

the general index), which lists most pages where each bird is mentioned. For instance, more than a dozen locations are cited for the Northern Saw-whet Owl, which is noted in 37 places in the text.

At one inch thick, this 6" x 9 1/4" book won't fit easily into a pocket, but it should be on the seat beside you the next time you take a drive in the Blue Ridge Mountains. In fact, the price is such a bargain that you may want a "car copy" for your margin notes and dog-earing, and a library copy for when you just want to do a little armchair traveling.—Dennis E. Burnette

SAVING AMERICAN BIRDS: T. Gilbert Pearson and the Founding of the Audubon Movement

Oliver H. Orr, Jr. 1992. University Press of Florida, Gainesville, 32611. Hardback, 296 pp with index and selected bibliography.

This book presents an intertwining of two tales: a biography of the boyhood and early career of T. Gilbert Pearson and the fledgling efforts of a group of conservationists to save American birds. Like many boys of his day, Pearson (1873-1943) was largely a self-taught oologist, collecting and trading bird eggs while developing an expansive knowledge of avian natural history. The youngest child of Quaker parents, Pearson fortuitously moved with his family to a small town in Florida when he was nine. Although the local public schooling proved inadequate, the surrounding country with its rookeries and large wintering bird populations provided Pearson with opportunities for field experience unmatched elsewhere. The wealth of birds in Florida drew well-known ornithologists south to study them. One of these was Frank M. Chapman. By chance Pearson met him, and Chapman's encouragement helped shape the young man's future career. Desirous of a college education which his family could not afford, Pearson traded his collection of eggs and skins for two years room, board and tuition at Guilford College, a Quaker institution near Greensboro. His education at Guilford remedied Pearson's lack of formal education, and saw the honing of his skills as a speaker and writer.

Interspersed between the accounts of Pearson's youth and subsequent academic career are chapters on the beginning of the conservation movement in the US. This movement had its roots in the Nuttall Ornithological Club from which the American Ornithologists' Union grew. Among its prominent members were Elliott Coues and William Brewster. The AOU members helped establish ornithology as an accepted field of study and also began the movement to protect non-game birds that were being slaughtered by the thousands for their feathers, which were in great demand by the women's fashion industry here and abroad. Chapman sponsored Pearson for associate membership, which provided him with needed contacts within the field.

The two interweaving narratives are maintained through the descriptions of the founding of state Audubon societies dedicated to the conservation of birds and Pearson's academic career. Following Guilford he studied and taught at Chapel Hill and then at the State Normal and Industrial College (now the University of North Carolina-Greensboro). It was here in 1902 that Pearson

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spearheaded the founding of the Audubon Society of North Carolina. Besides supporting the protection of non-game birds through lobbying, journal articles and speeches, Pearson devoted much time to field work, gathering facts on the natural histories of birds—facts which he then used to bolster his argument that laws protecting non-game birds needed to be enacted and enforced by the state and federal government. By 1911 Pearson had risen to national prominence as the first full-time leader of the National Association of Audubon Societies. It is here that the stories end.

Besides the inspiring story of a boy whose interest in birds shaped his life, this book presents a compelling look at the political and public roadblocks encountered by those who wanted to save the birds for future generations. A look at its history shows that the conservation movement of today is facing nothing new in its current efforts to protect habitats and save endangered species. The one encouraging aspect of this story is that where the founders of this movement persevered, they did eventually succeed in their goals.

In addition to the text, the author has provided extensive notes for every chapter, detailing sources of information and where they may be found. There are also thirteen pages of selected bibliography which include all of Pearson's extensive publications and other literature on the early conservation movement. Coupled with a full index, these inclusions provide sources for readers who may wish to seek additional information which would otherwise prove difficult to find. —Jacqueline Spencer