

and Mountains. These are defined and shown on a map but there is no general description of the areas.

The species accounts are brief, seldom being longer than 10 lines. For the regularly occurring species the status in each of the five terrestrial regions is noted. The extreme dates of occurrence are given, as are egg dates for most of the breeding species.

The accounts do a good job of summarizing the distributional data in brief form. Even though the authors remark that the "Mountains area" has received considerable attention since 1970 examination of the distributional information given shows that there is much to be learned about the breeding birds of this extremity of the Appalachian system. It is noted that the counties of the extreme southwest have had "no serious ornithological inventory." I am not aware that South Carolina is currently planning a breeding-bird atlas project, but it would seem that with this checklist as a basis the time for such a project is at hand.

For many species a "Maximum" count is given. These counts usually come from Christmas Bird Count or Spring Bird Count data but are occasionally given in terms of densities from a breeding-bird census, or birds banded per 100 net-hours at a banding station. I wonder about the real utility of publishing these "maximum" data, which by definition are obtained on exceptional occasions. In several cases it is mentioned that a species is declining in numbers (i. e. Bachman's Sparrow) or has shown an increase in numbers or range (i.e. Barn Swallow, Fish Crow), but no information on population trends is given for most species. No habitat or other ecological information is given.

Of particular interest are the remarks about the new population of Dickcissels in the Coastal Plain and Piedmont, and a summary of what is known about Bachman's Warbler. But from the account in this book one would not realize the endangered status of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. I was struck by the fact, that there is apparently no specimen of the Carolina Parakeet from South Carolina where it was once "abundant". The recent increase in pelagic trips off the east coast is reflected in the number of pelagic species recorded.

The book is graced by a number of pen and ink sketches of birds by John Henry Dick, almost all of which are of non-passerines. These are scattered throughout the book arranged in more or less the conventional order but it is thus somewhat disconcerting to have a Black Skimmer drawing in the midst of the warbler accounts and a Red-cockaded Woodpecker drawing above the Bobolink account.

South Carolina birders will welcome this useful summary of the birds of that area to date, and people from other states will also find much of interest in it.—George A. Hall

THE RIVER AS LOOKING GLASS & OTHER STORIES FROM THE OUTDOORS.

Craig Woods. 1988. The Stephen Greene Press/Pelham Books, distributed by Viking Penguin Inc. 40 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010. paperback 121 p. \$6.95

Birdwatchers are not the only people who enjoy the great outdoors and few birdwatchers have written short stories that can match the likes of this col-

lection by Craig Woods; a fisherman. Woods is not just a fisherman, he's a fly-caster. Based on the contents of these stories, he appears to be a pretty good fly-caster. He's an even better story teller.

Why in the world would people who are interested in birds want to read a book of short stories by some guy who admits to occasionally going out to shoot Woodcock? The answer is that here is a man who understands the fundamental interaction between humans and their natural surroundings. There's a quality to these stories that evokes memories of growing up; when the world could be made to go away simply by catching fish, or watching birds, or catching frogs. There are people here that we used to know, or wished we did.

You could probably sit down and go through this little book in a good solid evening of reading, but it would be a mistake. These are stories to linger over; to savor as a fine meal. I found that I didn't want to read more than two or three at a sitting because they needed time to incorporate themselves into my being. Some of them are serious. Some of them are totally outrageous. All of them are great.—H. T. Hendrickson

THE FLYFISHER'S 1990 CALENDAR

Ernest Schwiebert. 1989. Published by The Stephen Greene Press, distributed by Viking Penguin Inc., 40 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010. \$10.95

The perfect companion piece to the preceding book of short stories is this calendar that is profusely illustrated with the natural prey of trout. These insects are the models that have inspired fly-tiers for the last hundred or more years. Frankly, my curiosity was aroused by knowing that there are such baits as Coachmen, Quills, and yes, Hendricksons. But there's more.

Schwiebert sums it up best in April. "Fishing is more than fishing."
—H. T. Hendrickson

1990 THE BIRD IDENTIFICATION CALENDAR

John Sill. 1989. Published by The Stephen Greene Press, distributed by Viking Penguin Inc., 40 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010. \$8.95

Are you looking for an appropriate seasonal gift to give your bird watching friends? Do you need an attractive wall calendar in your kitchen? This may be the answer to your problems. John Sills is a competent artist whose birds are both attractive and accurate. Each painting comes with some light commentary about the species portrayed. All are illustrated in conjunction with the months in which they can be found (somewhere). Fortunately, Sills is a much better than average painter because his commentaries on the Yellow-breasted Chat and Eastern Meadowlark reveal that he could not function as an effective systematist. — H.T. Hendrickson