

departing the Carolinas, as noted by Gail Whitehurst.

HOUSE FINCH: Five males and two females were seen by Betty McIlwain at a feeder in Brevard on 13 March.

RED CROSSBILL: With the exception of two reports from the spruce-fir zone of North Carolina, there were no reports of this species in the Carolinas this spring.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: One was quite late and unusual at Harkers Island, N.C., as noted by Skip Prange on 7 May.

LARK SPARROW: Very rare inland were single birds at Aberdeen, N.C., on 3 April (Tom Howard) and near Six Mile, Pickens County, S.C., on 16-17 April (Dan Pettigrew).

DARK-EYED JUNCO: Quite late in departing were individuals seen by Skip Prange at Cape Lookout on 2 May and by Gail Whitehurst at Raleigh on 17 May.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: This species seldom sings in migration; thus, one in song was very notable at Clemson on 18 April, as seen by Sid Gauthreaux, Carl Helms, and Harry LeGrand.

CORRECTION: In the pronunciation for the Portuguese word for hummingbird (Chat 44:64), the mark over the *a* in the middle syllable should have been a dot instead of a straight line.—EFP

BOOK REVIEWS

OTHER EDENS

The Sketchbook of an Artist Naturalist

John Henry Dick. 1980. Devin-Adair Company, 143 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Conn. 06870. Illus. with 150 line drawings by the author. 275 p. \$19.95.

At a Carolina Bird Club meeting held at Charleston in 1976, I happened to be present when the illustrator of *The Warblers of America* viewed a warbler painting by a young artist. He turned to Sidney Gauthreaux and said, "You have captured the essence of what a warbler is." In this and other ways I have come to know John Henry Dick as a kind, considerate, and generous man as well as an artist devoted to the study and conservation of wildlife. Can you imagine how I felt when the first chapter of *Other Edens* detailed a trophy-hunting safari to East Africa? Trusting the author's judgment, I plowed through it and soon realized there was far more about the biology and beauty of Africa than about the gore of the hunt.

Confessing that the first safari had been too competitive, Dick and his friend Billy Coleman returned to East Africa in 1959, determined to make the hunt an individual experience. During this and subsequent trips to Africa much time was spent studying and photographing wildlife, notably the flamingos at Lake Nakuru. The third chapter describes a tiger hunt in India in 1962. Although the author finally bagged a female that had been killing cattle in broad daylight, the experience was far from satisfying. He concluded: "The fading, slightly torn tiger skin rug in my living room is a constant reminder of how long it sometimes takes to grow up."

Thus John Henry Dick's metamorphosis was complete when he set out for his first trip to Galapagos Islands with a group of people collecting animals for the Phila-

delphia Zoo. They succeeded in obtaining all the animals on their list, but at the last moment released the pair of extremely rare Flightless Cormorants, which they felt would be more of a status symbol for the zoo than a meaningful attraction for visitors. By the end of this chapter—and entirely without preaching to the reader—Dick has made his case for hunting and conservation. The taking of a reasonable number of animals by hunters does not harm healthy populations. The animals have a sporting chance to escape, and the lost individuals are quickly replaced by normal reproduction. Entire animal populations are endangered by pollution, habitat destruction, and commercial exploitation, which do not give them a sporting chance and which may greatly reduce or even halt reproduction. Island populations are especially vulnerable because they are usually very tame and are restricted to a small geographic area. The intentional and unintentional introduction of goats, pigs, and rats is tragically destructive to plants and animals on islands. In the Galapagos nonviolent, well-intentioned, nature-loving visitors have trampled the sesuvium ground cover and made pets of the once shy golden dragon iguanas. On a diet of sandwiches and other handouts from tourists, the iguanas apparently were no longer breeding in the early 1970s. Because wild places can literally be loved to death, fragile habitats must be protected even from those who come to study and admire them.

In additional chapters the artist-author sketches in words and drawings the excitement and beauty of the Falkland Islands, South Georgia Island, Antarctica, Alaska, Greenland, New Guinea, the American tropics, and the 400-square-mile King Ranch in southern Texas. Bird students probably will enjoy most of all the chapter on birding in India, which deals with the author's preparations for illustrating Ben King's *Guide to the Birds of India*. Each chapter is as different as the places visited, but John Henry is always an enthusiastic, congenial, and well-informed guide. Along the way he introduces his friends, including famous people such as George and Joy Adamson in Kenya and fellow artists Robert Verity Clem and Roger Tory Peterson as well as a remarkable assortment of not-so-famous hosts and traveling companions.

