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BOOK REVIEWS

Tales of a Low-rent Birder, Pete Dunne, 175 pp., 5½ x 8 3/4, Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, N. J., cloth, \$15.95.

Pete Dunne is Director of the Cape May Bird Observatory. These articles were written between 1977 and 1986 and appeared first in the *Peregrine Observer*. They range in length from 3 to 23 pages, and in topics from hawk shooting at Cape May in the old days to birding ('hawking') there currently, hawking in Alaska and elsewhere, birdathons, old (collectible) decoys, a sea-going birding trip, to fanciful excursions into the future. There is a foreword by Roger Tory Peterson, who is included in one of the birdathon stories, and black-and-white drawings by David Sibley. An interesting book, which can be read in snatches.

Migratory Bird Habitat on the Platte and North Platte Rivers in Nebraska, Paul J. Currier, Gary R. Lingle, John G. VanDerwalker, 184 pp., 6 x 9, The Platte River Whooping Crane Trust, 2550 N. Diers Avenue, Suite H, Grand Island, Nebraska 68801, indexed, paper, \$11.00 postpaid from the Trust.

This is a study of the factors bearing on the suitability of the habitat, and the changes in them since the area began to be settled. The emphasis is on Sandhill Cranes, since they are the most numerous and the most studied, but species endangered in various degrees (notably Whooping Cranes) are also discussed. The chapters are: Introduction, Land and Water Resources, Migratory Bird Use, Current Inventory of Migratory Bird Habitat, History of Development, Changes in Migratory Bird Habitat, Impact of Habitat Changes on Migratory Birds, Management Recommendations, Literature Cited, Migratory Bird Inventory and Response of Specific Habitat Changes, and Draft Sandhill Crane Suitability Model. Those interested in how the white man has changed the valley, how those changes have affected the birds using the valley, and suggestions as to how the damage can be lessened, will find a wealth of information here. The book is intended for the serious student, but is not too technical for others.