CHIP NOTES

The newsletter of the Baltimore Bird Club

December 2000 - January 2001 -- Online Edition

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Deadline for news ONLY FOR FEBRUARY 2001 issue is February 20, 2000 (the next issue will be February-March 2001). If possible, please email material to

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or

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Please help CHIP NOTES get out on time.

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Bob Wood

by Jean Worthley

I am sorry to report that Bob Wood died at home on September after a long battle with cancer.

He had a very interesting life. Elmer and Carol Bair at the University of Massachusetts in the late forties when we all were taking courses in Biological Field Studies. He was a veteran returning from the South Pacific and worked for the National Park Service after graduation. He was a ranger at Great Cedar Swamp in Cape Cod for four years. They spent several years in California and then moved to Maine. He was a ranger and a naturalist at Acadia National Park in Bar Harbor.

Bob was a member of NAB for 24 years and Treasurer of the Baltimore Bird Club for 12 years. He was also ornithologist for a while, taught at Gilman and went to America numerous times to study shore birds. His worldwide life list of bird species reached 3237 and his life list in Maryland was 300 species. He was a member of the Maryland Ornithological Society, the Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, and many other societies.

Bob was a great birder. He was a great teacher. He was a great friend. He was a great naturalist. He was a great ranger. He was a great husband and a great father.

Where I visited him five days before he died he lamented the decline in his turtle numbers in recent years. That day he looked much so when I first met him: laughed a lot about old times and would not let me leave until I told him how many times I could find a turtle in a day. He was very clear about his turtle whereabouts and parts of two rivers? He was also a efficient of four cemeteries, most best continents, some of Black pages, cranes, shells and many other icons.

We will miss him.

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The New Sibley Bird Guide

Reviewed by Ben Paxxon

Sibley, David Allen. *National Audubon Society--The Sibley Guide to Birds*. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf) 2000. 544 pages.

The first impression I had when I received this book was that it was huge. It measures 9 inches by 12 inches and with other field guides, then one may be disappointed. However, there is no claim to its being a guide to be used directly but is titled only as a guide to birds.

The book is organized in the way that it is meant to be used at WOW!! It is bulk, bright, and with drawings of nesting charts. To one who grows up by watching birds, it is difficult to put the book down until each page has been scanned and it promises to make the birder want to spend more time in the field.

A short narrative introduces each species and each bird is represented by several drawings. Entire pages are devoted to some species, others are shown in half pages and where appropriate next to both of similar appearance for comparisons. Plumages are shown by male, female, and immature. Flight patterns are shown in drawings where the bird can most clearly be seen and shown. Information about the bird's habitat, nesting, and feeding habits is given in plain text. The format is large enough to allow for notes to be placed among the drawings that enhance identification. There are many asides throughout the book such as hoax comparisons, land and flight, dipper habits, juvenile, Mexicans, and so on. Differences in some of these comparisons are so significant that for the life of me, I cannot make the connection.

Range maps appear at the bottom of the page. Color codes are used to distinguish the status of one species from another. Species are listed alphabetically in the table of contents. Index is 5 full alphabetical pages.

When quickly becomes apparent with this guide is that the author is determined to give the reader all possible information needed to make an identification and to enhance knowledge. While I will not carry this book on my person in the field, I will have it near by for quick reference and enjoyment.

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Birds of North America

Reviewed by Ben Paxxon

Kaufman, Ken. *Birds of North America*. (New York: Houghton Mifflin Company) 2000. 383 pages.

This field guide first came to my attention through an article by an outdoor writer in West Virginia. He extolled the virtues of this guide and its author writing that having this field guide in the field with you was like having an expert birder showing you the way.

When opening the book, one is struck by the similarity to the Golden Guide book. Narrative descriptions and range maps are presented on the left page with the accompanying illustration on the right. What is missing are silouettes. Also, the book contains a colored tab system to aid in the quick location of the section of the book you are looking for. The tabs are: Loons, Grebes, Tubenoses, Waterfowl, Birds of Prey, Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns, Owls, Nightjars, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Jays, Crows, Swallows, Chickadees, Kinglets, Thrushes, Warblers, Sparrows, Blackbirds, Finches, Tanagers, Grosbeaks, Sparrows, Finches, Weaver Finches, Starlings, Vireos, Wrens, Mockingbirds, Thrashers, Pipits, Dippers, Waxwings, Shrikes, Gnatcatchers, Kinglets, Thrushes