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Books

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Alberta Birds 1961-1970. T.S. Sadler and M.T. Myres. 1976. Provincial Museum of Alberta Natural History Section Occasional Paper No. 1. \$3.25 (Canadian). Available from: Bookshop, Provincial Museum of Alberta, 12845-102 Ave., Edmonton, Alberta T5N 0M6, Canada.

This is a long awaited compilation of bird observations in Alberta over the period of a decade. The bulk of the text is devoted to species accounts and summaries, based primarily on published sources and observation cards submitted to the Calgary Field Naturalists' Society. Breeding Bird Survey data have not been used, and only some of the files of the Prairie Nest Records Scheme. The only banding data used are those previously published elsewhere. Despite these shortcomings, and others which I have reviewed in detail elsewhere (*Edmonton Naturalist*, in press), this is an extremely useful volume which should be on the shelves of all students of Northern Great Plains avifauna. The literature list alone will be useful pending completion of a bibliography of Alberta ornithology.

Most references to banding are brief, and one must seek detail elsewhere. However, this volume does provide a key to where to find this information. The banding data of Edgar T. Jones in Edmonton has been especially useful in defining migration peaks there, and was used for this purpose in detail by W. Ray Salt in a book on Alberta vireos and warblers. These data are thus cited in the current volume, but not used for additional species. Some data are sited on recoveries of the following species banded in Alberta: Black-crowned Night Heron, Blue-winged Teal, Redhead, Bufflehead, California Gull, Great Horned Owl, and "Myrtle" Warbler. Snowy Owl and Great Gray Owl returns are reported in Alberta, both 9 years after banding. The most outstanding banding record reported is that of a Mallard recovered in Alberta in 1965 which was banded in 1962 in England. Other Alberta recoveries of birds banded elsewhere include: Lesser Scaup (Calif.), Semipalmated Plover (Kansas), and Common Starling (Calif.).

In summary, I recommend this book to prairie naturalists and to others as a source book of information and additional information sources, but its usefulness to persons working at greater distances will be limited. Visitors to Alberta seeking a source

of general information will be better served by the new (1976) "Birds of Alberta" by W. Ray Salt and Jim R. Salt, Hurtig, Edmonton, \$10.00. The Sadler and Myres volume could serve as a useful supplement to the Salts' book.

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Alabama Birds

By Thomas A. Imhof

University of Alabama Press, University, Alabama, 2nd Ed. ©1976. \$22.50

Alabama Birds is a composite of many aspects of bird study from the topography of the bird and a glossary through to an annotated listing of the birds found in Alabama past and present. Many aspects of bird study, including banding, are touched on in the introduction. The physiography of Alabama is explained and related to the bird life.

The listing of bird species is presented in a most interesting way. Not only is a description and nesting described but also distribution, food requirements, occurrences, breeding and banding information is given. In many instances, a map of distribution and banding recoveries is shown.

Forty seven plates of which 34 are in color and 4 black-and-whites are done by Richard Parks and David C. Hulse. Four pages of color photographs, mostly taken after banding, are included.

An extensive bibliography is given for further research.

A check list is on the inside of the front and back covers making for quick reference.

Mickie Mutchler

Wintering Bald Eagle

This study of Winter Migrant Bald Eagles, a first limited printing, was distributed courtesy of NACA to 2,800 university and junior college libraries. In addition, copies were provided for every individual contributing to the study and to selected organizations and groups specifically involved in conservation of wildlife.

Contact the National Agricultural Chemicals Association, 1155 15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005 for further information and availability.

**Imported for sale by
Charles E. Tuttle Co., Inc.
Rutland, VT**

A Sketchbook of New Zealand Birds. Molly Falla. A.H. & A.W. Reed (Sydney, Auckland), fifth ed. 1975. \$4.50.

This 32-page booklet consists of sketches and paintings with some descriptive text on a small number of New Zealand species. In comparison with other guides of this beautiful area, the sketches have marginal value as an identification source. From an artistic viewpoint, they are quite pleasing and I have no doubt that Lady Falla is talented. Some of our larger libraries might wish to purchase this book for inclusion in their general collections.

Frederick S. Schaeffer

Annotated Checklist of the Birds of New Zealand. The Checklist Committee, Ornithological Society of New Zealand, Inc. F.C. Kinsky, Convenor. 1970. A.H. & A.W. Reed Ltd, Wellington, New Zealand. \$8.95 plus postage.

Based on the Checklist of New Zealand birds published in 1953, this book is an updated listing of the birds of New Zealand and the Ross Dependency. In essence, it is a revised list with the distributional changes and additional information of the avian life of the Ross Dependency, an Antarctic Territory administered by New Zealand.

An interesting addition to this writing is a list of extinct birds, because of the vast interest in New Zealand in archaeology. Detailed maps are given of New Zealand Region, the Ross Sea, and both the North Island and South Island of New Zealand.

Mickie Mutchler

Birds in the Australian High Country. Edited by H.J. Frith. Illustrated by Betty Temple Watts. A.H. & A.W. Reed (Sydney, Auckland). 1969. \$25.95.

