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## BOOK REVIEWS

### **The Birds of Britain and Europe with North Africa and the Middle East**

Herman Heinzel, Richard Fitter, and John Parslow. J.B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and New York, 1972. Fully illustrated in color. Range maps. List of accidentals. Indexed separately by common and scientific names. 336 p. 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". \$7.50.

Whether or not you plan to visit one of the countries covered by this field guide, you will enjoy owning it. All the birds mentioned in the Bible and European literature are now at your finger tips—in color and with habitat sketches. If you happen to meet a straggler from Europe right here in the Carolinas, so much the better.

The format of this field guide is quite similar to that of the popular *Birds of North America* by Robbins, Bruun, Zim, and Singer. Over 1,000 birds are shown on color plates with the text for each species conveniently located on the facing page. Occasional double-page spreads illustrate many similar species for easy comparison (e.g. female ducks in flight, immature gulls). A drawing of an immature Great Black-backed Gull is incorrectly labeled "adult winter" and some of the illustrations of North American species (e.g. Parula Warbler) are less than satisfactory; but the book as a whole strikes me as being very well done. The hard-cover binding obviously is designed for durability in the field. The introductory material on identifying birds will be helpful to beginning bird students on any continent. The text includes a great deal of information on behavior and habitat preference that should be extremely helpful to the tourist bird watcher. Many juveniles and well-marked races are shown in small-scale drawings, and marginal sketches emphasize such fine points as differences in relative length of primaries between two very similar species. Measurements are given in both inches and centimeters. The range maps spare the foreigner the task of coping with unfamiliar names of geographical features and political boundaries.

This extremely well organized field guide is bound to be one of the best buys in book stores today.—EFP

### **Owls**

Tony Angell. University of Washington Press, Seattle, Washington 98195, 1974. 63 drawings by author. Bibliography. 80 p. 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". \$12.95.

The author's drawings are reproduced by duotone offset lithography, which gives exactly the right muted effect appropriate for owls. In the introduction the author shows his understanding of owls as predators beautifully adapted to their way of life in the wild. The species accounts are at their best when Angell tells about his personal experiences with owls. The numerous drawings, Optima type face, spacious layouts, large page size, and attractive binding combine to make this slim book an appropriate gift for the discriminating nature lover.