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The Living Bird Quarterly

Florida Field Naturalist

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people we have contacted in Manitoba and Texas through this guide have responded just as eagerly as our British Columbia contacts and done their utmost to assist us.

Thus, having been on both ends of the information exchange, we endorse the cooperative spirit on which this nature guide is founded, and we regard this 8th edition as a helpful addition to any trip and recommend it.—**Stanley Stedman and Annette Stedman**, 1156 Casey Key Road, Nokomis, Florida 33555.

Florida Field Naturalist 12: 46-47, 1984.

The Living Bird Quarterly.—Published by the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850. "Free" to members of the Laboratory; but annual membership is \$25.—Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology has a rich and honored tradition of promoting the knowledge and appreciation of birds in North America. Cornell was the first institution on the continent to grant advanced degrees in ornithology; a list of its graduates is a Who's Who of Ornithology (e.g., Dean Amadon, Stephan Eaton, Ernest P. Edwards, John Emlen, Robert and Millicent Ficken, and Ludlow Griscom only get us a quarter-way through the alphabet). In the early 1960s when the Laboratory considered an annual publication, board member Roger Tory Peterson urged that the journal be aimed at amateur ornithologists as well as professionals, and he suggested the name *The Living Bird*. The first annual *Living Bird*, published in 1962, quickly established itself as unique among bird journals. It published major reviews of disciplines and taxonomic groups, original reports of research, and exciting new discoveries and all were combined with beautiful art and photography. *The Living Bird* continued annually through 1978; a biennial was published for 1979-1980.

In truth Peterson's desire for a lay-oriented journal was never really satisfied by *The Living Bird* beyond the aesthetics of its art; the annual was too technical to appeal to a wide audience. The future of *The Living Bird* is unclear; it may resume. Meanwhile, the Laboratory has designed *The Living Bird Quarterly* "to present current research and other technical ornithological information in a manner easily understood by nonprofessionals." The first issue was for Summer 1982; now four issues are available, allowing an assessment of the journal's first year of published material.

Anyone interested in birds should enjoy seeing this journal. An 8½ x 11 inch, 25-30 page package allows easy handling. The color is lavish and well-registered. The art and photography are excellent. Articles are nicely written and illustrated but more importantly, they are authoritative. Included are migration papers by Brian Harrington and Charles Walcott, Walter Spofford on raptors, and Tom Cade on Peregrine Falcons. James L. Gulledge in "Sounds we call songs," the first of a series of articles on bird communication, presents the acoustics of bird song in a manner that avoids the normally dry technical quality of the subject. A soundsheet included with the article reproduces the lovely songs of thrushes first normally and then at one-quarter speed, the latter revealing an extraordinary complexity. A valuable part of each issue is the Research & Review section, which presents readable synopses of research reports from technical journals such as *Animal Behaviour*, *Oecologia*, and *The American Naturalist*.

If the journal will please nearly everyone interested in birds, should we all rush to subscribe? It is expensive: \$25 a year when a comparably-formatted journal, National Wildlife, gives two more issues and many more pages for only \$10.50 a year. And there are so many journals aimed at bird watchers these days. Part of the \$25 goes to support the work of the laboratory, however, and that is a worthy effort. Also, membership provides discounts on purchases from the Lab's bookstore. Thus, The Living Bird Quarterly, even though a quality publication, would have to be placed down a few notches on my priority list for serious Florida birders, certainly no higher than third (below Florida Field Naturalist and American Birds). It can be highly recommended, however, as a pleasing yet authoritative introduction to the fascinating biology of birds for those wishing to progress beyond the listing stage.—**Robert L. Crawford**, Tall Timbers Research Station, Rt. 1, Box 160, Tallahassee, Florida 32312.

Florida Field Naturalist 12: 47-48, 1984.

Florida's fabulous waterbirds: their stories.—Winston Williams. 1983. National Art Services, Inc., P.O. Box 24339, Tampa, Florida 33623. 243 color photographs, pages not numbered. \$7.95 paperback.—The clean, sharp reproduction, and excellent color of the photographs are a marvel of printing. Moreover many of the shots show difficult but very successful stopping of action. The most conspicuous and interesting of Florida's waterbirds are included, making it a fine book for Floridians with a casual interest in birds as well as visitors to our state who wish to know what species they see. The photographs are exciting enough to arouse the interest of children and may stimulate them to continue bird watching.

There are some errors in the text. A Sandwich Tern is labeled Common Tern. The text states the tern is in summer plumage though it is in winter plumage. Discussion of gulls is so simplified as to be misleading. Bonaparte's Gull, regular in Florida in winter, as well as several uncommon visitors, are smaller than the Laughing Gull. The bodies of our adult gulls are white (though they may have streaks or spots on the head in winter) and all have conspicuous mantles that vary according to the species from pale gray to blackish.

There is no comparable book about Florida waterbirds, and it deserves success. Bird photographers will want a copy because the photographs are so beautiful and because it challenges them to reach for higher excellence in their own work.—**Helen G. Cruickshank**, 1925 South Indian River Rd., Rockledge, Florida 32955.

Florida Field Naturalist 12: 48, 1984.