

David Wright). Sam Cooper observed one at Fort Fisher near the ferry landing on 22 October.

**SNOW BUNTING:** Very rarely found inland, one was seen along the shore of Lake Wylie, S.C., on 26 and 27 November by David Wright, Taylor Piephoff, and others. Another was somewhat inland at Pamlico Point, N.C., where seen on 13 November by Philip Crutchfield and M. E. Whitfield. A few birds were reported also from the Outer Banks in late November.

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** Adult males are seldom seen in the fall season, but one was noted by Steve Ryan at a feeder at Salvo, N.C., on 25 September. An immature male was a visitor to Bonnie Harris' feeder in Long Beach, N.C.; Bill Brokaw and Kitty Kosh saw the bird on 9 September.

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** Robin Carter, Donna Clark, and Dennis Forsythe saw a male on 27 November near Townville, S.C., where it is a rather rare but regular migrant.

**PURPLE FINCH:** Dorothy Foy reported that a "brown" bird she banded (AHY age, U sex) on 15 January 1986 was recovered dead in Arden, Ontario, on 8 May 1988.

## Book Reviews

### STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA BIRDS

William Post and Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr. Contributions from the Charleston Museum XVIII, Charleston, S. C. Illus. Index. xii + 83p. Hardcover. \$10.00

The study of South Carolina birds goes back to Catesby, Audubon, Bachman, and A. T. Wayne. From time to time over the years there have been published accounts of the state's avifauna. A landmark publication was Wayne's *Birds of South Carolina* (1910) which was updated in 1949 with the publication of *South Carolina Bird Life* by A. Sprunt and E. B. Chamberlain. The second edition (1970) of this book compiled by E. M. Burton brought the list up to 1969. The present annotated checklist is an attempt to update the 1970 list and so most of the data included were collected after 1969.

The authors recognize 374 species on the "definitive" list which meet fully the criteria of acceptance and another 13 species for which good documentation exists for fewer than four independent sight records. An additional 14 species have been introduced or have escaped from captivity and have not become established (= have not bred successfully for 10 years). There is also a "Hypothetical List" of 12 species. The criteria for acceptance on the lists have been clearly stated.

The front matter of the book outlines the guidelines for documentation and acceptance, as well as the definitions of the Occurrence and Abundance categories. These are in line with those adopted by several other state bird compilations. The state is divided into six geographical regions: Offshore, Lower Coastal Plain, Upper Coastal Plain, Lower Piedmont, Upper Piedmont,

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-