

# Book Reviews

**Book Review Editor's Note:** We are continuing to use the current currency codes. Thus Canadian dollars are CAD, U.S. dollars are USD, Euros are EUR, China Yuan Remimbi are CNY, Australian dollars are AUD and so on.

## ZOOLOGY

### A Chorus of Cranes

By Paul A. Johnsgard. 2015. University of Colorado Press, Boulder, CO, USA, 80303. 226 pages, 29.95 USD, Paper.

With many high quality color photos by photographer Thomas Mangelsen, this book is far from a coffee table edition. Author Johnsgard, who has written several books on cranes, has updated his 1983 *The Cranes of the World* (Johnsgard 1983) as well as an earlier similarly-titled book by Walkinshaw (1973).

This book focuses primarily on the two North American crane species, the Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) and Whooping Crane (*G. americana*), but also covers the other 13 species of cranes found in the world. All aspects of the biology and ecology of cranes are covered in this high quality volume.

For readers who are knowledgeable of Johnsgard's work on waterfowl behaviour (Johnsgard 1965), the descriptions and illustrations of crane behavior will be well appreciated. Readers will also appreciate current information on the distribution and conservation status of each species of crane.

Professional readers will find a trove of useful information. One of the best features that sets this book apart from others on cranes and other bird species is the complete bibliography of North American and International Crane Workshops. Other bibliographic listings are provided under the categories of World Surveys and Crane Bibliographies, General Topics and Taxonomic Works, Platte River Valley References, Sandhill Crane Refer-

ences, Whooping Crane References, and References on the Old World Species of Cranes. The bibliographies are relatively complete and up-to-date, as of the time of publication. There is also a listing of internet sites relevant to cranes.

I highly recommend this book for anyone with an interest in cranes. Professionals and students will find this book a good starting point for research on cranes, especially the Sandhill and Whooping Cranes. The bibliographies alone are exceptional sources of literature. Birders and others with a broad interest in birds and nature will find this an enjoyable and informative book about a fascinating group of birds. I have to note as well that *A Chorus of Cranes* can be an attractive book for the coffee table. My copy is there right now beckoning me to pick it up and browse.

#### References

**Johnsgard, P. A.** 1965. Handbook of Waterfowl Behavior. Comstock Press, Ithaca, New York, USA.

**Johnsgard, P. A.** 1983. The Cranes of the World. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Indiana, USA.

**Walkinshaw, L. H.** 1973. Cranes of the World. Winchester Press, New York, New York, USA.

ROGER D. APPLGATE

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, PO Box 40747, Nashville, TN, USA, 37204