

Canadian Science Writers' Association for the best general work. It is an informative, attractive, extremely well-organized book.

The Cannings brothers (identical twins), their brother, Robert, and their late father, Steve, have each contributed masterful photographs. All four are well-known naturalists who have done much to encourage and further the study of natural history through print, radio, and television in western Canada.

The Cannings' book succeeds at a number of levels. Visually it is a delight, with superb, eye-catching maps and photographs, enhanced by informative captions. On initial browse, one is stimulated by the pithy, informative, boxed vignettes, such as "when is a seagull not a seagull?" and "Western Sandpipers." These vig-

nettes will please even the most jaded of naturalists. Finally, the main text provides a wealth of well-organized and thoughtfully developed information. Topics such as geology, the ice age, forests, mountains, grasslands, and water are clearly and incisively presented, as the Cannings' knowledge and enthusiasm shine through. British Columbia is most fortunate to have such masterful and able presenters; nature lovers everywhere will benefit from this book. Only superlatives apply. I cannot think of a single word of criticism.

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### Field Guide to Bird Nests and Eggs of Alaska's Coastal Tundra

By T. D. Bowman, 2004. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Anchorage, Alaska. Published by Alaska Sea Grant College Program. 81 pages, U.S. \$25.00 Paper

This little publication is an interesting add-on for the field practitioner in Alaska and the arctic. This region includes some of the most productive bird nesting areas in North America, and probably in the world. It shows in detail nest and egg features of 70 bird species (loons, waterfowl and crane, jaegers, gulls and terns, owls, ptarmigan, alcids, shorebirds and passerines). Taverner's Canada Goose and Cackling Canada Goose receive separate chapters. The species included in this guide were selected based on their occurrence in Alaska and by their "relative abundance". Some rare species like Sanderling, Surf-bird and Yellow-rumped Warbler are unfortunately not included, which will not really help to bring us any closer to their nest discoveries.

This is a convenient book designed to be used in the field. Bird species in this book are ordered by egg size, which makes an interesting presentation. The book design and the photo arrangements are done nicely, but sometimes I find the egg photos a little overdone and repetitive; sometimes wing photos are hard to differentiate. For each species, the photos show the bird (often male and female), bird on the nest, the actual nest, eggs and (down) feathers; but this format is not always strictly followed. Personally, I find it somewhat a shortcoming that chicks are rarely presented in this

guide. Of interest is the concept of a "Sizing Chart", which "provides a quick reference to help reduce the number of prospective species to which an egg could belong". Further, the book offers for geese "Parting Shots..." in order to identify escaping birds. A quick reference guide is provided for "Dark Goose Nests."

Six short introduction text pages provide basic background about the species and the book concept. I admire the challenges and amount of field work involved in compiling the specific nest and egg colour photos (over 450). A great photo collection is presented which includes not only, those done by the author but also contributions from over 70 other contributors. As I tend to be creative while in the field, I miss some free pages to write on during field work.

The competent author has over 15 years of experience working in the arctic, and is inspired by the "...dedication to improving the reliability and accuracy of scientific data...". Therefore, it can be hoped that these photos eventually might occur on the internet /www for a free use by the general and interested public.

Overall, I think this interesting book serves its purpose well as a quick field reference and fills a vacant niche. I am sure it will also prove useful for Arctic regions of Canada as well as Russia.

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### Guide to Hawk Watching in North America

By Donald S. Heintzelman. 2004. Globe Pequot Press, Guilford, Connecticut. 425 pages, U.S. \$16.95 Paper.

The *Guide to Hawk Watching in North America*, written by ornithologist Donald Heintzelman, is an updated version of his *A Guide to Hawk Watching in North America*, published in 1979. The new edition includes updated information about "hawk" (including vultures, eagles, harriers and falcons) biology, identification and seasonal migration movements, as well

as numerous additional sites to watch raptors. The new edition adds a separate section on where to view Bald Eagles.

The book is divided into two main parts. The first concentrates on general information, including species accounts for a wide variety of raptors other than owls, tips on how to identify and study hawks, a description of the migration seasons, an overview of different types of hawk watching, an introduction to field equipment for the activity, and an explanation of the mechanics of