The Australian high country is the mountainous area between Sydney and Melbourne. The highest peak is in the Snowy Mountains (7,316 feet).

This book, similar in organization to several of our well-known state bird books (e.g. Birds of New York State), covers a highly interesting region of

Australia and does so very well. The color plates are excellent and reproduction is true to life.

Some (but perhaps not sufficient) black and white photos accompany the text on habitats. Distribution notes in the species accounts are very general, but notes on nest construction are well done.

In general, this volume is to be recommended even if one has no intention of visiting Australia. For a frequent voyager to distant lands, this book is regrettably too large and heavy for field use. This is unfortunate as the plates should be helpful in the field. The print could have been smaller and the margins are much too large.

Frederick S. Schaeffer

Birds in Bass Strait. Ken Simpson. A.H. & A.W. Reed (Sydney, Auckland). 1972. \$11.00.

Birds in Bass Strait describes the birds of a restricted region of Australia and is a source book of information about these birds and a useful guide for the young or inexperienced ornithologist.

The text points out the gaps in existing knowledge but also indicates directions in which future study is needed. There are facts about the physical features and clues to identification given along with breeding, behavioral, and geographical notes. The status of the entire bird population is discussed. The sea birds included are also common in the southern seas area of Australia.

There are many photographs, both colored and black-and-white, as well as several migratory maps.

Mickie Mutchler

The Birds of Korea. M.E.J. Gore and Won, Pyong-Oh. 1971. \$17.50.

This book offers us a completely different look at the Republic of Korea. Korea's avifauna numbers 366 species, and makes for some interesting bird watching opportunities. Sponsored by the Royal Asiatic Society, the book is the first major English language volume to appear in recent years on the birdlife of this Republic. It is written in both English and Korean, with the texts facing each other on opposite pages. The Korean text is fascinating to look at.

Each species is named and brief information provided on identification, habitat, status and subspecies. There are 41 color plates illustrating 230 species. The plates are by Judy North. Although not quite equal to the color illustrations in some bird books, the plates are good and quite helpful. Many photographs are included in the book.

This book would make a fine gift of appreciation to a person interested in nature and birds that has served in Korea.

Donald S. Heintzelman

Note

Pigeons and Doves of the World by Derek Goodwin, reviewed in NABB 2:25, has been published in a second edition by Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

The Handbook of Australian Sea Birds. D.L. Serventy, Vincent Serventy, John Worham. A.H. & A.W. Reed (Sydney, Auckland). 1971. \$18.50.

The Handbook of Australian Sea Birds is written from the knowledge gained by the authors who have spent much of their lives living with and studying sea-birds. Approximately 17% of the Australian birds are sea-birds which also frequent the seas around New Zealand and South Africa; this handbook, therefore, would be useful in more than just the Australian surrounds.

Details of life histories and distribution, nesting places and their descriptions are throughout the book. Numerous photographs and sketches are used to illustrate the writers' findings.

A geographical section includes the past as well as the present of the sea-birds with accounts of the changing environs that are affecting the evolution of some of the species.

An interesting aspect of this book are the writers' suggestions on how to go about a sea-bird study. There are also references to the gaps in our knowledge of bird-life.

There is also an extensive bibliography on the major research papers for each species and topic, which is not limited to Australian publications.

Mickie Mutchler

A Field Guide to Australian Birds (Non-passerines). Peter Slater et. al. Livingston Publishing Co., Wynnewood, Pa. 1971 Pp 428, \$10.00.

This is the first of a two volume field guide to Australian birds. It is slightly larger and bulkier than most American guides yet it covers only the 394 Australian non-passerines. The additional 310 perching birds will be treated in a second volume yet to appear.

Nine authors wrote the text, each dealing with birds of particular interest to him. Peter Slater served as general editor of the book and also prepared the book's 43 color plates and 21 black and white plates. They are good illustrations and are well printed. Equally useful are 396 range maps. Unfortunately the book's binding is stiff and unsatisfactory for a volume which will receive rough field use. Also, the pages don't lie flat when opened, which makes use of the guide difficult.

The text is arranged under the following headings: vernacular name, scientific name, measurements, appearance, voice, habitat, and distribution. An unusual feature is a series of life-size outlines of seabird bills designed to permit a specimen to be placed over the outline as a quick aid to correct identification of these birds. Thus, by rapidly rejecting birds which are too big or too small, according to bill size, one can narrow the range of possible species down to a few and separate them by referring to the descriptions and illustrations in the guide.

Donald S. Heintzelman

A Reed Deskbook For Writers. G.C.A. Wall. Chas. E. Tuttle Co., Inc., Rutland, Vermont. 1973. Pp. 48. \$1.95.

A paper back, developed for the beginning book writer, which gives hints for final preparation and publisher contact. Basic development and presentation is touched upon, as well as proper handling of a writing.

Useful to any writer but does not fully cover the questions in a new writer's mind.

Tom Mutchler