

for Florida, all these elements have come together in the production of *Florida Bird Species, An Annotated List*, by William B. Robertson, Jr., and Glen E. Woolfenden, which was recently published by the Florida Ornithological Society. These two authors plus two others, Oscar Owre and Henry Stevenson, recently deceased, to whom the book is dedicated, have worked closely with the Florida Ornithological Society and birders in the state for many years. The book uses the conventional format of species accounts to summarize the expected seasonal occurrences of birds and their general abundance classes in different parts of the state, giving references to published records and the locations of specimens in collections. Robertson and Woolfenden insist that the state list be one of species with verified records and that verification requires documentation (in the form of specimens, photographs, or voice recordings) in an archived collection that is available for others to evaluate. Much of the information about the distribution of birds in the state is a synthesis of field notes and reports published in *American Birds*, the *Florida Naturalist* and the *Florida Field Naturalist*.

The list of Verified Species includes 461 birds, 100 more than Howell's (1932) *Florida Bird Life*. Of these, 11 are exotic species that have had self-sustaining, wild populations breeding in Florida for at least the last 10 years. The authors personally examined these records and arranged for the Tall Timbers Research Station near Tallahassee to be the official repository of photographs documenting exceptional records not otherwise properly archived. A second list, relegated to Appendix A, contains 75 Unverified Stragglers, some of which are mentioned in the literature or even based on specimens, but were judged to be mislabeled or natural vagrants or possibly birds that had escaped from cages and, thus, were not eligible for the first list. The status of 16 Probably Unestablished Exotics and 119 Unestablished Exotics is given in Appendices B and C. The rationale is that such information needs to be recorded so that it can be reevaluated in the light of new evidence in the future.

One particularly useful aspect of this book is its estimation of recent general changes in the distribution and abundances of particular species since the late 1960s. Sixty-five species are judged to have expanded their breeding ranges in the state (e.g. Brown-headed Cowbird, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting), whereas about 30 have had receding breeding ranges (e.g. White Ibis, Wood Stork, American Kestrel, several species associated with pineland, prairie, and scrub habitats). Some established exotics have been moving northward in the state (e.g. Eurasian Collared Dove). Of transient species, those that neither breed nor spend the winter in the state, about 30 are more numerous than previously, whereas 20 are less numerous. Although some waterbirds have declined seriously, many have been attracted to new aquatic habitats in the interior, such as flooded farmlands, phosphate pits,

and sewage-treatment plants. Some of these changes are not well understood. Why, for instance, did the large populations of Budgerigars and Canary-winged Parakeets decline sharply in the 1980s as their suburban habitats expanded?

The availability of this fine book is a credit to the authors and to the large cadre of outstanding birders in Florida. It will elevate the general understanding of the dynamics of bird populations in Florida to a new level, and it will permit new investigations to be planned on the basis of the best current knowledge.—FRANCES C. JAMES, *Department of Biological Science, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida 32306, USA.*

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Taxonomy and Identification of Steamer-ducks (Anatidae: Tachyeres).—Bradley C. Livezey and Philip S. Humphrey. 1992. University of Kansas Museum of Natural History Monograph No. 8, Lawrence, Kansas. ii + 125 pp., 1 color plate, 29 text figures. ISBN 0-89338-042-3. \$14.95.—The authors of this monograph set out to fulfill six objectives: (1) to present a history of the study of the genus *Tachyeres*, (2) to provide generic and specific synonymies and species accounts, (3) to summarize the current understanding of molts and plumages in the genus, (4) to present diagnostic characters and identification keys for the species in the genus, (5) to summarize information on field identification and aviculture of steamer-ducks, and (6) to present a bibliography of relevant literature. They have amply succeeded in these objectives, but I believe that they have accomplished something more significant still.

In the past two or three decades, ornithology and indeed systematics in general have gradually left behind the idea of monographic treatments of taxonomic groups. The first part of this century saw the publication of numerous important monographs of groups of birds, for example, the treatments of the genera *Junco*, *Aphelocoma*, and *Campylorhynchus*. Since about 1970, however, very few monographic treatments have been published, the biggest exceptions being the treatments of the *Empidonax* flycatchers and the *Poliophtila* gnatcatchers.

