

and fled the country with millions of stolen dollars. Many of Ecuador's 12 million people, of whom 70% are considered poor, blame the state of their economy on this pillage.

So what kind of people does D'Orso find in these remote islands? First there are the "native" inhabitants – where native means those who were born on the islands. This could mean people with a wide variety of ancestral origins. The first true settlers were Norwegian, but most today are from Guyaquil and Quito. Often these people are the uneducated poor and it is difficult for them to benefit from the ecotourist trade (they do not speak English, etc.)

Then there are the "adventurers", people who came looking for something inexplicable and found it in these islands. They are shopkeepers, hoteliers, missionaries, and other western occupations. Photographs of many of these people precede each chapter. To these are added policemen, park employees, and, of course, politicians.

Another group is the research people, mainly associated with the Darwin Research Centre. These are outsiders who come for limited periods, although some do stay for many years. The other outsiders are the tourists. Mostly they are ecotourists who come to marvel at unspoiled nature. If D'Orso is to be believed, some women travellers expect more from their male guides and some of these young men are happy to oblige! One important characteristic of both these groups is that they do not rely on the Galapagos to earn their living.

Finally there are the plunderers. These are mostly commercial fishermen, poor people from the mainland in ships supplied by the rich and influential, who reap illegal harvests of sea-cucumbers (a big seller in Asia as an aphrodisiac), sharks – or at least their fins, and other sea creatures. Joining them are people who slip in to protected areas to hunt or fish for fun.

By going through the lives and stories of these individuals we begin to understand the real history of the human Galapagos. It is not as pretty as the non-human story, but it is most interesting in a gossipy way. The

author shows a supercilious attitude towards the islands' charms and the visitors they attract. Yet I often feel "The author (lady) doth protest too much" (apologies to W. Shakespeare) on these issues. Between lines, you can sense that D'Orso is in awe of the natural wonders and realizes the enormous importance of the ecotourists. His descriptions of the birds, reptiles, and scenery are very accurate and poetic. He clearly respects those people who crusade against the islands' many wildlife problems.

Visitors, both past and future, will get a lot out of this book. Not that all of us are insensitive to Ecuador's woes, but the author delves more deeply at a personal level than we would ourselves. Not only will the reader get a sense of daily life, but will learn more about the conservationist's struggle. The group that is trying to rid each island of goats, pigs, and rats is a very tough and formidable team. The hunters have a strenuous, arduous and uncomfortable job. They must also fight for money (it costs millions for weapons, helicopters, and supplies) and stave off the well-meaning but impractical animal rights supporters. Some of this material is very intriguing.

Recently Lucio Gutiérrez won the presidential election after promising to fight corruption. He gained much support with promises to help poor indigenous people. If he is to succeed he will need to keep his support from the social movements, the Indians, and get support from the business sector and the international financial community. He has to do this when his supporters do not have real power, which still lies with a privileged minority of people of Spanish origin. This will be a formidable task, but if he is successful it will bring improvements to the lives of those on these enchanted isles that D'Orso chronicles in this book. So there is hope, we hope.

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## Birds of the Untamed West: The History of Birdlife in Nebraska, 1750 to 1875

By James E. Ducey. 2000 [but released for review in 2002]. Making History, Omaha, Nebraska. 300 pp., illus. U.S. \$25.00.

This book is a valiant attempt to report the ornithological history of Nebraska to 1875. Commendable strengths include Chapter 1, which discusses the bird knowledge and lore of the native Americans, the Lakota, Missouria, Otoe, Omaha, Pawnee, Ponca, and Winnebago tribes. Native language bird names are provided when available. Chapter 2 provides a summary of historic explorations, most of which were made

by men merely passing through the state while heading farther north and west. Many of these explorers came through in autumn, after the bird breeding season was over. Exceptions were Lewis and Clark, in Nebraska from 11 July to 8 September 1804, and Thomas Say with the Major Long expedition, present from 19 September 1819 to 6 June 1820. Chapter 3 provides a succinct account of the early bird habitats, and Chapter 4 tells which species were found in each of these habitats. Ducey provides, in square brackets, occasional corrections of obviously misleading statements in Aughey's 1877 paper. The list of references

I found impressive. Thirty-three early illustrations add to the interest and attractiveness of the book.

