

BOOK REVIEWS

A FIELD GUIDE TO ADVANCED BIRDING

Kenn Kaufman. 1990. The Peterson Field Guide Series No. 39, Houghton Mifflin Co., 2 Park St., Boston, Massachusetts 02108. Illus. 299p. Paperback. \$14.95

If you have ever been fortunate enough to bird with Kenn Kaufman, you have been impressed by his ability to identify difficult birds with ease. In this long-awaited Field Guide, Kaufman sets out the methods by which such identifications are made. After an introductory chapter which gives details of topography, molt, plumage, and basic rules of field identification, the book presents a series of chapters each on a hard-to-identify group. For each group, Kaufman discusses the basic identification problem, preliminary points (general range, size and seasonal changes, etc.) and field marks. The field marks are broken down into three major categories: absolute (i.e. Species A has an eye-ring and Species B does not), relative (i.e. Species A has a longer tail than Species B) and percentage field marks (i.e. Species A usually but not always has dark lores while Species B usually but not always does not). Among the groups discussed are: winter loons, Western Grebe complex, dark ibis, shorebirds, gulls, hummingbirds, *Empidonax* flycatchers, fall warblers and sparrows.

Every birder, whether beginner or expert, will benefit from a careful reading of this book especially the introductory chapter on the techniques of bird identification. I strongly recommend this to all who are interested in improving their bird identification skills.—Dennis M. Forsythe

THE ECOLOGY OF BIRD COMMUNITIES

John A. Wiens. 1990. Vol. 1, Foundations and Patterns, Cambridge Studies in Ecology. Cambridge University Press, 40 W. 20th St., New York, NY 10011. Illus. 539p. Hardcover. \$80.00

John A. Wiens. 1990. Vol. 2, Processes and Variations. Cambridge Studies in Ecology. Cambridge University Press, 40 W. 20th St., New York, NY 10011. Illus. 539p. Hardcover. \$65.00.

The study of bird communities has always been an area of active interest for avian biologists. In this two volume work, intended for upper-division undergraduates, graduate students and researchers, Wiens presents an up-to-date review of bird community ecology. Volume 1 is concerned with the history, methodology and patterns in community ecology; while Volume 2 discusses the processes causing the patterns. He also discusses the current and future directions of community ecology.

In Volume 1, Wiens traces the historical roots of bird community research with emphasis on the works of Robert MacArthur, who has been credited with