

entirely on the wing, is brought to nestlings as bolus of intact individuals glued together with saliva and not the "slurry of body parts" they mention (p 46). I have been able to separate, identify, and measure the individuals in boluses from a number of species of swifts as the part of diet studies.

In their narrative, the authors trace their involvement from early rehabilitation of injured adults and nestlings from fallen nests to their current campaign to educate people about Chimney Swifts and the sometimes strange noises coming from their chimneys where these birds are nesting. The book has a section where often-asked questions about swifts are answered, and concerns about possible dangers of nest materials or parasites in the chimney are addressed.

In addition to their educational activities, the authors have pioneered a program to establish artificial "chimney" nesting sites for these swifts. This comes at a time when Chimney Swift populations are in decline due to the capping of chimneys and the elimination of older nesting and roosting sites. A portion of the book describes their early designs, along with construction plans. They also show an array of types of these nest sites currently being used in many other parts of the country by Chimney Swift enthusiasts. These are often in educational situations where the public can get to know more about these fascinating birds.

All in all, this is a very enjoyable introduction to the biology and conservation of a very special and interesting bird. It should appeal to a wide readership of both amateur and professional bird enthusiasts and educators.

CHARLES T COLLINS, *Biological Sciences, California State University, Long Beach, California*

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS. *Volume 1: General Chapters and Species Accounts (Anhima to Salvadorina) and Volume 2: Species Accounts (Cairina to Mergus). Bird Families of the World, Volume 16.*

*Edited by Janet Kear; illustrated by Mark Hulme. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press. \$279.50 (two-volume set). (1) xxi + 446 p + 30 pl; ill.; no index. (2) viii + pp 447–908; ill.; index. ISBN: 0-19-854645-9 (two-volume set); 0-19-861008-4 (Volume 1); 0-19-861009-2 (Volume 2). 2005.*

Approximately 80 years have elapsed since John C Phillips published *A Natural History of the Ducks* (1922–1926. Boston (MA): Houghton Mifflin Company). In the many decades that followed, several excellent books that focused on the waterfowl of the world were published—e.g., Johnsgard's *Ducks, Geese, and Swans of the World* (1978. Lincoln (NE): University of Nebraska Press) and Todd's *Natural*

*History of the Waterfowl* (1996. Temecula (CA): Ibis Publishing Company)—but none have been as comprehensive, outstanding, or as beautifully illustrated by hand as Janet Kear's *Ducks, Geese and Swans, Volumes 1 and 2*. This new addition to the waterfowl library may very well be the type of book that comes but once a century.

These volumes were more than ten years in the making, and include edited chapters and species account contributions from dozens of the foremost experts in their field of study and respective taxa. This two-volume set is separated into two parts. Part I consists of the introduction and seven general chapters that focus on taxonomy and systematics, feeding ecology, ecology of social behavior, breeding strategies and biology, movements and migrations, population dynamics, and conservation and management. Part II (contained in both Volumes 1 and 2) is composed of 167 species accounts of the extant and recently extinct species of waterfowl of the world. Each species account begins with a general description of morphology, field characters, voice, and range and status, then is followed by information about general habits, behavior, and up-to-date information on species conservation and threats. Species accounts for each family, subfamily, or tribe are preceded by a brief introduction and overview of their taxonomy and systematic relationships, including synthesis and references to many of the recent molecular studies. The most attractive feature of these books are the 30 color plates that were illustrated by Mark Hulme, which portray the posture and appearance of each species (including many subspecies and juvenile ducklings) with unusual and exceptional accuracy that will be greatly appreciated by waterfowl scientists and enthusiasts.

In summary, these volumes are absolutely essential for anyone who professionally manages, conducts research on, or has strong recreational interests in waterfowl. *Ducks, Geese and Swans* will be an enduring memorial to Janet Kear and her life's work and vision, which she so kindly and generously shared with others.

KEVIN G MCCracken, *Biology & Wildlife and Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska*

MIGRATING RAPTORS OF THE WORLD: THEIR ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION.

*By Keith L Bildstein. Comstock Publishing Associates. Ithaca (New York): Cornell University Press. \$35.00. xiii + 320 p + 16 pl; ill.; index. ISBN: 0-8014-4179-X. 2006.*

Each spring and autumn, people from diverse backgrounds gather at migration hot spots around the world to watch hundreds, thousands, or per-