

1980

Books

North American Bird Bander

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A Field Guide to the Birds, by Roger Tory Peterson. Houghton Mifflin Co, Boston, 1980.

The first thing that I looked for in this book was the inclusion and treatment of the House Finch and immature sparrows, juncos, and towhees. What I found made me want to take up binoculars and re-see every species on my Life List and re-enjoy with Roger's aid.

This new guide uses the facing page format. No more searching for plate or page numbers! Mr. Peterson has painted 136 completely new plates — all species are in color. One of the big additions to this edition is 390 summer/winter range maps, drawn by Virginia Marie Peterson, all confined to the back of the book.

The guide includes all birds of eastern and central United States — east of the 100th meridian and the adjacent provinces of Canada. Most accidental and introduced species can be found in this book.

Of special interest to this reviewer is a section on parrots and parakeets; most Christmas Count compilers have had calls concerning such escapees.

There is some very useful information in the introduction regarding bird songs and calls, bird nests, and birding hot spots. The check list has been re-arranged into an easier-to-read-and-follow form.

There is an excellent illustrated section on How to Identify Birds visually by action and shape.

Interspersed in this edition are sketches of similar birds with differences between the species high-

lighted. There are specific features emphasized, i.e., the grebe foot. Of interest in the duck section is the listing of the names that duck hunters use for the various ducks. There is a new aid in the ID of those ever-difficult gulls — color illustrations of the legs.

Items of special interest: a plate of the heads of belted plovers, for quicker ID; bills of small peeps, summer/winter appearance, male/female/breeding plumages.

For hawks: the perching and flight illustrations are on the same page. For Empidonax Flycatchers: all five are in one place, with ID aids at every turn. Warblers: a complete regrouping of the similar spring plumages and the confusing fall plumages are included.

Oh, yes. The immatures — sparrows, juncos, and towhees — they're there.

Mickie Mutchler

Infectious and Parasitic Diseases of Wild Birds, Edited by J.W. Davis, R.C. Anderson, Lars Karstad, D. Trainer. Iowa State U. Press, Ames, Iowa. 1971.

This book contains twenty eight chapters, with nearly that many authors. This pioneer effort covers the five major fields of diseases, namely:

- Part 1. Viral Diseases
- Part 2. Bacterial, Rickettsial & Mycotic Diseases
- Part 3. Parasitic Infections
- Part 4. Neoplastic Diseases
- Part 5. Toxins

The editors remark that "the 1st Edition is an experimental effort in summarizing and correlating available knowledge in this field." Each description of an infectious or a parasitic disease is technically written but is easy reading. A history and distribution of each disease is given, an etology, method of transmission, hosts, signs to watch for, the pathology, diagnosis, prognosis, immunity system or vaccination, and controls.

A comprehensive list of references is provided the reader at the end of each disease section, which permits further investigation.

Chris. N. Rose, Sr.

Birds of Pacific Rim National Park. David F. Hatler, R. Wayne Campbell, and Adrian Dorst. 1978. Occasional Papers, British Columbia Provincial Museum No. 20. Victoria, B.C. 194 pp. \$3.00 Canadian.

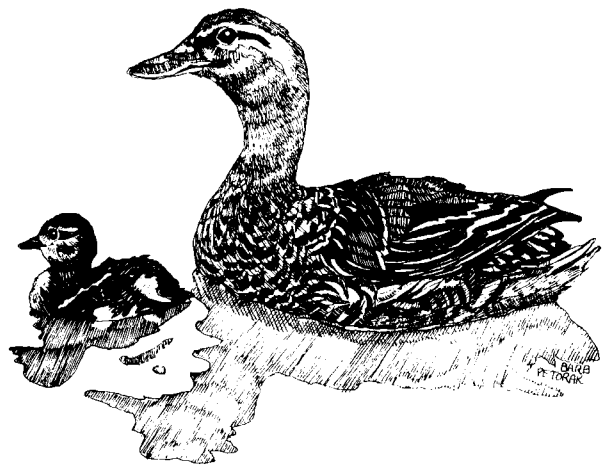
Pacific Rim National Park consists of two portions of the west coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia plus several smaller offshore islands, notably Cleland Island. This report is the result of a co-operative effort by Parks Canada, the Canadian Wildlife Service, the British Columbia Provincial Museum, and 104 amateur and professional observers. The bulk of the report consists of detailed species accounts of the 247 species "known or strongly suspected" to occur in the park (Clark's Nutcracker was added in the preface as the book went to press). These accounts include all records of less common species, and detailed seasonal summaries for more common species. Approximately 16,000 records form the basis of these species accounts.

Many of the species accounts contain behavioral observations, ecological notes, and other biological data. These are particularly extensive for several seabird species. Banders will be especially interested in the map depicting the sites of 297 recoveries (by September 1973) of the 6,552 Glaucous-winged Gulls banded in the park. Status is frequently compared with other parts of Vancouver Island and the "lower mainland" (Vancouver area), where captures of dowitchers for banding helped sort out the status of the two species. Banded Black Oystercatchers returned to the same nest sites in successive years on Cleland Island, indicating high site tenacity in this species. A color-banded Brandt's Cormorant seen in the park had been banded 3 years earlier in the Farallon Islands, California, but the only 5 recoveries of 169 young banded in the park were all from British Columbia or nearby Washington. A dead Black-footed Albatross washed ashore in September 1969 had been banded as a nestling on Midway in March 1967.

