

increased knowledge about all sorts of arcane topics. Bildstein does a wonderful job of showing how it's really done with all the practical, human problems. What is even better, he makes it interesting to read.

While I thought the whole book was interesting, I was particularly intrigued by the last three chapters dealing with ibises in Trinidad, Hurricane Hugo, and conservation issues. These three chapters are particularly sobering and more than a little frightening for anyone with an interest in and concern for natural environments.—H. T. Hendrickson

A BIRD FINDING GUIDE TO ALASKA

Nick Lethaby. 1994. Published by the author, 79 Mirabelli Circle, San Jose, CA 95134. Softcover, 151 pp. \$14.95 + \$3.00 shipping and handling.

Sooner or later many birders reach that point where they want to increase the size of their life list and they just can't do it with any high degree of probability within the confines of the contiguous 48 states of the U.S.A. Clearly, there are many options open that will allow you to accomplish your goal, but most of these involve travelling to a foreign country. There are, of course, two other states that are chock full of all sorts of neat and fascinating birds that are difficult if not impossible to come by in the usual states; Hawaii and Alaska.

Nick Lethaby, a relatively recent immigrant to California from Britain, has discovered the joys of birding in Alaska and has written this concise guide on how to find those birds that are closest to the heart of the dedicated lister. The book is designed for out-of-state birders and there appears to be no other comparable guide.

In addition to the usual accounts of the prime sites to consider visiting (he lists 23) and species accounts of the North American species that a visitor is most likely to be interested in seeing (he lists one hundred forty-two), there is a list of asian vagrants with an estimation of their probability of being seen in the area around Attu.

When you contemplate the expense of living and getting around in Alaska, Lethaby is to be congratulated for spending a considerable amount of attention to the practical concerns of getting around in a state the size of the eastern U. S. and how to avoid spending more money than you have. One of the things that he stresses is the need to plan what you want to do, when to do it, and how to do it in the most efficient fashion. This book is a must for all birders intending to explore the great white north. As an added incentive to purchase this book the author will offer a \$1 discount to all members of the CBC who mention that they read about the book in *The Chat*.—H. T. Hendrickson