

## Bird Conservation

Edited by Stanley A. Temple. 1983. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison. vii + 148 pp. U.S.\$12.95.

This publication, which is put out by the American Section of the International Council For Bird Preservation, is to be the first of an annual series dealing with the preservation of wild birds and their habitat. Noting that it has been widely recognized that exchange of information in the field of bird conservation has often been inadequate and that first hand reports rarely appear in print, *Bird Conservation* seeks to remedy the situation by functioning as a means of dissemination. This first edition is divided into three sections and it is anticipated that future editions will adopt a similar format.

The first section consists of four major reports focussing on birds of prey; future editions will focus on other themes. The reports average about 25 pages in length and the first is on the Peregrine falcon in the eastern United States. The article reports on the progress of the Peregrine reintroduction program and one learns, among other things, that DDE residues are lower and eggshells thicker. The second article, on the Bald Eagle, has a management guideline approach but it too provides factual information. The remaining two articles in the first section are both on the California condor. The first is a study of the species' reproduction which tentatively concludes that the primary problem may be one of mortality rather than reproduction. The final article is an overview of the condor recovery program. Among other things it discusses the controversial radio tracking program and argues

that until transmitters are used the factor(s) causing the decline will not be known.

The second section consists of 13 shorter (averaging about two pages long) summaries of recent events in bird conservation. The topics, which range considerably, include conservation activities, legislation, and species and family status reports. The final section is a review of bird conservation literature. This is a 13 page listing by author of works of original information which have appeared, mainly, in the technological literature. There is a very wide range of topics: so much so that if one were looking for a particular topic one would be hard put not to become intrigued by other topics.

*Bird Conservation* is well written, easy to understand and provides an excellent opportunity to catch up on what is happening in the field of bird conservation. Within its covers it contains numerous tidbits of information of interest to birders in addition to reports of bird conservation developments. Hopefully *Bird Conservation* will inspire other national sections of the ICBP to embark on similar ventures to inform us of what has been happening in their countries. This reviewer heartily recommends *Bird Conservation* to anyone interested in birds or to anyone concerned about conservation. It is a most useful update of what has been happening in a very important field. Next year's edition is eagerly looked forward to.

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## BOTANY

### Atlantic Wildflowers

By D. Griffin. 1984. Oxford University Press, Toronto. 136 pp., illus. \$19.50.

This book contains a collection of 129 quite delightful color photographs of flowers that are found in one or more of the Atlantic Provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick, but are not unique to those provinces. The pictures are the work of nature photographers Wayne Barrett and Anne MacKay. Each picture together with its common name is on a separate page and is accompanied by a short text under the following headings: Latin Name, Genus, Family, Etymology, Habitat, Range, Longevity, Flowering, Features, Fruit, Height, Ecology, Uses, Horticulture, Similar Species, and References. These are explained in the short introduction. It should be noted however

that botanical names do not have to be accepted by an International Botanical Congress as stated by the author. A glossary, a list of selected references and indexes of scientific and common names complete the volume.

One flagrant misidentification has been brought to my attention. The photograph labeled *Rubus odoratus* is definitely not that, and more likely should be called *R. acaulis*, which is a dwarf plant.

This book, like many that are coming on the market these days, will make an excellent gift for a naturalist friend whether a resident of the Atlantic provinces or not.

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Cody, William J. 1985. "Atlantic Wildflowers, by D. Griffin [Review]." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 99(4), 556–556. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.355511>.

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