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## Books

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colony survival rates, differential post-breeding movements and differences in wintering areas. Observations and recoveries of Little Egrets banded at Spanish colonies have revealed differences between eastern and western Spanish colonies, with separate breeding and post-breeding dispersal ranges.) MKM

**Long-term studies and conservation of Greater Flamingos in the Camargue and Mediterranean.**

A. R. Johnson. 1997. *Colonial Waterbirds* 20:306-315. Station Biol. de la Tour du Valet, le Sambuc, F-13200 Arles, France (During a 50-year study of flamingos breeding in the Camargue delta, over 220,000 sightings and recoveries of birds banded since 1947 have shown that Camargue-hatched birds exploit wetlands throughout much of the Mediterranean and west Africa, that some individuals are sedentary while others are migratory or opportunistic, that feeding areas may be up to 180 km from the colony, that some birds show site fidelity to wintering areas, that mortality is episodic and unpredictable, and that many birds

live over 30 years. The first banding study of chicks from 1947 to 1961 yielded about 500 recoveries. Subsequent color-banding has been conducted in the Camargue, Italy and Spain. Over 70% of chicks marked in the Camargue have been observed at least once after fledging, some being observed over 300 times. The longevity record to date is 38 years.) MKM

**Observations on colour-banded Regent Honeyeaters *Xanthomyza phrygia*.**

A. J. Ley, D. L. Oliver, and B. Williams. 1996. *Corella* 20:88-92. 19 Lynches Rd., Armidale, New South Wales 2350, Australia (Degree of inter-year fidelity to nest-sites was determined from observations of 46 color-banded birds and re-nesting after the first brood fledged was demonstrated. Measurements [weight, head-bill length, wing length and tail length] showed that males are mostly larger than females, with a small overlap.) MKM

**MKM** = Martin K. McNicholl

**RCT** = Robert C. Tweit

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**THE SAN PEDRO RIVER, A DISCOVERY GUIDE.** By Roseann Beggy Hanson. 2001. University of Arizona Press, Tucson, AZ. 205 pp. \$17.95 U.S.

Purchasing this guidebook to the San Pedro River is like buying two books in one. First, you get a book that can help plan a trip to one of America's "Last Great Places," as named by the Nature Conservancy. The San Pedro River is the last undammed and unchanneled river in the arid Southwest. Its biodiversity is one of the highest in the U.S. Over 390 bird species have been seen along the river, as well as 82 species of mammals.

The chapters are organized by section of the river in the same direction that the water flows, from south to north. At the end of each chapter, an exploration guide provides directions to the different sites and describes the available recreational activities, such as birding. Appendix I provides species lists of plants, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. The bird list contains abundance and residency information and federal

conservation status of each species. Hence, you can determine the best time of year to visit and the likelihood of seeing your "target" birds. Appendix 2 provides contact information for conservation groups, such as Audubon. I found these sections well organized and easy to use.

However, the second book within this book is the more endearing. In each chapter, Ms. Hanson vividly describes her experiences along the river and uses her stories as an avenue to educate the reader about the river. She covers difficult topics, such as hydrology, geology, archaeology and ecology. The information flows effortlessly from story telling to teaching. The reader finishes the book more knowledgeable than he or she began and the trip down the San Pedro River was most enjoyable.

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