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Books

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night-released birds, and that recapture frequency is a measure of survival, then the time of release did not affect the survival of sparrows at a winter roost.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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LITERATURE CITED

- Barrentine, C.D. 1990. Roost site tenacity in Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows. *N. Am. Bird Bander* 15:134-135.
- Western Bird Banding Association. 1990. Annual Report. *N. Am. Bird Bander* 15:107-122.

Books

Bird Trapping and Bird Banding. Hans Bub. Translated by Frances Hamerstrom and Karin Wuertz-Schaefer. 1991. Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, NY. 330 pp. \$69.50.

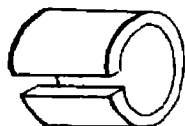
This is a translation of the 1978 German edition, an update of some of the group of books reviewed by F.S. Schaefer in *North American Bird Bander* 6:116-117, 1981.

Most of the book covers the wide variety of capture techniques used by banders, with sections on traps ranging in size from one cell to Helgoland. Netting is covered extensively including a chapter by Clive Minton on cannon netting. Since most of the references in the book are from the Old World literature, the review by Keyes and Grue (*NABB* 7:2-14, 1982) on mist netting techniques nicely complements it, and references to other capture techniques in *NABB* are not apt to be in Bub's book. The book also includes descriptions of lure techniques, but the foreword by George Jonkel should be consulted for the legality in the USA of methods involving live or stuffed birds. Canadian readers should consult the Bird Banding Office in Ottawa.

As mentioned in Schaefer's previous review, this volume is a valuable resource for any bander or collector interested in exploring different capture techniques. A detailed table of contents enables the reader to locate an appropriate section of the book easily.

Robert C. Tweit

NOTE: Because of the importance of this book to banders, many of whom will have joined EBBA, IBBA, or WBBA after 1981, a longer review by Dan Kramer will appear in a forthcoming issue. MKM



Whistling Wings: The Dove Chronicles. H. Elliott McClure. 1991. Boxwood Press, Pacific Grove, CA. vi + 99 pp. \$9.95.

In this soft cover booklet, McClure presents numerous incidents in the lives of Mourning Doves, mostly in Iowa and California. Although many of the details featured represent the unusual (e.g., three-egg clutch, odd nest sites, parasitism by Yellow-billed Cuckoo), they are presented against a background of more usual dove biology, gleaned from McClure's study of over 5000 Mourning Dove nests. The book consists of a foreword by Hope Ryden, a preface by McClure, 15 chapters of "stories," a postscript, an appendix on the Latin name of the Mourning Dove, and a list of suggested readings. The bulk of the text is presented in the form of anthropomorphic tales.

Although most readers of *NABB* will no doubt wonder why a review copy of an anthropomorphic nature book would be sent to a banding journal, one discovers very early in the book that most of McClure's stories are based on band recoveries (in Mexico, Nicaragua, and the U.S.A.), and many of the details of mate and nest-site fidelity over the years could be determined only on banded birds. The bander who appears in many of the stories is clearly McClure himself. Furthermore, part of the postscript is devoted to a plea to report banded birds. While much of the book thus promotes the value of banding, I found it rather odd that incidents of premature fledging caused by the bander were not accompanied by an appropriate critical caution about timing banding visits to avoid such incidents.

An evaluation of this book is made difficult by the difficulty in deciding to what audience it is best suited. Its anthropomorphic story style suggests a readership of young children; whereas the detailed findings, criticisms of hunting practices and the appendix on the origins of the Latin name all seem beyond childhood level. Its fictional style, unfortunately, precludes its many interesting incidents from being cited in the scientific literature. Nevertheless, McClure obviously speaks with authority, and errors are restricted to the use of some older names and such proof-reading lapses as Bluejay, stostone s, en masse, and several scattered letters lost in mid-sentence.

Martin K. McNicholl

Birds of the Lower Colorado River Valley. Kenneth V. Rosenberg, Robert D. Ohmart, William C. Hunter, and Bertin W. Anderson. 1991. University of Arizona Press, Tucson. 416 pp. Hard cover. \$40.00.

Is any state in the Union as blessed with excellent bird books as Arizona? In addition to an authoritative state bird book published in the 1960's, Arizonans can look up the status of birds statewide in a 1981 annotated checklist. Recent books have discussed the status of the state's waterfowl (reviewed in NABB 12:21, 1987), game birds (NABB 15:61, 1990), and a new volume on Arizona's hawks is being prepared for publication. On a smaller scale, the status and distribution of the birds in various parts of the state are covered in a number of books, including both a Lane guide and a checklist of the birds of southeastern Arizona, a book on the birds of the northeastern corner of the state, and a volume on the birds of the Grand Canyon Region (NABB 14:18, 1989). To this last group we can now add the current book. **BIRDS OF THE LOWER COLORADO RIVER** describes the status and distribution of bird species along the Colorado River from Davis Dam near Bullhead City, Arizona, south to the Mexican border. With coverage of the southwestern corner of the state with this volume, it seems that everywhere in Arizona except perhaps downtown Phoenix is covered by a regional guide.

BIRDS OF THE LOWER COLORADO RIVER is a typical annotated checklist with several unusual features. It contains bar graphs of seasonal occurrence and abundance, an introduction to the ornithological history of the valley, and species accounts with details of rarities and unusual occurrences. These species accounts are filled with data from the authors' studies over the past 15 years, when they and a small army of paid observers conducted ecological research in the Colorado River Valley. The accounts accurately describe each species' status in the region, often with photographic documentation of the rarer records. Local breeding information and foraging observations from the ecological research are summarized, providing a much more complete picture of the ecology of each species than is normal for a book of this type. The authors also summarize observations made by Gale Monson along the river in the 1940's and 1950's, lending an important historical perspective to the stories being told.

In addition to the accounts, however, the book contains a number of features that are less common in an annotated checklist. Primary among the more unusual features is a lengthy introduction that describes in great detail the results of the ecological research that the authors have conducted since the 1970's. This research has focused on the relationships between individual species and the resources on which they depend, the community patterns that result from such individualistic responses, and the ability of birds to respond to the authors' attempts to restore native vegetation along part of the river valley. The impact of poor management and habitat destruction on the rarer species within the valley are described in graphic detail, and predictions on population viability are made for a

host of birds dependent on riparian habitats. Additional unusual features include an appendix summarizing records from local Christmas Bird Counts, and a calendar of avian activity along the river stating typical dates for migration and breeding of common species, and suggestions of when to look for specific rarities. Also included are directions and maps to the ten best birding regions of the valley.

The book does not discuss banding results extensively, although some banding projects are mentioned, such as a study on site fidelity of White-crowned Sparrows in a habitat restoration plot. A large amount of information useful to banders in Arizona and California is presented, however. The species accounts discuss the local status of such newly split taxa as Clark's and Western Grebes, and Pacific-slope and Cordilleran Flycatchers. The status and distribution of these forms have not been synthesized yet for most regions. Species that have declined from the impact of human land use are discussed extensively, including causes for the declines and mitigation possibilities. A tremendous amount of information is included in this book for banders, birders, and people working to restore the "Nile of the American Southwest."

John B. Dunning, Jr.

