

was detected again this winter. Derb Carter and Ricky Davis counted 47 birds there on 3 February. The species was reported (one bird?) in a mixed blackbird flock in northern Mecklenburg County, N.C., on 14 January by Heathy Walker. In South Carolina, a male was seen by Robin Carter at a dairy farm near Goat Island Resort on Lake Marion, Clarendon County, on 26 December.

ORCHARD ORIOLE: An adult male was collected at Kingstree on 24 December by S. P. Rodgers for the first winter specimen and second winter report for South Carolina (fide Will Post).

RED CROSSBILL: The only report for the fall or winter was of a flock of 15, including four juveniles with uncrossed bills, on 8 November at Cedar Mountain, Transylvania County, N.C. (Norma and Bill Siebenheller).

EVENING GROSBEAK: The flights of this species and the Pine Siskin were essentially non-existent into the Carolinas during the fall and winter. The only grosbeak reports were of single feeder birds in New Ellenton, S.C., from 20 to 22 January (fide Peter Stangel) and in Zebulon, N.C., in February (Ricky Davis). Purple Finches were also in unusually low numbers.

BOOK REVIEWS

OSPREYS A NATURAL AND UNNATURAL HISTORY

Alan F. Poole. 1989. Cambridge University Press, 32 East 57th Street, New York, NY 10022. Illus. Hardback. 246 p. \$27.95

While the phrase has probably been overused, this book could be appropriately sub-titled "Everything you ever wanted to know about Ospreys but were afraid to ask". Fear not, most of your questions will be answered in this delightful text. Alan Poole has reviewed all of the relevant literature on Ospreys through 1987 and presented it in a clear, logical fashion that people with any interest in birds will have no difficulty comprehending.. Poole's presentation is aided significantly by his own extensive research experience with the species on Long Island Sound, Chesapeake Bay, and Florida Bay.

The Osprey is a bird that has caught the attention and the admiration of people around the world for its size, position in the food chain, and its conspicuous nesting habits. It is a bird that appears to have accommodated to human beings fairly well. They are not only tolerant of human activity near their spectacular nests, but in some areas seem to prefer human-provided sites for nesting and frequently include all kinds of human artifacts in the structure of the nest itself.

This close physical and emotional association between bird and human appears to have been fortunate for both as Poole relates in the now well-known tale about nesting failures caused by DDT and other organo-chlorines. The spectacular decline in the numbers of Ospreys in southern New England is largely responsible for discontinuing the use of this class of insecticides throughout the country. The recovery of the depressed Osprey populations was almost immediate. What effect the continued use of these chemicals would have had on human populations is still a subject of intense debate. It came as something of a surprise to me how few Osprey populations were affected by organo-chlorine poisoning. Primarily, it was the populations in the northeastern United States, and to a lesser extent, those

around the Chesapeake Bay. These are the populations surrounded by some of the densest populations of humans, who have access to some of the most effective means of public communication ever devised.

The future for Ospreys looks bright. Although humans continue to modify the natural habitats in ways that are detrimental to many species, Ospreys continue to exhibit a range of adaptability that promises to keep them with us into the foreseeable future.

COLLINS HANDGUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF THE INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT

Martin Woodcock. 1980. Republished 1989 by The Stephen Greene Press, Lexington, Massachusetts; distributed by Viking Penquin Inc., 40 W. 23rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10010. Illus. 176 pp. \$11.95.

Here is a book designed for the casual tourist to the Indian sub-continent. Of the approximately 1250 species of birds recorded from the region, the most common (or more interesting) 273 are illustrated in color. Woodcock's paintings, based on my limited experience with several of the species in the field, are certainly acceptable. They are good clear drawings that demonstrate the appropriate markings of the species. An additional 272 species are described briefly (and some are illustrated in black and white) in a synopsis of families at the back of the book.

Clearly, the biggest drawback to the Handguide is that it only covers about 43% of the known birds (and only half of those are covered thoroughly). The alternative is to invest in the ten volume Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan by Ali and Ripley which is not exactly portable and will cost you considerably more than the modest asking price of this volume.

My guess is that the casual visitor who wants to identify the birds most commonly encountered will be more than satisfied with this aid.

NOCTURNAL FLIGHT CALLS OF MIGRATING THRUSHES

Bill Evans. 1990. Sound Tracker, P.O. Box 46, Mecklenburg, NY 14863. Forty-eight minute cassette with liner notes. \$10.00 postpaid.

Bill Evans' cassette opens up a whole new world for average birders by giving us an excellent tutorial on how to identify five common species of North American thrush by their nocturnal flight call-notes. Side A begins with short sequences of the nocturnal flight notes of Gray-cheeked Thrush, each preceded by an identifying announcement. This summary, located right at the beginning of the tape, is obviously designed for use in the field, as we struggle to associate the squeaks and chips we hear in the pre-dawn spring of fall sky with the tutorial on the tape.

The summary is followed by the tutorial proper. Evans goes over each species in turn, giving several long cuts of their nocturnal flight calls. He then compares the nocturnal calls to the species; diurnal calls, and contrasts each species with the