food preference, feeding behavior, roosts, and sanctuaries. The author urges each reader to use data from the book in preparing reports on the status of the Bald Eagle in his own locality. Unfortunately, we in the Carolinas seldom have an opportunity to see Bald Eagles, much less study them. Dr. Spencer says the current status of the winter-migrant Bald Eagle population is "very encouraging." I sincerely hope his optimism is justified.—EFP

Birds of the South

Charlotte Hilton Green. 1933. Reprinted 1975 by Dover Publications, Inc., 180 Varick Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. 277 p. Paperback. Index. Black-and-white illustrations. \$3.50

Mrs. Green's book was one of the first I read on the subject of birds. I soon progressed to Bent's *Life Histories*, Welty's *Life of Birds*, and Pettingill's *Ornithology*; but I did not forget the appreciation of nature that inspired the author of *Birds of the South*. Talking with beginning birders, I never explain the difference between the male and female Cardinals without recalling that she wears "a chiffon veil over her rose dress." There is no telling how often I quote Mrs. Green without realizing it. This much I do know, my life is richer for having known her personally and through her writings. Dover is to be commended for making *Birds of the South* readily available to a new generation of bird watchers.—EFP

The Bird Finder's 3-year Note Book

Paul S. Eriksson. 1976. Paul S. Eriksson, Inc., 119 W. 57th Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. Paperback with plastic binding. \$7.95

This note book contains a page for every day of the year with space on each page for writing three five-line entries. The owner fills in the year block at the beginning of each entry, making it impossible for the book to go out-of-date before it has been used. A filler at the bottom of each page gives an interesting fact about birds. At the back of the note book is a Life List Index with common and scientific names conforming to the usage current through publication of the 32nd Supplement to the AOU Check-list (fifth edition). Using Eriksson's note book is a convenient way for bird students to develop the habit of recording rare birds seen, arrival and departure of migrants, nesting dates, feeding behavior, and so forth. I have been amazed how often a casual entry in my journal has later provided useful information for me or for a friend. It is never too soon to begin jotting down notes on the birds you see and what they do throughout the year.—EFP