

# Book Reviews

## ZOOLOGY

### Where to Find Birds in British Columbia

By David M. Mark. 1978. Kestrel Press, New Westminster. 72 pp., illus. Paper \$3.00. (Available by mail from Kestrel Press, P.O. Box 2054, New Westminster, British Columbia V3L 5A3.)

This small book (13.5 × 21 cm) gives bird-finding information for 49 areas ("sites") in British Columbia (hereafter B.C.), which are described, region by region, for eight geographic regions of the province. A sketch map shows the general locations of birding areas in each region, but the reader will need a good road map to use with the book. The introduction (six pages) includes a helpful discussion of bird distribution in B.C. as related to the Biotic Areas of Munro and Cowan (B.C. Provincial Museum Special Publication 2, 1947). Following this, eight pages are occupied by a photocopy of the recent (1977), comprehensive checklist of B.C. birds issued by the Provincial Museum, which identifies those species known to breed in B.C. and those of accidental occurrence. The main part of the book (pages 19 to 63) is devoted to area accounts, which vary in length from five lines to two pages. These are generally up-to-date and informative, with specific and accurate route directions, including distances (the author is a geographer!), and usually with lists of particular bird species to expect. Finally, there is a seven-page section on "sought-after species" (those most often sought by

birders), with references to area accounts and sometimes additional comments as well. Besides the author, 15 other individuals or groups contributed information for the book.

My only major criticism of this guide is that coverage is poor for some parts of B.C. (As I was one of the contributors, I am perhaps indicting myself for not providing more information!) For example, Vancouver Island (and the Victoria area in particular) receives rather scanty treatment considering its diverse avifauna and the heavy visitation it receives from out-of-province birders. None of the five national parks in B.C. is mentioned. On the other hand, coverage is quite good for the Vancouver area and most of the southern interior, and the accounts included for those areas can scarcely be faulted. I sincerely hope the gaps in coverage will be filled in a future edition.

All in all, this is a very good bird-finding guide, at least for a pioneering effort in a province previously lacking one. It will prove very helpful both to B.C. birders and to those visiting the province from elsewhere.

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### The Moths of America North of Mexico, Including Greenland. Fascicle 22.2, Noctuoidea (in part): Lymantriidae

By D.C. Ferguson. 1978. Classey and the Wedge Entomological Research Foundation (distributed in North America by Entomological Reprint Specialists, Los Angeles). US \$48 (\$40 by subscription).

This fascicle, often advertized as soon appearing, finally did. It was eagerly awaited by all who will have to use it. We have to admit that the Lymantriidae are a very difficult family and many things had to be elucidated to make publication useful: names, distribution, and general considerations.

This begins with the family name, and everybody concerned is glad that there were no changes in this as well as in often used generic names. These have been not quite stable in the past because of international faunal and taxonomic complications, like *Gynaephora*, *Dasychira*, *Lymantria*, *Leucoma*, *Euproctis*. Appreciable conservatism is also shown in specific names, e.g., *Euproctis chrysorrhoea*. One may hope

that this final nomenclature finds easy access into our collections and papers.

One might question whether it was necessary to fill the literature with all the new "subspective" names. More biochemical and larval taxonomic research would probably have obliterated some of the "subspecies" and shown them to be species in their own right. Here is certainly a field open for further research.

The keys are in general good, short, useful and working. The larval key to the last instar larvae of *Orgyia*, however, leaves a question open: how can there be a description of a larva of a "subspecies" when the so called "type" of this "subspecies" is as questionable as can be ("*leucostigma plagiata*") and the larvae in question just do not yield adults like this "type"? Otherwise this key is helpful and correct.

Certainly the most difficult genus is *Dasychira*.





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