

1984

Books

North American Bird Bander

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Recommended Citation

North American Bird Bander (1984) "Books," *North American Bird Bander*. Vol. 9 : Iss. 1 , Article 5.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/nabb/vol9/iss1/5>

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A Guide to Bird Behavior, Volume II. Donald W. & Lilian Q. Stokes. 1983. Little, Brown and Company, Boston. 334 pp. cloth \$14.95.

The authors (naturalists and teachers) invite bird watchers to go beyond mere identification and explore a new way of looking at birds by inviting people to enjoy the surprising lives of birds. Volume II introduces twenty-five favorite birds common to backyards, parks, and fields.

Each species has its own section, comprised of an introduction, giving an overall view of the bird's life; a behavior calendar, which tells when each type of behavior occurs; a display guide, which helps to understand the sound and signal language of the bird; behavior descriptions of birds' lives: territory, courtship, nest-building, breeding, plumage, seasonal movement, and social behavior; and feeder sections, which describe the bird's behavior at backyard feeders, the location readers can most often observe the birds.

Each section is complemented by original drawings by John Sill, Deborah Prince, and Donald Stokes.

I have not seen Volume I, but Volume II does give a fair amount of behavioral information in clear, concise wordage. It is a good book for the novice or person who has not had much exposure to the selected species incorporated. Species in this volume are: Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Wood Pewee, Barn Swallow, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Marsh Wren, Brown Thrasher, Wood Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Warbler, Eastern Meadowlark, Brown-headed Cowbird, Northern Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping and Field Sparrows.

Mickie Mutchler

Field Guide to the Birds of North America. 1983. National Geographic Society. Washington, D.C. index + 443 pp. paperback: \$13.95 + \$3.00 postage.

This book is the first guide of its kind since the 1960's to cover every North American species—nearly 800—from Canada and Alaska to the Mexican border plus adjacent islands and seas within a hundred miles of the coast. Also included are species that breed in Mexico or Central America or on other continents but are seen in North America when they spend the winter here or pass through on regular migration routes. Species that sometimes wander off course or are blown in by storms are also included. Exotic species that in the past have been introduced as park or cage birds, and that are now seen in the wild, are listed.

Four years in the making, the book was produced in consultation with two of North America's foremost field birders, Jon L. Dunn and Eirik A.T. Blom, and with two leading ornithologists, Dr. George E. Watson of the National Museum of Natural History and Dr. John P. O'Neill of the Museum of Natural Science at Louisiana State University. It includes the work of 13 wildlife artists.

Informative text is adjacent to the pictures. This is a rather bulky text and rather heavy for the field (8" x 5" x 1" thick) but a good back up book for evening review.

The educational publications of the non-profit society are not sold commercially but can be ordered from the National Geographic Society, Dept. 100, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Mickie Mutchler

Body Weights of 686 Species of North American Birds, By John B. Dunning, Jr.

NABB has published the above monograph, which should be of great interest to all bird banders and avian biologists. It constitutes "Monograph No. 1" (May 1984) of WBBA. Orders with payment (\$3.75, postpaid) should be sent to: Jolan Truan, Assistant Treasurer, 3314 W. Glenn Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85021.

Back Issues and Banding Worksheets

Back issues of NABB and Ageing/Sexing worksheets for western birds are available from: Jolan Truan, Assistant Treasurer, 3314 W. Glenn Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85021. A listing of the available or issued worksheets was provided in the Oct.-Dec. 1983 number of NABB, on page 171.