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3-1987

## Book Reviews- Nebraska Bird Review March 1987

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"Book Reviews- Nebraska Bird Review March 1987" (1987). *Nebraska Bird Review*. 118.  
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BOOK REVIEWS

Wildlife 2000 Modeling Habitat Relationships of Terrestrial Vertebrates, edited by Jared Verner, Michael L. Morrison, and C. John Ralph, 496 pp., 9 x 11½, The University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, Wis., bibliography, indexed, cloth, \$17.50.

This book is based on the proceedings of a symposium at Stanford Sierra Camp, California, in 1984. Not all papers presented there are included; those that are were revised to reflect reactions to the presentations, and some additional papers were added to round out the presentation. The sixty papers are presented in several sections: Development, Testing, and Application of Wildlife-Habitat

**Models; Biometric Approaches to Modeling; When Habitats Fail as Predictors; Predicting Effects of Habitat Patchiness and Fragmentation; Linking Wildlife Models with Models of Vegetation Succession; and a short Synopsis.**

Obviously, this is a book for professionals, who should be able to find a lot of material for consideration.

Field Guide to the Birds of Southern Africa, Ian Sinclair, 368 pp., 5.75 x 8.25, indexed by English common names, Afrikaans common names, and scientific names, The Stephen Greene Press, Lexington, Mass. \$14.95.

This guide covers Africa south of the Cunene and Zambezi rivers, and the oceans and islands south to Antarctica. The birds (several to a page) are illustrated by color photographs (in most cases, a few colored illustrations), with text (English and scientific names, length in cms., description and distinguishing characteristics, call, habitat, Afrikaans name) and a range map on the facing page. There are the usual guide features - typography of a bird, family descriptions, glossary, equipment advice, etc.

For those who contemplate birding in the area, or are just interested.

Collins Field Notebook of British Birds, Roger Lovegrove, illustrated by Philip Snow, 128 pp., 4.5 x 7.75, Collins, London, \$21.95

Color illustration of the birds, with backgrounds and a very short text, are shown on the left-hand pages of the book, with additional text on the right-hand page. There are 280 species in the book - all that are commonly found in Britain. The front cover of the book is inserted in a pocket in the left part of the cover, which when fully extended reaches about 13.75 inches. A notepad is attached to a pocket on the right, so that when opened normally it can be used with the book closed, or can be laid over the text page of the book so notes can be made with the illustration exposed. The notepad is headed Observations, and at the bottom has printed space for Place, Conditions, Date, Time, and Page No.. Presumably similar pads will be available separately. The pad can be folded out to expose a pocket, which contains a Field List of British Birds by the British Trust for Ornithology. The pocket can also be used to hold completed notepad pages, or anything else flat and small enough. There is no specific provision for a pen/pencil, but one could be clipped in.

The outfit would be handy in the field in Britain; for non-field use other books probably would be better,

British Warblers, Eric Simms, 432 pp., 5.75 x 8.5, bibliography, index, Collins, London, \$27.95.

Each of the four genera of British warblers (typical, grasshopper, reed, and tree) is introduced by a chapter, and within each genera the more common species each has a chapter of around ten pages, with probably a black-and-white photograph, a sonogram, and a breeding range map. Less common species are grouped in one chapter. There are six color plates showing 51 illustrations. And chapters on kinglets, goldcrest, and firecrest.

If you want to know a lot about these Old World Warblers, here is your chance.

A Field Guide to Caterpillars of Butterflies and Moths in Britain and Europe, David J. Carter, illustrated by Brian Hargreaves, 5½ x 8, 296 pp., bibliography, index, \$27.95

This book deals with the caterpillars of over 500 of the more common species out of the more than 5,000 species of butterflies and moths in the area. The color plates are in the center of the book, with the adults on the left-hand page and the caterpillars on their typical foodplants on the right. The text gives distribution, description, habitat, foodplants, and biology for each species, and a reference to the color plates. In addition to the species accounts the book discusses the anatomy and life cycle of a caterpillar, the enemies of caterpillars and defences against those enemies, how to find caterpillars and how to raise them,

A Field Guide to the Dragonflies of Britain, Europe and North Africa, Jacques d'Aguilar, Jean-Louis Domergat, and Rene Prechac, 336 pp., 5 x Collins, London, index \$34.95.

After general discussion of the life cycle of the dragonfly, the structure, habits, and behaviour of the larva and adults, and predators and parasites, the book gives detailed information on 130 species (plus one possible tropical African visitor). This covers identification, habitat, behaviour, distribution (with reference to the distribution maps at the back of the book), and similar species. The color plates of the species are shown separately (including one plate of nine exotic species). There are also color photographs illustrating habitat, behaviour, and the like.

A Bibliography of Bird Identification Articles in Five Journals, with Cross-references to a List of over 580 Species, Clarice Watson, 44 pp., 5½ x 8, Oregon Field Ornithologists Special Publication #4, Jan. 1987, \$4.50 Available from Oregon Field Ornithologists, Treasurer, P. O. Box 10373, Eugene, Ore. 97440.

This bibliography was compiled by the secretary of the Oregon Birds Record Committee as an aid in finding articles dealing with bird identification problems. It consists of a listing of 544 articles in two lists. The first list, arranged alphabetically by author, gives standard reference information - author, title, date, journal reference. The second list is arranged in phylogenetic order, given species name and a reference number to locate the article(s) in the first list. The author made no attempt to evaluate each reference listed, recognizing that even a tiny bit of information may be useful. The journals searched were those likely to be available to Oregon birders. They are: *American Birds*, 1971-1986; *Birding*, 1969-1986; *Continental Bird Life*, 1979-1981; *Oregon Birds*, 1977-1986; *California Birds*, 1970-1973 - now it is *Western Birds*, 1974-1985

If you are looking for extra identification information, this would be a good place to start.

--- Wayne J. Mollhoff, 736 S. Third, Albion, Neb. 68620