

Formulated by the symposium's participants and still to be addressed, the questions posed are both disturbing and thought-provoking. Certainly a great deal of research has already been done, but the need remains for more. Clearly the problems of population decline are multifaceted: it isn't enough for a migrant landbird to obtain a nesting site. It must also find a mate, food sources to feed the young, and then wintering grounds on which to spend the rest of the year. The hope for solutions lies in the commitment of conservationists to "tease apart" the differing factors impacting on the overall problem of migrant landbird population management. This book shows that they have made a good start.—Jacqueline Spencer

FINDING BIRDS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Robin M. Carter. 1993. University of South Carolina Press. Columbia, SC. Paperback, 254 pp. incl. index.

South Carolina has a long and distinguished history of bird study going back to colonial times and some of the most interesting of North America's avifauna are inextricably interwoven with the state. It is difficult for me to think of Carolina Parakeets without visualizing the low-country swamps of the Francis Marion Forest, or imagine the probably extinct Bachman's Warbler without thinking of I'On Swamp. Located as it is on the northern edge of the sub-tropical zone, South Carolina has the advantage of being the closest place to go to see really interesting birds. But as all members of the Carolina Bird Club know, finding those birds and the places where you are most likely to find them can be a difficult and time-consuming process.

Former CBC President, Robin Carter has taken some of the difficulty out of this process by writing what will probably be the definitive guide to prime birding sites in South Carolina for the indefinite future. Carter has birded all over South Carolina for years and has shared his experience in this 254 page volume. The book is laid out in three major (but unequal) sections; General Information, Site Information, and Species Accounts.

The first section on general information is thirteen pages long and provides a brief description of the state and instructions on how to make use of the guide. This is very basic information and should be read by anyone interested in birding in South Carolina. What I found particularly helpful was the provision of precise definitions of where Carter considers the boundaries to be separating the Piedmont from the mountains on one side and the Coastal Plain on the other. As these boundaries are rather vague geologically, but referred to repeatedly in most of the literature, it is extremely helpful to have some points of reference. Carter also points out the value in having a decent road map of the state and while none is provided in the text, he does supply excellent instruction on how to procure them at several levels of precision.

The second section of the book is by far the largest, consisting of 210 pages of specific information about sites (or areas) organized by counties arranged in alphabetical order. This can provide difficulties if you don't know what county you want to work in initially and can make reading the book

sequentially somewhat distressing. The alphabetical sequence of counties in no way corresponds to the geographic relationships of the counties (nor should it), but this means you can bounce from the coast to the mountains to the Piedmont in twenty pages making it easy for you to become, at least mentally, lost. However, the entries within each county provide directions (often with effective sketch maps) on how to get to some of the most productive birding areas within that county. While I have not yet field tested the directions, they do appear to be remarkably complete.

The third section of the book is invaluable because it provides a way of tying together the birds that people are most likely to want to see with the areas where they are most likely to be seen. This section takes up only twelve pages, so you will not find instructions on how to find the really common species like Northern Cardinal, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Carolina Chickadee or Gray Catbird. But if there is something a little unusual that you want to look for in South Carolina, this is the section that will give you some guidance.

It is important to emphasize that this book is an extremely valuable reference work and not a novel, and consequently it will be most useful to you if you use it as a source of information rather than trying to read it as a novel. I believe that there are two circumstances in which this book's value can be illustrated most effectively. The first of these is when you know where you are going in South Carolina for whatever reason (that may have nothing to do with birding) and you know that you will have some spare time to get out and look for birds. You have to spend a weekend in Colleton County because an obscure in-law is getting married. All you need to do is look up the appropriate county (or those that are adjacent) and follow the directions to the best birding sites in the neighborhood. The second circumstance is to look up the species on your "wish list" in section three and find which sites in South Carolina have the best chances of providing your sighting. Then get the directions from section two, and you're off.

Despite my strong admiration and appreciation for the content of this book, I am not wildly enthusiastic about its appearance. I think that the sans serif typeface (sans serif means without those little caps on the tops and bottoms of the straight parts of the letters) is hard to read, particularly in that small a font size. The small type size almost necessitates using the two column format which I also think detracts from the ease of reading. Other than these aesthetic complaints, I strongly advise everyone in the Carolinas to get a copy as quickly as possible.—H.T. Hendrickson