

BOOK REVIEWS

Getting Acquainted with Birds in Genesee Country. Edited by Paul W. Weld and Allan Klonick. Rochester Academy of Science, 1966. 73 pp., illus., maps. \$1.25 postpaid from Dr. Neil S. Moon, 25 Edgewater Lane, Rochester, N.Y. 14617

To the growing list of guides to local birding areas in New York State has been added recently this attractive booklet about the Rochester area. The editors and authors are members of the Genesee Ornithological Society. Its publication was sponsored by the Rochester Academy of Science. It is a guide to where to go and what may be seen, and should be very helpful for birders who wish to visit spots so often mentioned in Region 2 reports and for those moving to the Rochester area.

Howard Miller's introductory remarks comment on migration in the area. An overall map shows the location of places mentioned. The descriptions of the good birding spots have been written by members of the GOS who are well acquainted with the various places. Each description includes comments on, and sometimes lists of, species that may be seen there at various times of year, a photograph of typical habitat, and for most of the areas a map showing access routes and locations of trails and special observation points. Individual areas covered are: lake shore, (Braddock's Bay, Island Cottage Woods); parks (Durand-Eastman, Highland, Mendon Ponds, Powder Mill, Webster); two sanctuaries (Reed Road, Burroughs-Audubon Nature Club), and somewhat farther afield, Oak Orchard and Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. A concluding section covers briefly eleven additional areas. There are two appendices for beginning birdwatchers, one on optical equipment and the other a short bibliography of field guides and reference books. (Some copies of the *Kingbird* Vol. 5, #3, October 1955 with the article by Leo Tanghe referred to in the Bibliography are still available.)

A large amount of specific information is well-presented in a small space. The GOS and the editors and authors are to be congratulated. Tuck one of these in your pocket—its 4 × 6½" size fits easily—and go visiting to see winter rarities or spring hawks at Braddock's Bay, or look for those 77 species listed as nesting in Powder Mill Park.

DWM

Birds of North America: A Guide to Field Identification. By Chandler S. Robbins, Bertel Bruun, and Herbert S. Zim. Illustrated by Arthur Singer. Golden Press, 1966. 340 pp. Plastic coated paperback edition \$2.95, library edition \$4.95.

For the traveller who must save weight, this is the perfect guide because it covers in one volume all species of wild birds to be found in North America north of Mexico, except for extremely rare visitors for which there are fewer than five records since 1900. Information by words has been cut, information by picture has been increased.

Apparently careful thought was given to extra information that could be added in a small space. The result is several useful innovations. Including the accent on the scientific names takes no extra space and may make these less formidable for the beginning birder. Reducing the flipping of pages by having every picture opposite its text is convenient. The row of small silhouettes across the top of some of the pages, e.g. on the gull pages, should help beginners to learn to recognize the different appearance of various orders or families. Many flight patterns and various plumages are included. Helpful also are the two pages of sparrow heads and breasts, fall warblers on two facing pages instead of back to back, head patterns of spring warblers also on two facing pages for quick comparison. The addition of two intro-

ductory pages giving brief descriptions of the families of perching birds with a small illustration of a typical species of each family should encourage a beginner to learn to place a new species in its family, a most important asset if one visits areas where many of the species are unfamiliar.

The range maps should be helpful in travelling, to permit quick check of the general area where one should encounter new species. Unfortunately, space limitations have required that the size of these maps be reduced so much that some of the usefulness is lost. It is difficult to tell exactly where range limits are. Supplementary information may be needed from other guides or state bird books. For example, as nearly as I can tell, the breeding range of the Black Tern indicated on the map does not extend south of Lake Ontario or Lake Erie, and yet they breed in central New York State. The Sonagrams, too, may have been so reduced that their usefulness has been impaired. Probably most birders will have to learn how to use these, as they have not been readily available.

The illustrations are good, and the use of dull-surfaced paper is a great improvement. Color values, at least in the review copy received, are not uniformly good. For example, some of the shorebirds, such as the Yellowlegs, are too light, the buffy patch at the side of the neck of the Bay-breasted Warbler is white, and the crown of the Chestnut-sided Warbler is too green. Possibly later press runs are better.

For many birders, I suspect that this new guide will mean not just a single volume to be carried, but another one to be added.

DWM

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The following member clubs are interested in exchanging club bulletins:

Alan Devoe Bird Club—**The Warbler**

Miss Hortense Barten
Old Chatham, N.Y. 12136

Brooklyn Bird Club—**Brooklyn Bird Club Newsletter**

Oct. thru May

Brooklyn Bird Club, Academy of Music
30 Lafayette Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11217

Buffalo Audubon Society—**Audubon Outlook**

quarterly

Mr. and Mrs. Harold A. Dodge, Back Creek Rd.
Hamburg, N.Y. 14075

Buffalo Ornithological Society—**The Prothonotary**

monthly

Mrs. Whitney W. Mallam, 545 Fourth Street
Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14301

Chemung Valley Audubon Society—**The Bulletin, Chemung Valley Aud. Society**

3 times a year

Miss Wilfred I. Howard, 610 Coburn Street
Elmira, N.Y. 14904

Cortland County Bird Club—**The Chickadee**

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320 West Road, Cortland, N.Y. 13045

Greene County Bird Club—**The Whip-poor-will**

Greene County Bird Club
Catskill, N.Y. 12414

Huntington Audubon Society—**Newsletter**

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Mrs. Ellen McMullen, 8 Norwood Road
Northport, N.Y. 11768