

3. Compared with previously published fascicles it is noteworthy that here no savings were attempted by including an only insufficient number of drawings of genitalia. In this fascicle we find the coverage that we need and expect. The color plates, of course, are of the usual high quality that has become the hallmark of the series.
4. Particularly appreciated are many remarks which have cleared up many and vexing questions in the literature—to mention one: p. 25, the note on *Lachneides* Hübner.
5. A sample of the genera which needed clarification most would include these: *Tolyte*, which required much revisionary work and still needs more (especially in the West) as Franclemont says in the Introduction; *Phyllodesma*, which was broadly revised by Lajonquière but was probably too much split into small groups, now makes good sense after “compaction” with use of all of Lajonquière’s propositions; *Malacosoma*, which was already revised satisfactorily by Stehr and is here condensed to a form for everyday use by the fieldworker.

Concerning Ontario, I would add that *Tolyte notialis* Franclemont is reported from Rondeau Provincial Park in several specimens (certainly determined by genitalic dissection) and that *Malacosoma californicum* is distributed all over the northern part of Ontario from the Manitoba border to the east, and south to around Parry Sound. In that area, *M. californicum* occurs sympatrically with *M. disstria* which is found not only in “southern Canada” but reaches far to the north (at least as we understand it) as well.

In summation, Franclemont has, with great success, brought together all the material that has seemed such a formidable obstacle to other workers for many years. One can only wish that additional fascicles will show the high scientific standard of Franclemont’s publication, and we look forward to his further contributions.

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Alberta Vireos and Wood Warblers

By W. R. Salt. 1973. Provincial Museum and Archives of Alberta. Publication No. 3. Queen’s Printer, Alberta. 141 pp. \$4.50.

Alberta Vireos and Wood Warblers is the first of an occasional series of publications by the Provincial Museum and Archives of Alberta which is planned to deal with studies of particular families and groups of birds. The book follows on the heels of the popular *Birds of Alberta* and hopes to remedy some of the deficiencies of the latter by concentrating upon distribution, migration, and breeding of vireos and wood warblers in Alberta. In all, 34 species (4 vireos and 30 warblers) known to have occurred at some time within the boundaries of the province of Alberta are discussed. Each species is considered separately, the discussion conforming to a uniform pattern in which distribution, nesting, and migration are the main headings. In most instances the discussion is accompanied by a range map for the species involved. The text devoted to each species varies with the information available and varies from 6¼ pages on the Yellow Warbler, *Dendroica petechia*, to but ¼ page on the Parula Warbler, *Parula americana*. At the end of the book each species is depicted in color in its fall plumage.

It is unlikely that *Alberta Vireos and Wood Warblers* will meet with the popular success of *Birds of Alberta* since the former is of a documentary nature. Much of the text is devoted to lengthy tabulation of localities in which the species have been recorded and of dates of arrival and departure at specific localities. Although this information

is invaluable to the student of ornithology, it hardly makes for exciting reading. In most instances the range maps, based upon the tabular data are well presented, with one obvious exception: on p. 36 it is clear that the map does not coincide with the text. Clearly the legends for the two subspecies have been transposed. In addition it is difficult for the reader who is unfamiliar with the geography of Alberta to pinpoint specific localities since only six place names occur on each map. I suggest the book could be greatly enhanced with the inclusion of a detailed reference map of the province of Alberta. This criticism apart, the book is well documented. The lengthy and up-to-date list of references and sources of unpublished information add a valuable dimension to the book, particularly for the serious student of ornithology.

It is unfortunate that the book does not include color plates of the birds in their breeding plumages. Although the author is correct in saying that good descriptions of breeding plumages are available elsewhere, there is no substitute for having a complete set of good illustrations within a single volume. The illustrations are of reasonable quality, although in the review copy the color rendition is not as accurate as it might be (eg., American Redstart, *Setophaga ruticilla* on plate IX). No scale is given for the birds illustrated and thus it is difficult to gauge comparative sizes. Finally, I am not convinced the illustrations achieve their purpose in making easy the identification of fall warblers (if this can ever be so). A comparison of Audubon’s Warbler, *Dendroica auduboni*, with the Myr-

tle Warbler, *Dendroica coronata*, certainly shows the similarity between the two species but the yellow rump of the Myrtle Warbler, an important guide to identification, is not shown. For comparative purposes, and for ease of identification, the illustrations would have been of greater value had the birds been painted in the same pose and to a uniform scale.

