

## Ornithological Literature

Edited by Mary Gustafson

**BIRDS OF OREGON: A General Reference.** Edited by David B. Marshall, Matthew G. Hunter, and Alan L. Contreras. Illustrated by Elva Hamerstrom Paulson. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis, Oregon. 2003: 752 pp., line illustrations. \$65.00 (cloth). This voluminous tome, covering Oregon and its coastal waters, is an excellent reference on the spatial and temporal distribution of birds in Oregon. It is also a rich natural history of birds with useful habitat and foraging descriptions included in most species accounts.

This is an important reference for professionals, students, and birders interested in Oregon's avifauna. Breeding Bird Survey, Christmas Bird Count, and Oregon Breeding Bird Atlas data are compiled, along with anecdotal reports and capture results, to illustrate species distributions. The book covers 486 species recognized by the Oregon Bird Records Committee as having occurred in the state. Atlas-style distribution and abundance maps, derived from the Oregon Breeding Bird Atlas, are presented for 205 Oregon-breeding species. Species nomenclature and sequence follow the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of AOU's *Check-list of North American Birds* and subsequent check-list supplements. Coverage at the subspecies level is based upon specimens verified by the Taxonomic Editor, M. Ralph Browning.

The editors recognize that their book is the successor to Gabrielson and Jewett's *Birds of Oregon*, published in 1940, and which used data through 1935. The 2003 publication begins with a synopsis of avifaunal change in Oregon since 1935. The first and second chapters, which describe avian habitats in Oregon Ecoregions, document vast changes in land use, avifaunal distribution, and coverage by investigators and birders since 1935 that made this new Oregon avifaunal reference necessary.

Contributions from 100 authors, including many of Oregon's most accomplished and expert ornithologists, make up the body of this reference. Each species account begins with an introductory section that provides a phys-

ical description and any notes of interest. Each account includes a section on *General Distribution, Oregon Distribution, Habitat and Diet, Seasonal Activity and Behavior, Detection, and Population Status and Conservation*. The species accounts are a blend of occurrence and population data (site specific and county locations, dates, population estimates) and anecdotal snippets that are quite readable.

The treatments of extirpated, introduced, escaped, and unaccepted-record species in the Supplemental Species List (Chapter 4) are thorough and provide a satisfying historical perspective. The concise Glossary is very useful in defining or clarifying ornithological and biological jargon without the excessiveness often found in such reference books. A vast list of citations, personal communications, and unpublished reports and data documents the information provided.

A minor criticism of *Birds of Oregon: A General Reference* is the inconsistent presentation, among species accounts, of unpublished data from research and monitoring projects and the reference to museum specimens. Some account authors included many such resources while others included few. Whereas all authors produced excellent accounts, it is disappointing that greater effort was not made to seek out unpublished data. Again, this is a minor criticism and is, perhaps, more appropriately directed toward those who have not published their results!

Overall, the book's illustrations are accurate and a pleasure to view. The line drawings of birds that embellish the species accounts in Chapter 3 are beautiful renditions, although occasionally stylized to the point of minor inaccuracies, such as the Black Phoebe's (*Sayornis nigricans*) shortened tail. It is obvious that some of the drawings are intended as joyful celebrations (usually a species is represented from each major group) that add spice to the rich narrative.

Although a sturdy shelf, desk, and lap are necessary for this large book, it will serve well the professional, student, birder, and oth-

ers interested in Oregon's avifauna. I highly recommend it as a thorough regional reference.—ROBERT I. FREY, Klamath Bird Observatory, Ashland, Oregon; e-mail: bif@klamathbird.org.

**CONSERVING BIRD BIODIVERSITY: GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND THEIR APPLICATION.** Edited by K. Norris and D. J. Pain. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom. 2002: 337 pp. \$100.00 (cloth), \$38.00 (paper).—In the preface, the editors state that the goal of this book is to bridge the gap between textbooks focused on general principles of conservation biology and the practical techniques used by avian conservationists. The target readership is broad; the book is designed as an entrée to the literature, as well as an up-to-date review for graduate and advanced undergraduate students, researchers at all levels, and policy-makers. The 900+ references associated with the 12 chapters will certainly benefit any reader. Topics progress from defining avian biodiversity (Chapter 1) and reasons to conserve it (Chapter 2), to monitoring bird populations (Chapter 3) and setting conservation priorities for species and sites (Chapters 4 and 5). Chapter 6 emphasizes critically imperiled birds. Chapters 7–10 focus on diagnosis and causes of population declines. The book closes with discussions on the interface between research, education, and teaching (Chapter 11) and the policies and programs affecting birds (Chapter 12). The chapters have little overlap and the book advances nicely with few typographical errors (although citing [www.birdlife.org](http://www.birdlife.org) as [www.birdlite.org](http://www.birdlite.org) in Box 5.3 did strike my sense of humor). The chapters provide topical overviews with additional details in tables, figures, footnotes, and text boxes. The text boxes, which contain useful information or interesting case studies, are a feature of the book that I enjoyed greatly.

The majority of the 19 contributing authors hail from the United Kingdom, or its former Eastern Hemisphere colonies, and many of the highlighted examples are from these areas. From my North American viewpoint, these examples added richness to the book. This richness, however, comes at the expense of

adequate coverage of avian conservation programs and issues in North, Central, and South America (the area of greatest avian richness); thus, American readers may not find mention of case studies or research programs familiar to them.

Although all of the chapters are relevant, I would have liked the editors to include a chapter on adaptive management (briefly mentioned at the end of Chapter 7). Presenting a case study of this current conservation/management paradigm could have benefited readers.

Overall, this book achieves its goals and could serve well as the basis for a course in avian conservation for graduate and undergraduate students, if supplemented with additional readings from the primary literature.—PAUL F. DOHERTY, JR., Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado; e-mail: doherty@cnr.colostate.edu

**AVES DE LA SABANA DE BOGOTÁ, GUÍA DE CAMPO (BIRDS OF THE SABANA DE BOGOTÁ, FIELD GUIDE).** By F. G. Stiles, C. I. Bohórquez, C. D. Cadena, S. de la Zerda, M. Hernández, L. Rosselli, M. Kelsey, I. D. Valencia, and D. Knapp. Asociación Bogotana de Ornitología, Bogotá, Colombia. 2000: 276 pp., 16 color plates, 15 habitat photographs, 3 color maps. \$25.00.—This field guide deals with the approximately 200 bird species that have been recorded on the mountain plateau where Colombia's capital, Bogotá, is located. For those not familiar with the region, the Sabana de Bogotá forms part of Colombia's eastern Andean range, or Cordillera, at 2,550–2,600 m elevation. It is of international importance to bird conservation because it is, essentially, the only home to two globally threatened endemic species, *Rallus semiplumbeus* and *Cistothorus apolinari*, as well as to several threatened endemic subspecies. These taxa are largely restricted to the Sabana's marshland habitats or *humedales*, which formerly characterized much of the Sabana.

The lack of conservation attention to the Sabana de Bogotá over recent decades is a national and international disgrace. Most of its globally unique marshlands have been drained