This book is a significant addition to west coast ornithology, with considerably more detail on some species than one would expect in a local avifauna. I have listed only those examples involving banding, but could have added several more. Er-

rors are few and the public appeal is enhanced by excellent photographs and pleasing drawings throughout. Detailed transects summarized near the end of the book can be used as local bird finding guides. The authors and museum are to be congratulated on a worthwhile, informative, and attractive report.

Martin K. McNicholl



The Island Waterfowl. Milton W. Weller. The Iowa State Press, Ames. 1980. x + 121 pp. \$10.95.

In this short book, Milton Weller combines years of field work on various islands with the literature to discuss patterns and processes of evolution among island waterfowl. Island waterfowl are taxa that have become distinct at species or racial levels on remote islands. Most are best described as "semispecies."

Brief preface and acknowledgement sections are followed by six chapters, a list of literature cited and an index. Both end covers contain a map of the world with major island groups marked on it, and black-and-white photographs, drawings, and maps are interspersed throughout the text. The first and longest chapter considers each island waterfowl taxon in relation to its presumed and/or possible close relatives. These accounts are brief summaries of the known distribution and life history of each form, and serve as excellent capsule accounts of the taxa considered. Although chapter one contains useful background material, one

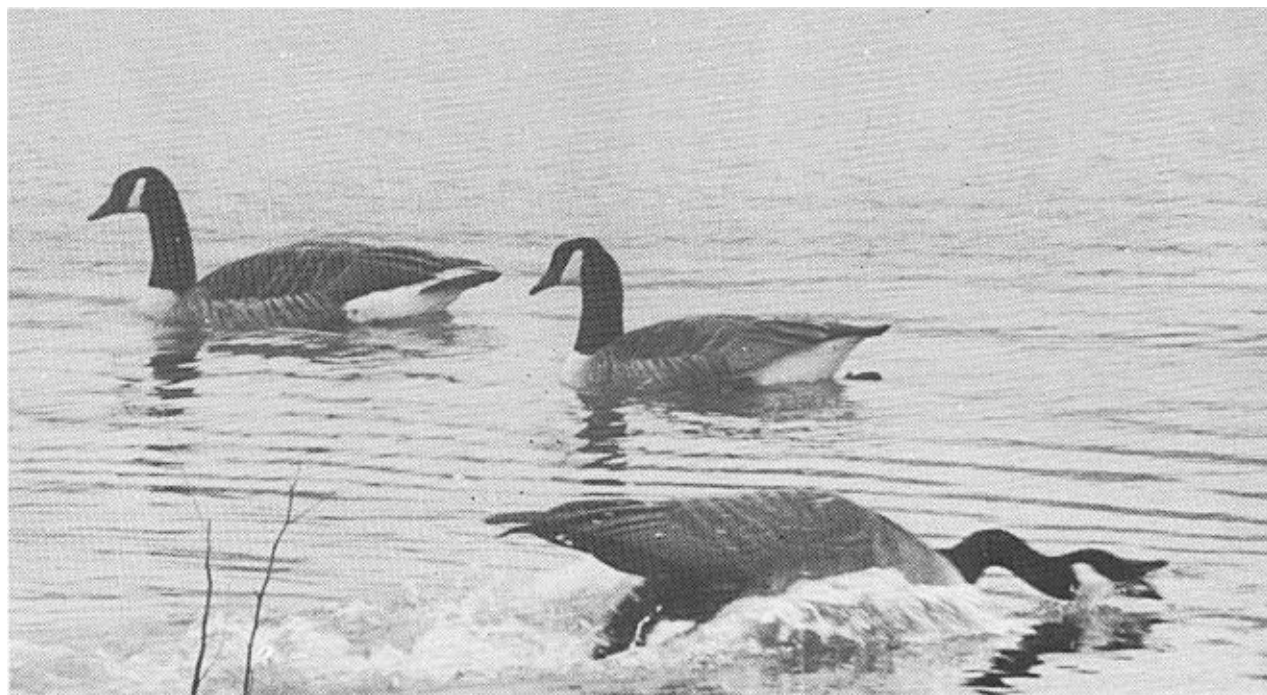
need not read it in order to follow Weller's discussion of factors influencing colonization, adaptations to island environments, and development of island faunas — the subjects of his next three chapters. A fifth chapter on conservation discusses declines in various taxa due to direct and indirect effects of Man, and proposes ways in which such declines can be reduced. A three-page sixth chapter summarizes the features of waterfowl that suit them for pioneering into new areas and the selection pressures operating on them on islands, and ends by emphasizing the need for conservation of island faunas.

Banding is not highlighted in this book, but banders will be interested to learn that population estimates of Laysan Teal were revised to 500 in 1979 from earlier estimates of 214 to 287 obtained by counting. In that year, government officials managed to capture and band about 450! Weller calls for a five-year color-banding program on **any** island species or race to study such poorly documented parameters as longevity, movements, per-

cent of the population breeding, number of broods raised per year and age-related productivity. Presumably, he intends the five-year figure as a minimum.

Weller writes well and states his arguments clearly. His points are backed up by tables of statistics or cited literature, and data gaps are identified. Thus, the book serves as a guide to further research needed. Most biologists would enjoy reading this book, and I recommend it highly as background or assignment reading for courses on zoogeography and evolution. It is a particularly well-suited companion volume to David Lack's concise book, "Evolution illustrated by waterfowl" (Blackwell, 1974). The conservation chapter should be on the reading list of conservation courses and world leaders. The fact that "even these tiny islands," many remote from "civilized" lands, contain so many threatened taxa is indeed sobering.

Martin K. McNicholl



Canada Geese. Photo by Fred Hartman (Pennsylvania). One of the prize-winning photos in EBBA's contest.