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ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

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distributions would be extremely informative. Maps may not be necessary for migrants or vagrants, but are missed for breeding species.

Other than the lack of the maps, this book has few shortcomings. A few of the arrival and departure dates seemed questionable, and I wondered if tougher standards should have been applied when reviewing some of these dates. For example, the spring arrival dates given for the Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) are all in the first 10 days of April, in stark contrast to arrival dates that are 1-2 weeks later in surrounding states to the east and south. Information in the Finding section of some species was scant, but I realize that this was not intended to be a bird finding guide.

From professional ornithologist to casual field birder, this reference offers a wealth of useful information about Nebraska's birdlife. The meticulous species accounts, up to date information, detailed summary of Nebraska's ornithological history, and basic birding tips will make this book an invaluable addition to any library.—STEPHEN J. DINSMORE.

primarily a video to be shown to a group for prebanding orientation and, especially with commentary by the group leader(s) who can expand on certain points, it accomplishes this admirably.—ELWOOD (WOODY) MARTIN.

ALL WEATHER HAWK WATCHER'S FIELD JOURNAL. By Donald S. Heintzelman. J. L. Darling Corp., Tacoma, Washington. 2002: 64 pp. \$7.95 (spiral bound, plastic cover).—I was introduced to Rite-in-the-Rain all-weather field notebooks while collecting data on shrikes in Florida. There were too many days when I came home with my data sheets soggy from sudden thunderstorms that caught me in the field. The frustration of transferring data onto dry sheets or literally having the days worked washed out, is great. This all changed the day I was given an all-weather notebook. I no longer carry sheets of paper or clipboards in the field, and these notebooks also are ideal for travelogues.

Donald Heintzelman had the right idea when he teamed up with the Rite-in-the-Rain team to put out the *Hawk watcher's field journal*. Many hawk watchers have had similar frustrations with soggy notes, especially in the tropics. This raptor journal version of the all-weather notebook will allow raptorophiles to record their observations and data, knowing they will be safe for years to come. The 18 X 12 cm diary is comfortable to hold and small enough to fit in a pocket.

The first page has room for personal information and the dates of use. There is also reminder that raptors are protected and a statement on their conservation. Next follows a checklist of the birds of prey of North and Central America and West Indies. The remaining 59 pages are designed for recording data. At the top of each page are spaces for recording location, date, visibility, temperature, wind speed and direction, distance traveled (for those conducting transects), cloud cover, starting and ending times, and GPS location. This format helps the observer remember to record these data, which often is overlooked and then lacking at the end of a study.

Using the notebook here in the desert at Ei-

I have checked this proof.
I have marked all changes or
corrections I wish to be made.

Signed: Lawler
Telephone: +972-364290

Editor:
Please note that
we have not
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DUCK BANDING. By Norman North. Canadian Wildlife Service, Bird Banding Office, Carleton Univ., 1125 Colonel By Dr. (Raven Rd.), Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3, Canada. 2002[???]: 29-minute video. \$\$\$[???].—This is an excellent introduction to late summer (and other) duck banding. It includes a general overview of sexing and aging characteristics with illustrations of 19 species of ducks and one hybrid, shows and discusses a variety of trap designs plus trapping techniques and site selection, and covers banding equipment and procedures as well, all in 29 minutes. As indicated at the beginning of the film, there are many exceptions to the general information provided, particularly in regard to the sex and age identification of some species. As I watched the species section I kept thinking of the exceptions that I have seen to the characteristics mentioned and the plumages shown as typical. The caution about the need to work with an experienced, knowledgeable bander when starting out cannot be overemphasized, and it is included here appropriately. This is

lat, I found the light blue lines (and my writing) difficult to see in the glare. Also, the fact that each page is limited to the number of pre-printed lines makes it impractical for making hourly hawk migration counts. However, I

highly recommend this notebook for those who keep detailed field observations or a diary of field trips; those notes can be stored safely as archival data.—REUVEN YOSEF