Other Edens is a good travel book—but also far more than that. Although by no means a formal autobiography, it tells us a great deal about John Henry Dick, the man and the artist. It is the memoir of a sensitive, creative person who truly appreciates God's beautiful world and enjoys sharing the good things of life with his friends. He counts each reader among those friends.—EFP

BIRD FINDING IN TENNESSEE

Michael Lee Bierly. 1980. Published by and available from the author, 3825 Bedford Avenue, Nashville, Tenn. 37215. 255 p. Illus. Index. Paperback, \$8 ppd.

This is one of the best books on bird finding that I have ever seen, and any bird watcher who is going to live in Tennessee or visit the state even briefly should obtain a copy. The introduction describes the physical features of Tennessee; tells where various types of state, county, and regional maps can be obtained; mentions Tennessee Ornithological Society and laws pertaining to birds; and offers useful tips on such matters as selection of binoculars and telescopes, bird guides, and recordings of bird songs. The body of the book discusses 112 top birding spots, giving directions for finding them (usually with detailed maps), listing of birds likely to be seen during various seasons, and adding tips for making the most of your visit. At the back of the book are several important features. First and foremost is a list of all 342 species the author knows to have been recorded in Tennessee. Brief remarks give the distribution and seasonal occurrence of each species in the state. Finally, there are lists of people willing to give assistance to other birders and of local chapters of TOS. Having had little experience birding in Tennessee, I cannot vouch for the accuracy of every map, but the directions are adequate for the few places with which I am familiar (even though the state line was omitted from part of the Roan Mountain map).—EFP

THE BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' GUIDE TO BIRD LIFE

Jim Flegg, consultant editor. 1980. Blandford Press, Ltd., Poole, Dorset, England. Distributed in U.S. by Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., Two Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016. Illus. with 128 color plates. Indexed. 324 p. \$27.50.

If you are assembling bird books in preparation for a trip to Great Britain, do not allow yourself to be misled by the title and jacket blurb for this one, which purports to be "a luxurious reference book which not only provides the aids to identification found in the pocket guides but also gives all the extra details and information necessary for the birdwatcher to understand bird life and habitats." The binding and color reproduction are very nice, indeed luxurious compared to the average pocket field guide. Unfortunately, part of the copy for the title page, all of the copyright page, and two of the four pages of introductory material were accidentally omitted in the original printing and had to be inserted as a loose four-page folder. In four pages the author tries to cover the pleasures of bird study, equipment and fieldcraft, bird finding, and bird distribution and biology. Almost nothing is said about habitats beyond the fact that "each area has its specialities." Most pocket field guides have more "how to" information than this.

The 128 workman-like illustrations by an unnamed group of Scandinavian artists are printed consecutively at the front of the book. Numbers correspond to the appropriate species in the descriptive notes at the back of the book. Only 300 species are illustrated and described, and several of these (e.g. Hazel Hen, Ural Owl, and Middle Spotted Woodpecker) are not found in Britain and Ireland, an area where more than 460 avian species have been recorded. This would not be unforgivable if the accounts truly bridged the gap between the pocket field guides and the multi-volume reference works. Unfortunately the descriptive notes devote half of the space, on the average, to field identification and calls. Breeding, food, and status are generally given a superficial treatment, though some accounts of breeding habits are well done. In the sections on calls, food, and status, the author lapses into a disconcerting mixture of complete and incomplete sentences. There are other lapses, too. The dark bill of the Pochard is said to distinguish it from the Red-necked Pochard drake, which has a red bill. I assume Red-crested Pochard was intended. Although the several drawings of bird topography illustrate most of the terms used in the descriptive notes, some important terms (e.g. mantle) are not included. There is no glossary. The index to English names is a bit of a surprise: Common Gull is listed under the Cs, Herring Gull under the Hs, and so forth.

On the whole this book strikes me as something hastily thrown together in order to market a set of color pictures. The novice British bird watcher may find the book appealing and helpful, but he will soon outgrow its limited scope. Visitors to the British Isles are advised to stick to the standard field guides for Britain and Europe until they can find something more comprehensive than Flegg's well-intentioned but seriously flawed book.—EFP

CBC ROUNDTABLE (Continued from Page 103)

This article reminds me of the several times I have seen Downy Woodpeckers apparently feeding on the standing dead stalks of Cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*) in winter. Sometimes the birds are hardly more than a foot or two above the ground. I wonder what insects they find as they tap noisily on the hollow-sounding woody stems.—EFP