

Short reviews

Rapaci In Volvo: Liguria: Archeologia Probabile. Birds of Prey in Flight: Liguria: a probable archaeology. By Luisella Carretta. (Pirella editore, Genova, 1988. 73 pages. Paperback ITL34,000) This dual-language book (Italian and English) presents the work of Italian artist-ornithologist Luisella Carretta. She has developed a technique of drawing the flight path of an individual bird of prey, represented as a 'vapour trail' viewed from slightly above or from the side, the trail being linked to the ground (or sea) with vertical lines.

Five raptors are represented in this way: Buzzard *Buteo buteo*, Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonorae*, Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* and Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*. Most have 11-18 drawings, showing differing aspects of their flight; Marsh Harrier has only two. Together with the captions (relating the relevant information regarding weather conditions, air currents and so on) they make an often-attention is given to Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Kentish Plover *C. alexandrinus*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Dunlin *C. alpina*, Redshank *Tringa totanus* and Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*. The 24 colour photographs are very useful records of plumage details, particularly for Dunlin and Turnstone. [RJC]

Birds of the Canadian Rockies. By George W. Scotter, Tom J. Ulrich and Edgar T. Jones. (Western Producer Prairie Books, Saskatchewan, 1990. 191 pages. Paperback Can.\$22.95) This compact book is well worth buying. Its purpose is to enable the visitor to identify the birds most likely to be

fascinating study. In comparison, the main text on each species is rather more run-of-the-mill, but, nevertheless, accurate and concise. There is then an absorbing section on flight mechanisms, using the author's own observations to illustrate various points, and supplemented by further flight paths of gulls, terns and even a butterfly. This work is very graphic and of real ornithological interest. The publishers have chosen to present it as an art-form.

[ALAN HARRIS]

Biometric and Ringing Studies on Waders in the Oosterschelde, SW-Netherlands, Springs 1984 and 1985. By Peter L. Meininger and Norman D. van Swelm. (Stichting Ornithologisch Station Voorne, The Netherlands, 1989. 104 pages. Paperback Dfl25.00) An attractive, detailed report, in Dutch, with frustratingly short English summaries. Considerable biometric details and migration observations are given for a number of wader species. Particular seen in the Canadian section of the Rocky Mountains. These extend for nearly 1,400 km from the border with the USA north-westwards to the Liard River, with the highest point being reached at Mount Robson (3,954 m). Two maps show the northern and southern sections of these mountains, and a short introduction describes their general geography, ecological zones, and the terms used in the book. The bulk of the book consists of mostly excellent photographs (usually three to a page) with the relevant text on the facing page. There is a checklist of all species recorded from the Canadian Rockies, listed under seven main localities and giving their status in each.

[BRYAN SAGE]

ALSO RECEIVED:

Rare Bird Video. Volume 1. By Martin Ryder. (Rare Bird Video, Leeds. £20.00)