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Books

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Books

Birds In The Garden. Mike Mockler. 1982. Blandford Books Ltd., Poole, Dorset. Distributed in the U.S.A. by Sterling, New York. 160pp. \$19.95 cloth.

This is a nice book for the resident of England, who has had little, or no, experience in looking at birds in a British garden, but would be of little value to one who has been observing birds for a few years.

Birds are grouped by size, rather than species. About 60 species are discussed, or pictured. There are 32 pages of full-color photographs of fine quality. The book tells why certain birds are attracted to one garden, rather than another and what birds do in their everyday lives. It also takes a look at the dangers facing birds, their defense methods, and what man can do to help them survive.

The last section discusses identification of 60 species that are found frequently in a British garden.

This is an attractive book, but is probably of little use to anyone living outside that country.

Willetta Lueshen

Beyond Birding; Field Projects for Inquisitive Birders. Thomas C. Grubb, Jr. 1986. Boxwood Press. 204 pp. \$9.95

Statistics for Ornithologists. Jim Fowler & Louis Cohen. 1986. British Trust for Ornithology, Tring, England. 175 pp. 12 British pounds

These two books discuss statistical methods and experimental design. The author of *Beyond Birding* has written a basic book to motivate amateur birders and high school and undergraduate students to use their observa-

tional skills to answer questions about birds. *Statistics* is written for ornithologists. Both books can be useful to banders interested in the conclusions that can be drawn from their data.

Much of *Beyond Birding* is devoted to discussing the formulation of hypotheses and how to test them statistically, illustrated by a number of projects involving behavioral observations. The discussion of experimental design and the introduction to statistical techniques are the most useful aspects of the book. Unfortunately for banders, Dr. Grubb specifically avoids projects involving marked birds.

Beyond Birding has received mixed reviews. One reviewer (*Amer. Birds* 41:166-167, 1987) felt that all ornithologists have by definition a strong background in experimental design and statistical methods, and thus no need for this book, while amateurs have no interests beyond "ticking" and are incapable of learning to gather and treat data scientifically. We disagree with each of these conclusions. Today, many amateurs bring strong academic training from other fields to the study of birds. Secondly, regardless of one's background, experimental design and the use of statistics are skills kept sharp by continual learning and frequent use. If you are curious about manipulating your banding data, this book may bring you some ideas.

Statistics for Ornithologists should be a much less controversial book. In 18 chapters, it covers a range of topics from measurement and sampling concepts to analysis of variance (ANOVA). Each chapter is illustrated with examples drawn from ornithological research projects. Subjects are presented in a clear, logical sequence with ample explanation so that readers with little experience with statistics can learn easily. The book will also be an invaluable reference for those who use statistics regularly.

Robert C. Tweit and Joan C. Tweit

