



Roundtable

... with Louis C. Fink

Artists at Highlands

Lucien Harris III is a wildlife artist raised in Georgia who has recently moved from Orlando, Florida, to Highlands. His wife, Mary Jane, creates pictures in fabric, and both of them have exhibited widely. This column looks forward to seeing their work at a CBC meeting.

Baking Soda Cards Available Again

Church and Dwight Co. has reprinted some of the baking-soda bird cards, reproduced from the paintings of Louis Agassiz Fuertes. Thirty birds of prey in full color on 3¼ by 2¼ inch cards are available for 35 cents and an Arm and Hammer box top. Send to Dept. B., Church and Dwight Co., Inc., Two Penn Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10001.

Four-state Meeting

Marene Snow of Dalton, Ga., has suggested a joint meeting of the Georgia Ornithological Society, the Tennessee Ornithological Society and the Carolina Bird Club at Fontana in the spring of 1978. The idea was considered favorably at the TOC meeting.

Identifying Ducks

Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, has published an attractive folder in color for the benefit of hunters. It describes and pictures 18 species of ducks, and includes a timely warning about killing ducks that have been reduced in numbers.

Spreading the Gospel

Down on the coastal plain, one member of CBC is making six talks on birds this winter. Some are to school classes; others are to garden clubs, who may make a donation to CBC. Other bird societies in the country have found this a good way to spread the gospel of conservation, and garner a little for the treasury at the same time.

Prize-winner

First prize in *American Birds* color print contest has been won by Edward E. Burroughs, compiler of the Rockingham County, N.C., Christmas Bird Count. He took his camera along, photographed an "hypnotic" Screech Owl, and saw his photo reproduced on the front cover of the August 1976 issue of the magazine. Ed recently decided to move to Alaska. His many friends in CBC wish him much happiness and good birding in his new home state.

Thirty-third Supplement to AOU Check-list

The Thirty-third Supplement to the AOU Check-list was published in October 1976 (Auk 93:875-879). Most of the newly adopted changes in nomenclature involve only the scientific names and reflect current thinking regarding the relationships of the

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.