

- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: A good local count was five birds at New Bern, N.C., on 21 March, as seen by Rich Boyd and party. One seen by Gene Howe was late on 15 May at Goldsboro.
- DARK-EYED JUNCO: Seldom seen near the coast after mid-April, single birds were late at Atlantic Beach, N.C., on 4 May (Neill Lee) and at Wilmington on 9 May (Greg Massey).
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: One was seen in Winston-Salem, N.C., on 9 April by Heathy Walker and others. [This bird was reputedly present in that city for some time, but I received no correspondence from anyone in that city to provide other dates.—HEL]
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: The small flock that wintered at Cherry Hospital near Goldsboro was last seen on 2 April by Eric Dean. A female was a good find by Rick Murray at Wampee, S.C., on 5 April.
- NORTHERN (BULLOCK'S) ORIOLE: Evelyn Dabbs observed a male of this subspecies singing in her yard near Mayesville, S.C., on 10 and 11 May. [This might be the first reported instance of this subspecies singing in the Carolinas.—HEL]
- PINE SISKIN: Very late in departing was a siskin seen on 4 June at a feeder in Chapel Hill (Will Cook, Jeff Pippen, et al.).

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BOOK REVIEW (continued from Page 64.)

lar European habitat, but much of the book has reference to similar zones in Asia and North America. The conservation issues covered toward the end of the book affect us all wherever we may live and bring painful topics such as the continued shooting of birds of prey to the forefront.

A coffee table tome this is not, but it is a splendid insight into the past, present and future of the bird life in the British highlands. More habitats will be covered in due course in further volumes.

At a price of \$45, this is not a cheap book, and it is not a book for the ardent lister. Should anyone be traveling and birding in Britain, this book should supplement the standard field guides and give the observer an understandable link between the bird and the world in which we live.— Simon R. B. Thompson

BOOK REVIEW

BIRD LIFE OF MOUNTAIN AND MOORLAND.

Derek Ratcliffe. 1990. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, England. Hardback. 256 pp. incl. index.

When first asked to review this book, I put it to one side on the basis of its title alone. In this day of international field guides and single species monographs, "Bird Life of Mountain and Moorland" did not fit into my current thoughts of new additions to the world of ornithology.

Upon closer examination I found out that I was quite mistaken and was soon reading it from cover to cover. The very well written and easy to read text is liberally sprinkled with tables, black and white photographs and delightful line illustrations by Chris Rose. These culminate in the portrayal of a European Dipper beside a Scottish stream and a perfect Red-necked Phalarope mirrored in a bog pool.

The habitats throughout Britain—England, Scotland and Wales, have all been altered on a great scale by man over the centuries. The much-treasured hills and moorlands of modern Britain were once heavily forested, but by the early 1800s this had been cleared for domestic livestock creating the open, treeless scenes that are so familiar today. Sheep farms have crept up the hill-sides only to be forced back into the valleys by the inhospitable northern climate, and many of the blanket bogs and "flows" have been drained for grouse moors and forestry. The end result is that the bird populations throughout the higher reaches of the British Isles have always been in a constant state of flux. This is continuing today with the modern blanket forestry techniques.

The birds of these zones from high valley to mountain top are covered in a manner indicating their status past and present. Particular attention is paid to raptors including the spectacular rebound in Peregrine numbers since their low in the 1960s. The increase continues to this day and Peregrines have now passed their previous high as numbers continue to rise.

All birds are part of the environment around us, and the more we know about the soils, plant life and climate, the more we can know what birds to expect in any location and the easier populations are to monitor and manage. Like it or not, we have been managing certain habitats for hundreds of years for certain species. This now continues with raptor management throughout many areas of the world.

"Bird Life of Mountain and Moorland" makes the bird-habitat connection natural and logical. What the author may or may not have realized is that he has possibly created many an armchair ecologist with this book.

Delving back into my past, I remember cutting my teeth on Desmond Nethersole-Thompson's "The Greenshank". Ratcliffe continues in the same vein but in greater detail and evokes the image of the British highlands more strongly.

Of course the book appeals a great deal to those familiar with this particu-

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