For each observation, the name of the current Nebraska county is provided in upper case letters: "shouting" in modern computer parlance and to me a bit annoying. Unlike Robert E. Stewart's North Dakota book, Ducey does not provide a map showing the location of each county, forcing the reader to provide himself with a Nebraska state map before reading very far.

Before listing the shortcomings of Chapter 5, the last half of the book, I chose to use Myron Swenk's historical articles in *Nebraska Bird Review* (in the late 1930s) as a veracity check. I was not too surprised to find that Swenk had, in the late 1930s, provided more detail and better documentation than Ducey. If one takes the Lewis and Clark expedition as an example, Swenk used a not excessive seven pages, including a map showing the progress day by day, consulted original, primary sources, and gave more detail about extant diaries of several members of the expedition. As a further check, I compared the four-plus pages of Nebraska citations in Gollop's Eskimo Curlew monograph with Ducey's account, which again was less complete.

Chapter 5, a List of Species, occupies 110 pages; it lists excavated faunal remains from various forts and

Indian camps, and is a useful compilation that leads the reader to original sources. Sadly, Ducey fails to place the verbatim accounts of each species in the explorer's words, indicated by quotation marks or a different font. As a result, one can rarely differentiate fact from Ducey's speculation, extrapolation, and "best guesses." His terminology and presentation are inconsistent, especially concerning whether an individual species is a migrant or a resident, and whether or not there is specific evidence of breeding. His use of "migratory species" is a less satisfactory term than "migrant." Far too often, the term "potential breeder" is used without evidence of dates or localities for eggs or young. Clearly, a conventional publishing house would have provided the outside editorial assistance that this book lacks. The index is incomplete.

In spite of my caveats, especially the idiosyncratic presentation of the species list, anyone interested in the history of ornithology in Nebraska will find much of interest in this inexpensive book.

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## MISCELLANEOUS

### **The Emperor of Nature: Charles-Lucien Bonaparte and his World**

Patricia Tyson Stroud. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia. 371 pp., illus. U.S. \$34.95.

Patricia Tyson Stroud deserves the highest commendation for this superb biography. She has dug deeply into a virtual treasure trove of European and American archival sources, including unpublished letters in the possession of the Bonaparte family. She has unearthed numerous illustrations of people and places. She details the exceedingly complicated relationships, intrigues, and political machinations within this royal family. The first chapter of this book reads like an opera plot.

Charles-Lucien Bonaparte, the nephew of Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, enjoyed the wealth and prestige accorded royalty, but, as will be seen, suffered as much inconvenience as benefit. When Charles-Lucien was only seven, his parents chartered an American ship to take them to the United States with their retinue of 46, including 30 servants. They put in to a port in British-held Sardinia in a storm, were taken captive, sent to England and kept under virtual house arrest for four years until Charles-Lucien's uncle, the Emperor Napoleon, was defeated, exiled, and sent to Elba. Since Charles-Lucien's uncle Joseph, the former King of Spain and of Naples, had no sons, he wished to marry

two of his daughters to sons of two of his brothers, in the hopes of reviving the Napoleonic succession. Thus Charles-Lucien was married to a first cousin, Zenaide, whom he had not previously met. They spent their honeymoon visiting natural history museums in Frankfurt, Munich, and Milan.

Charles-Lucien arrived in the United States in September 1823 as a brash 20-year-old naturalist, "spirited, dashing, mettlesome and fiery." The young couple settled not far from Philadelphia near Joseph Bonaparte, the bride's father and the groom's uncle. Two of their children were born in the United States (but they had another ten, the last born in 1843). In Philadelphia, Charles-Lucien joined the American Philosophical Society and the Academy of Natural Sciences. Later dubbed by T. S. Palmer as "the father of descriptive ornithology in America," Charles-Lucien Bonaparte "laid the foundations for the study of nomenclature," as Witmer Stone put it. Through intensive study of the descriptions in and those made after publication of Alexander Wilson's nine-volume, 1814-1819 *American Ornithology*, Charles-Lucien published five instalments of "*Observations on the nomenclature of Wilson's Ornithology*," calling attention to the errors and omissions in Wilson. This gained him the enmity of George