

This is the first report of Little Stint for North Carolina and is believed to be the southernmost report for the Atlantic Coast of the United States. Photographs taken of the Little Stint were submitted to the N.C. Bird Records Committee for review. "Photos have been reviewed by the Committee and considered to document the sighting." (Chat 54:55).

¹ Mailing address of first author only.

BOOK REVIEW

BIRDS OF THE SMOKIES

Fred Alsop. 1991. Great Smoky Mountains Natural History Association. Gatlinburg, TN 37738. Softback. 167 pp. \$9.95.

Perhaps the first thing that should be said about this charming little book is that it is *not* intended to be a field guide. As the author carefully points out, there are many books on the market that are designed to help you identify birds. This is not one of them. This is a book designed to help you to enjoy the birds that you have identified within the area of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Not only do I think that the book succeeds in this goal, but the National Park Service awarded it first prize in its biannual competition for best park guide in the category of birds.

Its small size (4.5 x 6 in.) allows it to fit easily into a jacket pocket and the waterproof, tearproof cover is ideal for the damp, abusive environment of the mountains. It also has a good Smythe sewn binding that the publisher claims will holdup for years. In spite of its compact size, it includes 168 pages with color photographs and good descriptions of the 100 most common birds of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. There is a map of the Park, a checklist of birds that have been seen in the park (don't spend a lot of time looking for some of them, such as the Band-rumped Storm-Petrel or the White Pelican), and a lot of good advice on how to function in the Park. The species descriptions have an innovative little chart for describing the time of year and the elevation at which you are likely to find each of the species.

What many birders will find particularly interesting are directions for how to find the most sought-after specialties of the Great Smokies; things like Northern Saw-whet Owl, Swainson's Warbler, and Red Crossbills. These instructions alone are probably worth the \$9.95 purchase price.

The book is available at visitors centers in Great Smoky Mountains National Park or by contacting the Great Smoky Mountains Natural History Association, 115 Park Headquarters Road, Gatlinburg, TN 37738 or you can telephone (615) 436-7318. Add an extra \$3.25 for postage and handling. North Carolina residents are requested to include an additional 60¢ to cover sales tax; Tennessee residents add 80¢. South Carolina residents are not subject to sales tax by mail order.—H. T. Hendrickson