

tral Transylvania County, N.C., on 28 May. This species is a rare breeder in the southern half of the mountains in that state.

**EVENING GROSBEEK:** A female was very late at Carol Hamilton's feeder in Chapel Hill, N.C., on 14 June.

**HOUSE FINCH:** Nesting was again noted in North Carolina in Winston-Salem and Raleigh, and nesting may have occurred in Chapel Hill and Hickory. Ramona Snavely reported one colony with 12 singing males in Winston-Salem, and another with six singing males. She reports nesting at many sites in the city. At Raleigh, Joshua Lee saw a bird carrying nesting material during the summer to a vine-covered ledge on a building on the N.C. State University campus; a fledgling was seen there in July by Clark Olson. Two nestings were also reported in the Raleigh Rose Garden in July. At Chapel Hill, two males were seen at a feeder on 4 June by Carol Hamilton, and she noted a male there from 9 to 17 June, and a pair from 24 June until 30 July. Garvin and Louise Hughes observed up to three birds at a feeder in Hickory between 17 and 29 June.

**RED CROSSBILL:** This species was more numerous than usual this summer in the southern mountains of North Carolina. Harry LeGrand noted 18 in several small flocks along the Blue Ridge Parkway in southern Haywood County on 17 June, and four at Highlands on 25 June. At Camp Kanuga near Hendersonville, Jon Stewart and Dan Nedrelo saw three males and a female on 20 and 21 July. LeGrand also heard a bird calling in flight over Table Rock Mountain, S.C., on 9 July.

**WHITE-THROATED SPARROW:** One remained at a feeder in Raleigh, N.C., until 6 June, fide Carol Hamilton.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**A GUIDE TO BIRD FINDING EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI** (second edition)

Olin S. Pettingill Jr. 1977. Oxford University Press, 200 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016. Illus. by George M. Sutton. 689 p. Index. Hardcover. \$15.95.

**A BIRDWATCHER'S GUIDE TO THE EASTERN UNITED STATES**

Alice M. Geffen. 1978. Barron's Educational Series, Inc., 113 Crossways Park Drive, Woodbury, N.Y. 11797. Illus. by Peter Hayman. 346 p. Index. Paperback. \$6.95.

**THE COMPLETE OUTFITTING & SOURCE BOOK FOR BIRD WATCHING**

Michael Scofield. 1978. The Great Outdoors Trading Company, 24759 Shoreline Highway, Marshall, Calif. 94940. 192 p. 8½ x 11 inches. Paperback \$6.95, hardcover \$12.95 (plus 75¢ postage and handling if ordered from publisher).

The word is out that there are more bird watchers than hunters, and publishers are wasting no time in providing handy guides telling us how to practice our hobby. Obviously no author is going to have expert personal knowledge of every aspect of bird study in all parts of the county. A given section of a comprehensive work will be no better than the various sources of information. There will be some unfortunate omissions, some out-of-date material, and some obvious errors. Nevertheless, books such as the ones discussed below can be very helpful.

Pettingill's guide is a revised version of his respected 1951 work. The North and South Carolina chapters provide excellent examples of the variability of the contents. The North Carolina section contains important new material; but unfortunately it also has our Fish Crows still confined to the coastal region, gives directions to the now closed Gaddy's Wild Goose Refuge, fails to mention Fort Macon under the Morehead City paragraph, and does not state that permits are required for visits to Battery Island. The South Carolina section was revised by Dennis M. Forsythe and Sidney A. Gauthreaux Jr., and it greatly benefits

from their personal knowledge of the various places that offer excellent opportunities for bird finding in that state.

Geffen's guide offers few details about the birds that can be expected at the various top birding spots, but it lists many addresses one can write for current information. A number of interesting places, such as Connemara, former home of poet Carl Sandburg, are mentioned even though they are not particularly famous for bird study. There is surprisingly little duplication of material in the Pettingill and Geffen books. If I were planning to do a lot of traveling with bird study as my primary objective, I would want to consult both books. Pettingill has written a bird-finding guide to the western United States, and I assume Geffen will provide a similar book if her eastern one is well received.

Any book that calls itself "complete" immediately arouses the skeptic in me, and Scofield's publication is no exception. This book purports to tell us all about bird watching: history, equipment, accessories, publications, clubs and organizations, bird sites, and tours and expeditions. While it does mention all these aspects of bird watching, the treatment is often less than complete. For example, the section on zoos and natural history museums does not mention North Carolina's zoological park at Asheboro or the State Museum of Natural History in Raleigh. The section on bird clubs lists CBC under the North Carolina heading but omits local Audubon or bird club chapters. Under the South Carolina heading, there is no mention of CBC or Charleston Natural History Society, but the Columbia and Hilton Head Audubon chapters are listed. Books and periodicals are presented without much guidance as to their relative merits; however, the reader is referred to an article in the October 1976 issue of *American Birds* on "Choosing a Basic Ornithological Library."

Fortunately the sections on equipment (binoculars, telescopes, tripods, cameras, telephoto lenses, and tape recorders and accessories) are fairly comprehensive. Introductory articles give good advice on the selection, use, and care of each type of equipment. The binocular buying guide is one of the best articles in the book. It includes an explanation of the construction of the various types of binoculars, a discussion of the problems of using a binocular if you must wear eyeglasses, and a practical method for testing the quality of a binocular before buying it (or checking the condition of one you already own). A couple of tips on using binoculars in the field would be a welcome addition to this important article. (First spot the bird, and then raise the glass without taking your eyes off the bird; if you miss, lower the glass and try again. Steady the glass by bracing upper arms against the chest.)

Prices are not given for the books, periodicals, and equipment. The publisher states that a current price list is available upon request to anyone who sends his name, address, and two first-class postage stamps. An appendix also gives names and addresses of equipment manufacturers.

Although Scofield's outfitting and source book is far from complete, it does give the bird watcher a good idea of the products and services that are available to aid him in the enjoyment of his hobby. One useful tip may be worth far more than the modest price of the book.—EFP

## CBC Roundtable

(Continued from page 18)

hiking trails and the Eno River is clearly marked on the west side of Cole Mill Road. Our 2-mile walk started at Spranger Road and Howe Road; we hiked to an abandoned quarry, the foundation of a 200-year-old mill (complete with raceway), and the cemetery of the Cade family. Cade *pere* sired nine daughters, all of whom married millers!

After the dry spell, the river was extremely low. Because it fluctuates so violently, beavers do not build dams here; they dig holes in the banks instead. Eno River State Park is worth a visit.—LCF