Have detailed studies of particular taxa of birds ceased, or have ornithologists simply stopped publishing monographic treatments? I think that it is clear that detailed studies are still being carried out by many ornithologists, many times in much greater detail and involving many more character sets than was possible previously. Ornithologists simply are

not synthesizing their knowledge in long, detailed monographic form as they did previously. Rather, a large-scale research project is often split up into small, "sexy" papers that are sent to journals such as *Science*, *Nature*, *Evolution*, and the *Auk*, among others. This change certainly results at least in part from different priorities on the part of universities and museums for promotion and tenure, which seem to focus heavily on the "big-name" journals. An additional factor, however, is that the monograph series that traditionally served as the outlet for such publications (e.g. *American Museum Novitates*, *Fieldiana*, *University of California Publications in Zoology*) are becoming increasingly restricted in terms of how many issues are published annually, or who may publish.

The above is a wayward manner of congratulating Livezey and Humphrey on publishing a monographic treatment of the steamer-ducks. Their presentation of synonymies and identification keys will clarify greatly the situation in this confusing genus of ducks. As they state in the Introduction, the existence of one single summary of species limits, taxonomy, key characters, and the existing literature for accurate identification will greatly facilitate future study of the steamer-ducks.

My criticisms of the book are few. At times, the authors concentrate on summarizing early understandings of the situation in the group (e.g. of molt and plumage sequences), especially the misunderstandings of prior workers; this space might better have been used to summarize their results and insights into the evolutionary history and the history of character evolution in the group that they have published elsewhere. The Spanish in the "Resumen" is a bit choppy and carries a few typographical errors (which are all but absent elsewhere in the book)—perhaps most unfortunate is the abandonment of the true common name where the birds are found ("Que-tru" or some variation thereof) in favor of a transliteration of the English vernacular name ("Pato Vapor"), which has no connection with steamboats as it does in English. These criticisms, of course, are trivial in comparison with the importance of the work as a whole.

In sum, this book will prove to be extremely useful for ornithologists, for identification of existing museum specimens, to facilitate field identification of steamer-ducks, and to provide a basis for detailed study of the group. It is to be hoped that monographic treatment such as this will also serve as an example for ornithologists studying other groups: publication of "the whole picture" regarding a particular group leads to much more complete communication of the author's ideas.—A TOWNSEND PETERSON, *Center for Evolutionary and Environmental Biology, Field Museum of Natural History, Roosevelt Road at Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60605, USA.*

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Saving American Birds: T. Gilbert Pearson and the Founding of the Audubon Movement.—Oliver H.

Orr, Jr. 1992. University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. xii + 296 pp., 15 black-and-white photographs, notes, extensive endnotes, bibliography, index. ISBN 0-8130-1129-9, cloth, \$34.95.—This is a detailed, well-referenced chronology of T. Gilbert Pearson's (1873–1943) involvement in the beginnings of the bird-protection movement. The first half of Pearson's life is described, and the book terminates (abruptly) halfway through his career. Pearson was a poor Florida farm boy with a consuming passion for birds and a determined resolve to rise above his humble Quaker origins. He attended college in North Carolina and adopted the state as his own. After progressing as a faculty member he became intensely devoted to the popular and political battles in the bird-protection movement. Pearson's enthusiastic public speaking and gift for fund-raising led to a career as a lobbyist/organizer and administrator for causes of the numerous Audubon Societies, first locally, then nationally. Pearson worked closely with and often as the agent of William Dutcher, a main motivating and organizing figure in the bird-protection movement.

This book has little to do with the science of ornithology. However, anyone interested in the political and administrative actions of the early bird-protection movement will discover much here. I found the complex history more readable than I anticipated. It describes multiple, loosely organized volunteer organizations waging a popular and legislative war against professional plume harvesters and market hunters. If I had an interest in tales of legislative maneuvering, my enthusiasm would be high. Readers of this book will encounter a vivid picture of popular bird interest early in this century. This period is characterized by anthropomorphic excitement about "cheerful songsters," ceaseless trumpeting of the economic value of birds as our defense against a world of pests, and a quasireligious crusade against wholesale and often idle slaughter of wildlife. The beginning of the conservation movement in North America came with the dawning of public appreciation that natural resources were not limitless. It demonstrated that publicly supported legislative and enforcement activities could preserve natural resources that clearly were threatened with extinction. The conflicts were intense and often dangerous. I was surprised to learn that at least three Audubon wardens were murdered in the line of duty, and many had their lives threatened.

I am glad to have learned of Mr. Pearson, of whom I confess I'd never heard, but come away disappointed with this book overall. I was disappointed that it did not include a broader discussion of people and actions related to the bird-preservation movement and was