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BOOK REVIEWS

The Collins Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe, with North Africa and the Middle East, Hermann Heinzel, Richard Fitter, and John Parslow, 326 pp., 4½ x 7½, index. The Stephen Greene Press, Lexington, Mass., softbound \$15.95.

This book shows the bird in color on the right-hand page, and on the facing page a range map of Europe, North Africa, and Near East, a short description of the bird and its calls, indicators of its status and relative abundance in the British Isles, and for many birds, reference to distribution maps for the British Isles only, which are in a section at the back of the book. This is the first American edition of a book first issued in Great Britain in 1972 and revised at intervals since then. A comparison with an available recent European edition shows changes primarily in the dropping of older names for re-named species, and the addition of some names to the list of accidentals. If you have a fairly recent European edition there is no need to change, but if you don't, this edition is a good pocket guide to European birds.

The Collins Field Guide to the Birds of West Africa, William Serle and Gerard J. Morel, 352 pp., 5 x 8, index. The Stephen Greene Press, Lexington, Mass., hardbound \$21.95.

This book has 515 species illustrated, 335 in color, on 48 plates by Wolfgang Hartwig. As in the original Petersons, the facing page for each

plate has the name of the bird, a short comment on identifying features, and a reference to the page containing more information about the bird. This includes Identification, Voice, Distribution and Habitat, and Nesting. The end papers give a map of more than the area covered: southern Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Portuguese Guinea, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Mali, Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Niger, Ghana, Togo, Dahomey, Nigeria, Camerouns, Rio Muni, Gaboon, Congo, Central African Republic, Chad, the Cape Verde Islands, and islands in the Gulf of Guinea.

There are 515 species illustrated and fully treated in the text, 211, termed allied species, are covered briefly but not illustrated, and 371 uncommon and/or local species are not included in the text, but are included in the Checklist, marked with an *, and with brief status notes. The Checklist gives only the scientific names, but another list gives the Latin, English, Spanish, French, and German names of the 726 major species. Both lists are in species order.

The Collins Field Guide to the Birds of East Africa, John G. Williams, illustrated by Norman Arlott, 416 pp., 5 x 8, index. The Stephen Greene Press, Lexington, Mass., hardbound, \$21.95.

The 48 color plates are grouped in the center of the book, with the facing page listing the species name, salient characteristics, and reference to the page containing the longer comments: Identification, Voice, Distribution and Habitat, and, where needed, Allied Species. Page 13 provides a map of the area covered: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zanzibar and Pemba Islands, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The Collins Field Guide to the Birds of South-East Asia, Ben F. King and Edward C. Dickinson, illustrated by Martin W. Woodcock, 480 pp., 5 x 7½, index, bibliography, The Stephen Greene Press, Lexington, Mass., paperback \$19.95.

"This book covers all the 1198 species that are known to have occurred prior to 31 May 1971 in Burma, Malaya, Thailand, Indochina (Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam) and Hong Kong. The three Hainan species that do not occur in SE Asia are listed in Appendix 1. ... All but 58 of the 380+ species recorded from Taiwan (Formosa) are found in SE Asia and are described. The remaining 58 species are listed in Appendix 1." The appendix gives only the name and an indication of status, but for a few species there is a reference the species (number) which contains a short note on the Hainan or Taiwan species. The 64 plates (not all in color) and a few individual drawings illustrate 869 species. The short descriptions on the pages facing the plates gives the name, distinguishing marks, and the species number. The fuller comments are given in species number order and include Identification, Range (with more specific information for SE Asia), Habitat, and for some, Notes. There is a reference to the plate number (if any) on which it is shown. The plates are scattered throughout the book, so this is not as satisfactory as a page number, but it is no great problem.

The Collins Field Guide to the Mammals of Africa including Madagascar, Theodor Haltenorth and Helmut Diller, 400 pp., 5 x 8, bibliography, index, The Stephen Green Press, Lexington, Mass., hardcover \$19.95

To keep the volume to a manageable size not all mammals are covered. "Small and inconspicuous forms, often nocturnal or burrowing, in particular insectivores, bats and rodents" have been omitted, but that larger rodents have been included. The species accounts include Identification, Distribution, Habits, and Reproduction, a reference to the plate on which shown, and the name in some or all of Afrikaans, French, German, Malagasy (Madagascar), and Swahili. Range maps (usually in groups of three) are given nearby. The color plates are grouped near the end of the book, with notes at the bottom of the plate giving for each animal shown its name and a reference to the page number of the discussion.

The Collins Field Guide to the National Parks of East Africa, John G. Williams, illustrated by Norman Arlott and Rena Fennessy, 336 pp., 5 x 8, index, The Stephen Greene Press, Lexington, Mass., hardbound, \$19.95.

Part I of this book covers the National Parks, Game Reserves, and other faunal areas of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. For most of the areas discussed

there is a map (usually of page size, and so of varying scales), a description of the area and of the facilities available, how to get there, and usually a list of the animals and birds to be found there. Some of these lists are of an amazing length. Part 2 discusses, by species, the Identification and Distribution and Habitat, and some times Allied Species, of the animals of East Africa, and Part 3 the commoner birds, plus in most cases Voice. The 13 animal plates (5 in black-and-white and 8 in color) are in Part 2 and the 16 bird plates (all in color) in Part 3. For both groups of plates the facing page gives the species name, identifying characteristics, and the page number of the fuller discussion. This would be a handy book to check on a proposed trip to the area covered, or to plan an independent trip to the area, and unless one expected to see some of the less common birds, or wanted the more detailed description of animal or birds given in one of the books above, a compact field guide.

The Collins Guide to the Rare Mammals of the World, John A. Burton, illustrated by Bruce Pearson, 7 x 9, bibliography, index, The Stephen Greene Press, Lexington, Mass., hardbound, \$30.00.

This book starts with a short introduction on extinction - history, causes, forecast - and how to use the guide. There is a list of six organizations (descriptions and addresses) involved in the preservation of mammal species. The main portion consists of illustrations and range maps on the right-hand page, with information on the species on the left-hand. Not all species listed are illustrated. There are 1179 species of land and sea mammals discussed. The text is not quite in systematic order, but an appendix, which is in systematic order, gives the scientific and vernacular name, the species number in the book, and the book's rating (from * for the least to ***** for the most endangered) and for many of the species the ratings by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. There is also a list of the scientific names of 39 species which were indicated to be ** or *** too late for inclusion in the book. As might be expected from the destruction of the rain forests, many of the species listed are tropical, but North American species, from Tassel-eared Squirrel (*) through Fox Squirrel (***) and American Bison (****) to Black-footed Ferret (*****) are discussed.