

want to own his book.” Copies are available from the N.C. State Museum of Natural Sciences, P.O. Box 27647, Raleigh, N.C. 27611. The price is \$5, postpaid; make checks payable to the NCDA Museum Extension Fund.

### Question Box

*How much do little hummingbirds weigh and how long do they live?*

They usually live 4 or 5 years, but “X-18025” is a Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*) that weighs one-seventh of an ounce and is 11 years old. It showed up in Gothic, Colorado. X-18025 has made ten migrations to Mexico. A female, she may be a great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandmother. Large birds usually live longer than small birds. The oldest known Canada Goose lived only 24 years.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### BIRD-BANDING: EXPERIENCING THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD

Bill Hilton Jr. 1987. Northwestern High School, Route 11, Box 3, Rock Hill, S.C. 29730. 24 p. Softcover, \$5.

This how-to manual was written for high-school biology teachers by a teacher who practices what he preaches. Working with students at Northwestern High School in Rock Hill, S.C., Bill Hilton Jr. uses ornithology to teach cognitive thinking skills and the basic principles of scientific research. Although the manual stresses the use of bird banding, Hilton provides practical guidelines for studies that employ other methods. The last page in the book is an evaluation sheet that Hilton uses to grade the research projects of his Biology One students at the end of the first semester. He looks at writing skills as well as the biological aspects of the project. Any student who passes Biology One at Northwestern should be able to prepare a manuscript acceptable to the editor of *The Chat*. Teachers who want to motivate their science students should read Hilton’s book very carefully.—EFP

### WOOD WARBLER’S WORLD

Hal H. Harrison. 1984. Simon and Schuster, New York. Illus. 336 p. Softcover, \$19.95.

A major airline once ran an advertisement featuring row upon row of the same airplane drawing, each labeled with a different city of destination. I cut out the ad and sent it to a friend with the comment, “So you thought warblers were confusing.” I still find North American wood warblers confusing in appearance; but after reading Harrison’s *Wood Warbler’s World*, I find the 53 species seem more like individuals I would like to meet some day.

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- LINCOLN'S SPARROW:** Belatedly reported were individuals seen by Bruce Mack about 11 miles SE of Columbia, S.C., on 26 and 29 October 1972 and about 29 miles SE of that city on 14 April 1985.
- DARK-EYED JUNCO:** This species is a rare nester in South Carolina; thus, notable were two adults feeding three juveniles at the Walhalla Fish Hatchery on 12 June (Charlie Wooten) and nests found by Irvin Pitts at Caesar's Head in 1985 and 1986.
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** Most unusual was an adult male seen at Folly Beach, S.C., from 24 to 28 July by Vivian Hembree and Will Post.
- HOUSE FINCH:** Douglas McNair noted a singing male at Cashiers, N.C., on 7 June, plus a female at a feeder there on the same day. Also near that town was one finch at High Hampton Inn on 28 July (McNair).
- RED CROSSBILL:** Out of season was a female or immature at a feeder in Chapel Hill, N.C., on 11 and 12 June (Carol Hamilton, Dennis Alwon).
- PINE SISKIN:** Adults are seen regularly in the mountains in summer, but without evidence of nesting; this apparently was the case with the 25 birds seen by Mark Simpson at Mount Mitchell on 8 and 15 June.

## BOOK REVIEWS

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The introduction, a summary of wood warbler characteristics, is representative of the whole book: very informative but by no means dry. Each chapter describes one of the parulids through both anecdotes and references to the literature. Harrison describes habitat, nest sites, nest construction, eggs, cowbird parasitism, diet, song, and behavior. He provides range maps and information on the birds' names—source, pronunciation, and meaning.

The book is spaciouly laid out with readable type, room for notes, and many extremely useful black-and-white photographs and color plates that show habitat, nests, eggs, and behavior. This is a good sourcebook for everyone who is interested in wood warblers, and it invites the novice to discover a difficult but exciting family. We can only hope that Mr. Harrison will next treat us to a book on sparrows.—P.R. FORD-POTTER

### CATESBY'S BIRDS OF COLONIAL AMERICA

Alan Feduccia, editor. 1985. The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill and London. Illus. black and white plus 20 color plates. Bibliography. Index. 176 p. Hardcover, \$29.

Mark Catesby (1628-1749), a well-to-do young Englishman, came to Virginia in 1712 and traveled southward through the Carolinas to Florida and the Bahama Islands. Along the way he collected specimens, took notes, and presumably made at least preliminary drawings of the flora and fauna. Upon his return to England in 1726, Catesby began preparations for publishing his monumental *Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Islands*. Production of the two volumes required some 20 years.

Alan Feduccia, a professor of biology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has provided a scholarly introduction to Catesby's text and illustrations, 20 of which are reproduced in full color. A list of the current common names of the birds compared with the names Catesby used is very helpful, as are the editor's notes on the plates and text. Dr. Feduccia and the publisher are to be congratulated on making Catesby's *Natural History* available to everyone who is interested in the history of biology.—EFP

**SEASIDE PLANTS OF THE GULF AND ATLANTIC COASTS  
FROM LOUISIANA TO MASSACHUSETTS,  
EXCLUSIVE OF LOWER PENINSULAR FLORIDA**

Wilbur H. Duncan and Marion B. Duncan. 1987. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C., and London. Illus. with line drawings and 588 color plates. Glossary. Index. 409 p. Hardcover, \$45; softcover, \$29.95.

Amateur naturalists, even beginners, should not let the 9 pages of glossary and 16 pages of botanical keys discourage them from buying and using the Smithsonian's guide to the very interesting plants that grow near the ocean. Wildflowers, trees, shrubs, grasses, rushes, and sedges are included. To help the inexperienced botanist learn how to look at plants for identification purposes, the authors have provided six plates illustrating plant structures. Studying these plates should enable the reader to visualize the terms as they appear in the glossary, keys, and plant descriptions. The keys are meant to be used. The type is large enough for easy reading, and the couplets employ a minimum of technical terms. If an unfamiliar word occurs, the structure plates and glossary are close at hand. Headings for the descriptions have the English name in boldface type, followed by the Latin name in the customary scientific style. The number of the color plate is easy to find on a line by itself. The text is written in a telegraphic style (occasionally relieved by a complete sentence) with metric measurements and without an excessive number of abbreviations. English names for plants are capitalized in the descriptions as well as in the headings. Line drawings placed with the descriptive paragraphs supplement the generally excellent color photographs. The authors have skillfully avoided the unnecessary complications and the unfortunate oversimplifications that mar many botanical works intended primarily for the amateur. Their book brings hope that even the grasses can be identified.—EFP