Although the major aims of the book are a discussion of distribution, migration, and nesting, Salt has attempted to add interest with a colloquial discussion of behavior, song, and nesting habits. This portion of the text may achieve its purpose, but many annoying statements are made which seem out of place in a book such as this. Surely the days have passed when ornithologists characterize species as being "economically beneficial." Likewise the anthropomorphic descriptions of habitat selection (eg., p. 92) detracts from the book. In most instances the author has been careful to document fact, and yet on p. 35 we find the dangerous and undocumented statement that "the over-zealous promotion and use of chemicals and heavy machinery" has resulted in the destruction of much good Yellow Warbler breeding habitat. Finally, the verbal descriptions of song are so subject to personal interpretation that they are of little value. These criticisms apart, there are features of novel and general interest. The explanation of the scientific name for each

species adds an interesting subject to the text. The comments on Cowbird, *Molothrus ater*, parasitism is of general ornithological value and is well handled. Some of the more general comments (eg., role of banding, p. 101) are valid and may assist birders in general in the interpretation of their data.

Generally the book is well produced. Several spelling errors were noted and should be corrected in any future editions. Respect for taxonomic convention should be maintained at all times. Thus generic names should always be capitalized (eg., *Seiurus*, p. 81 and *Setophaga*, p. 112). Finally, the binding is weak and after review several pages have become detached.

Basically, this book achieves its objective, and in so doing makes a valuable contribution to the ornithology of Alberta. *Alberta Vireos and Wood Warblers* will be of most benefit to ornithologists within Alberta, although ornithologists elsewhere may find it useful. The author is to be complimented for the care with which he has compiled his information. This was no easy task, and generally Salt has completed it well.

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Introduction to Herpetology

By Coleman J. Goin and Olive B. Goin. Second Edition. 1971. W. H. Freeman and Company, San Francisco. 353 pp. \$8.00.

The first edition of this survey of the state of knowledge of amphibians and reptiles to date was issued in 1962, and it is a mark of its wide use that this revision has been necessary so soon. At the time of its publication it filled a basic void—no English textbook existed which treated these vertebrate classes together, although their study has long been combined.

The notable change in the second edition is that the former chapter on "Relation to environment" has been divided and expanded into two chapters: "Homeostasis" (Physiological exchange with the environment) and "Relationship to the biotic environment," with new material added. The chapter on behavior has been reorganized and updated. There have been corrections and modifications throughout, but the basic organization and titles of other chapters remain the same.

The Introduction sets herpetology in perspective among other biological disciplines, discusses the position of amphibians and reptiles in systematics, examines the species problem, and sketches the development of the study of herpetology. Six chapters discuss structure,

origin and evolution, and reproduction and life history, first in each topic for the amphibians, then for the reptiles. The three revised chapters already noted follow. The "Mechanisms of speciation" and "Geographic distribution" treat the two classes collectively. The book concludes with six chapters giving classification down to subfamily, and discussing the characteristics, distribution, and life histories within each group. Examples of included genera and species are provided.

An appendix on classification lists all living and extinct groups to order, and in those orders or suborders having living representatives to the level of families. An additional appendix, in the first edition, giving chromosome numbers for amphibian and reptile species, has been omitted.

No textbook classification can cope with all of the divergent views and fast-accumulating new revisions, but the one presented is as modern and up-to-date as publication deadlines and the inevitable biases of authors permit. Notable deviations from the first edition in classification are the transfer of the Typhlopidae from the lizards to the snakes and the elevation of amphihaenians from a family of lizards to suborder status equal to lizards and snakes.



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