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## Raptors of Eastern North America

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the 1980s, then declined. All months were represented in the recoveries, with winter months predominating. Recoveries were of birds banded

in 23 U.S. states and three Canadian provinces, led by New Jersey [53], Virginia, South Carolina and Michigan [30 each].) MKM

MKM = Martin K. McNicholl

## Books

**RAPTORS OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA.** By Brian K. Wheeler. 2003. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. 456 pp. \$45.00.

*Raptors of Eastern North America* is a thorough guide for identifying hawks, eagles, and falcons. The guide includes many high quality photos that can aid in the identification of difficult-to-identify species. There is a wide selection of effective and useful photos of bird profiles and birds in flight for each species. There is also a comprehensive selection of photos showing the color variations found in the species covered, along with photos showing comparisons of juvenile and adult plumages. The book includes maps which provide sightings and illustrate ranges. These are useful in eliminating or establishing the possibility of a particular species.

This book is an excellent resource for hawk watchers and others interested in identifying hawks, including banders. The text is well written and the information is presented in a manner which is easy to understand and follow. Species accounts are comprehensive and thorough, including detailed biology of all species covered. The text includes flight and voice descriptions. The subspecies accounts are very detailed. These can also be somewhat confusing at times, especially for beginners. On the other hand, the book is dedicated to diurnal raptors and does not confuse the issue by including owls or accidental migrants, either of which could add to beginner confusion. There are some minor errors in the occurrence of species, with Cooper's Hawk listed as uncommon and Bald Eagle listed as common.

The author's primary sources include an extensive bibliography. He has drawn on a wide range of expertise in the field and has undertaken comprehensive research of available information. The book was written for advanced and beginner raptor watchers and banders. The book is more

useful for watchers than banders, but does provide additional material for raptor banding identification, especially when dealing with color morphs.

The book is structured with the first seven chapters dedicated to understanding the species accounts, including keys to maps and extensive glossaries, followed by the species accounts. The species accounts are orderly and logical, beginning with vultures and progressing through the hawks, falcons, and then eagles. The book delivers what it promises and is interesting and enjoyable to read.

In summary, I recommend this book at all levels. It should be part of every hawk-watching station in eastern North America.

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**BIRDS OF MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA.** Written and illustrated by Ber van Perlo. 2006. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ and Oxford, UK. 336 pp. \$29.95.

In a compact form, this book provides color illustrations and brief descriptions of all bird species occurring in Mexico and Central America: more than 1,500 species on 98 color plates. In a separate section at the back of the book are range maps for each species, each easily linked with the appropriate illustration through a unique numbering system. Excellent indices of scientific, English and Spanish names are provided.

This book would be of interest primarily to ornithologists or "birders" in that it is the only field guide that covers all species likely to be encountered in Mexico and Central America. I would have been delighted to have had this guide