

rosea—as well as *Rissa tridactyla*, *Anser erythropus*, and that seemingly unstoppable colonist, *Sturnus vulgaris*.

As the republic is further opened up and developed, habitats are inevitably destroyed, sensitive species subjected to disturbance and direct human persecution becomes more widespread. Conservation measures have been proposed; it is clear from this book that they must be implemented as a matter of urgency, at least in the case of the most acutely threatened species.

M. G. WILSON

ULRICH, T. J. 1984. Birds of the Northern Rockies. Pp. 158, numerous colour photographs. Missoula, Montana: Mountain Press Publishing Company. \$7.95. ISBN 0-87842-169-6.

This book is intended as a 'field guide of full-color photographs for persons interested in birds of the northern Rockies'. As a collection of a series of photographs, the book is reasonably comprehensive in its coverage (170 of 230 possible species) and, with a few exceptions, the pictures are as good as any I have seen organized in field guide fashion.

The author also expresses hope that the text will allow readers to 'get to know the birds better' and that it will serve as a useful field guide. Unfortunately, the book has serious shortcomings in these two respects. Generally, the author provides no hints about what to look for to distinguish the species from others, and when information of that nature is presented, it is often poor or simply wrong.

Other information in the text is anecdotal and obviously related to knowledge gained while the author observed from a blind while waiting to photograph. Critical review by a competent field biologist could have prevented the printing of so many items of false or misleading information (32 instances, by my count). For example, Ulrich states that Prairie Falcons *Falco mexicanus* feed primarily on ground-dwelling mammals, and that these mammals have such high levels of pesticides that the bird species is declining. He also states that the Spruce Grouse's *Dendragapus canadensis* subdued attitude has resulted in declines in its populations, and that the destruction of natural habitat by lumbering has led tree Swallows *Tachycineta bicolor* to adapt to the situation by using nestboxes. The numerous anthropomorphic (proud Sage Grouse, courageous pintails and hummingbirds, charmed warblers, excited kinglets, monster cowbirds, and questionable habits of Redheads) and teleologic (vultures extend wings to dry them, male grouse dance to entice females, male sapsuckers sit in a position to warn females) statements are to be discouraged even in the popular literature, because they are terribly misleading. The author's misunderstanding of ecology and evolution leads him to write that 'it has taken the eagle millions of years to evolve its predatory perfection and reach the top of the food chain, thus making it sensitive to changes in its habitat'. In one sentence he has incorrectly implied that other species have not taken as long to evolve, that eagles started at the bottom of the food chain and somehow worked their way up, and that species at the lower trophic levels are not sensitive to environmental change! These substantive errors are in addition to the 20 bird name errors and type-setting errors that I found.

I could provide additional examples, but my point here is that the nature of the text prevents me from being able to recommend the book despite the excellent job with the photographs. In these times of a great need for accuracy in environmental education, it is a shame to see such good intentions thwarted by a lack of consultation with professional biologists.

RICHARD L. HUTTO

WINK, M. 1987. Die Vögel des Rheinlandes, III. Atlas zur Brutvogelverbreitung. 402 Pp. 481 maps. D-4402 Greven: Kilda Verlag. ISBN 3-88949-129-4.

The distribution of each breeding bird species occurring in the Rhineland is shown in two or three maps: (a) the national distribution in 25 × 25 km squares, (b) breeding in the Rhineland, in 5.9 × 5.6 km squares, and (c) breeding records based on a census in 3 × 3 km squares; and often as 1.2 × 1.8 km squares. In the introduction, 20 maps illustrate the characteristics of the censused areas, e.g., wooded, agricultural, wine-growing areas, air temperatures and rainfall during the breeding season, etc.

The text for each species comments on the breeding range globally, nationally and within the Rhineland and those found in the neighbouring Netherlands.

The intensity of censusing over such a large area and the opportunity of correlating results with numerous biotic and abiotic factors from almost 500 maps sets new standards of interpreting the distribution of species.

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