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Wheeler Raptors Guides Reprinted in Paperback

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Books

WHEELER RAPTORS GUIDES REPRINTED IN PAPERBACK

Raptor banders and watchers who hesitate to risk taking hard cover books into the field and/or whose budgets never stretch to all the books that they desire will be pleased to learn that the two recent field guides to North American diurnal raptors by Brian W. Wheeler are now available in paperback editions for \$29.95 each from Princeton University Press, 41 William St., Princeton, NJ 08540-5237.

Both were reviewed favorably in NABB:

RAPTORS OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA. By Brian K. Wheeler. 2003. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. xvi + 456 pp. \$45.00; paperback edition, 2007 \$29.95. —reviewed by Martin Wernaart in *NABB* 32:83, 2007.

RAPTORS OF WESTERN NORTH AMERICA. By Brian K. Wheeler. 2003. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. xv + 544 pp. \$49.50; paperback edition, 2007 \$29.95. —reviewed by Martin K. McNicholl in *NABB* 31:128-132, 2006.

Martin K. McNicholl
Literature Editor

BIOMETRICS OF BIRDS THROUGHOUT THE GREATER CARIBBEAN BASIN. By Wayne J. Arendt, John Faaborg, George E. Wallace and Orlando H. Garrido. 2004. *Proceedings of the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology* 8(1), Camarillo, CA. viii + 33 pp. + computer CD. \$25.00

This slim volume and its accompanying CD provide a wealth of data on morphometrics collected on about 30,000 birds of 276 species that occur in the Greater Antilles. Although some of these data were recorded on recently collected birds, many were collected on live birds during banding operations. Banders often collect such data routinely, but they usually remain in unpublished files. Apart from overall length in field guides, most previously published data on morphometrics of Caribbean endemics and near-endemics are on weights or mass (especially by Storrs L. Olson and associates). This compilation makes such data on these endemics much more available than previously, facilitating comparisons within and

among islands. In addition, data are included on many North American-breeding birds while on migration or on their wintering grounds, enabling researchers to compare such features with similar data collected during the breeding season.

The text, dedicated to the late Robert Sutton of Jamaica, begins with an overview of the scope and history of the project, which grew out of the long-term Puerto Rican avian ecology studies of Arendt and Faaborg and gradually expanded to include other islands and studies of several other colleagues. A list of seven types of studies in which such data are important follows, with numerous references to examples of studies using such data listed in each. A brief introduction discusses the importance of such measurements and the problems of using museum specimens in comparison with data collected on living birds (primarily by banders). A table lists the study areas from 30 islands from which the data were collected, with vegetational association of each indicated. Methods of data collection and a guide to interpreting data are then indicated, including brief definitions of the nine types of measurements covered: body mass, wing chord, exposed culmen length, nares culmen length, culmen width, penultimate primary, tarsus, and central rectrix. A brief discussion, list of contributors, acknowledgements and list of literature cited complete the text.

My computer would not "open" the contents of the CD, but I was able to read it on another computer. It is divided into five sections: a two-paragraph guide to interpreting the data; a 188-page table of data in spread-sheet format; a "browse by species" section, allowing the reader to zero in on a given species - listed alphabetically by genus; a brief account of the history and activities of the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology; and a brief "Help" section on using Adobe readers. Species in the data table are listed by Order for sub-Passerines and by Family for Passerines. Data listed for each species include island, species code and AOU number, sample size, gender, age, wing chord, body mass, culmen exposed from nares, culmen depth, culmen width, penultimate primary, tarsus and central rectrix, with mean, standard deviation,