

for the eggs of each species; but the pictures give no sense of the relative size of the eggs or nests. No attempt is made to describe the young, not even to the small extent of saying whether they are precocial or altricial. Hal Harrison's emphasis is on the general appearance of the nest with eggs in the natural setting. Colin Harrison's guide to nests, eggs, and nestlings describes and sometimes illustrates the nests, but his emphasis is on the eggs (photographed to scale) and the young. Thus the two books complement each other, and students of breeding birds will want to own both.

The publisher indicates that Colin Harrison's book is the first in a planned series of nature guides for North America. While the present offering cannot be expected to make the best-seller lists, it is an excellent book and an auspicious beginning for a formidable undertaking. If future releases are of the same caliber as the present one, Collins Publishers will provide naturalists with a rich new source of authoritative aids to identification.—EFP

## RECORD REVIEW

### SOUNDS OF FLORIDA'S BIRDS (ARA-5)

Narrated by John William Hardy. 1979. ARA Records, 1615 N.W. 14th Avenue, Gainesville, Florida 32605. 12-inch long-playing record. \$7.00 postpaid.

Although this record is "dedicated to the school children of Florida," it has much to offer anyone who is interested in bird sounds. The 80-odd species include many that are typical of the southeastern United States (Louisiana Heron, Least Tern, Parula Warbler) in addition to the expected Florida specialties such as the Limpkin, Mangrove Cuckoo, Gray Kingbird, Florida Scrub Jay, Black-whiskered Vireo, and the Dusky and Cape Sable Seaside Sparrows. Two surprises are the recordings of the West Indian Nighthawk and the Cuban Yellow Warbler, neither of which is mentioned in the table of contents. The Black Rail and Swainson's Warbler recordings are outstanding.

Most of the original tapes used in making this recording are from the Florida State Museum's Bioacoustic Archive. While differences in equipment and variations in field conditions are at times noticeable on the disc, both the selected tapes and the pressing are excellent. CBC members will note with interest that many of the recordings were made by David S. Lee while he was an Associate of the Florida State Museum.

Hardy is to be commended for his tasteful narration. He has a pleasant speaking voice and a manner that is authoritative but still imbued with the best qualities of friendly conversation. He offers a few basic facts about each species with appropriate additional comments on the status of the bird in Florida. In some cases he explains background sounds such as the calls of other species or the waves lapping against the side of the boat. I noted only one unfortunate omission in the narration. The Wood Stork recording was made in a nesting colony, and Hardy failed to mention that the vocalizations were those of young birds instead of adults, which do not have a functional syrinx. This one small oversight stands out because the rest of the commentary is almost flawless.

Other ARA Records include "Voices of Neotropical Birds," which contains the sounds of over 50 species ranging from Mexico to South America, and "The Wrens," which contains recordings of more than 40 of the 60 wrens known to science.—EFP