

name. Even more confusing is the key to sculpins so-named (actually the superfamily Cottoidea) which includes the single member of the poachers (Agonidae), a fathead sculpin (Psychrolutidae) and a sea raven (Hemirhamphidae) as well as the sculpins (Cottidae).

The systematic treatment is very up-to-date and careful delving can reveal new records for Canadian waters where the Gulf of Maine overlaps into New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Occasionally some points may be questioned – why is *Scomberesox saurus saurus* listed as a trinomial? Another subspecies exists but its distribution is not in the area under consideration.

The end plates give an overview of the geography of the Gulf of Maine but omit some salient features. There is no border between the USA and Canada in the sea, Halifax is not marked but is mentioned in illustrations and capture localities, and such places as Georges Basin are referred to in the text but not indicated.

Canadian scientists will need to refer to this volume as it corrects identifications in Scott and Scott's

(1988) *Atlantic Fishes of Canada*. It also provides a review of work done on many species since the mid-1980s and on the changes that continue to occur in the northwest Atlantic fish populations – Atlantic Cod are no longer “Canada's single most important commercial species”, for example.

This book gives a thorough treatment of the biology and systematics of these fishes, many of them familiar to residents of maritime Canada, and is a most significant addition to our knowledge of North American fishes.

Literature Cited

Nelson, J. S., W. C. Starnes, and M. L. Warren. 2002. A capital case for common names of species of fishes – a white crappie or a White Crappie. *Fisheries* 27(7):31-33.

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A Spring Expedition to the Falkland Islands and Antarctica

By Diantha L. Knott. 2002. Masalavita Video Productions, Oregon. 55 minutes VHS Video U.S. \$30 + \$5 Shipping.

This is a video of an early summer (November, the equivalent to June in the north) voyage of 2000 plus miles to the Antarctic area at the south end of the Atlantic Ocean. The video covers the Falkland Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula, but not South Georgia and the South Orkneys or the Pacific side of Antarctica. The tape comes with two photocopies of maps showing the itinerary.

The video quality and photography are very good. The images are crisp and have a good depth of field. The colours are true. The sound is well balanced and clear. The narrator's voice is gentle and relaxing, but not soporific. There is no musical background. Instead the sea and wind fill the spaces between the limited, often simplistic, narration.

The video covers most of the major Antarctic species of bird and mammal. I counted about two dozen named species of bird and five species of mammal. The two species of Antarctic flowering plants were not mentioned. This is a good introduction to this region for the potential eco-traveller. The main characters are the five species of penguin. These birds are natural actors and the footage will be a great delight to penguin fans. With the other birds and mammals covered, this video gives a great sense of this remote region. The rocks, ice, scenery, colours, and weather are artistically portrayed and provide the viewer with a good understanding of the land and wildlife. Also, the videographer has included some footage of life

on a cruise. Shots of people landing, walking, eating, and frolicking are included. I estimated this occupied about 15% of the film and thought some of these scenes were too long (two minutes of watching people eat at a BBQ was 1.75 minutes too long!).

The ardent naturalist may be somewhat more frustrated. A number of birds included in this film were not identified (e.g., White-chinned Petrel, Grey-headed Albatross). Some others were only given a generic identification (e.g. shag, skua) and some that were mentioned were not seen (e.g., the storm petrels). Some identifications are delayed for up to several minutes (most notably with Adelie Penguins). Overall, I think about 40 bird species is a reasonable tally for such a cruise, with perhaps a few more on a good trip. Most noticeably there were several “standard” birds that were completely missing (Royal and Wandering Albatross over the ocean, Turkey Vultures in the Falklands). The narrator does not give any information on abundance. As the footage on the Southern Fulmar is less than that of an Antarctic Petrel a viewer might infer that fulmars are the rarer species. As the itinerary goes through the breeding area of the fulmar, they will be abundant. In contrast, the petrel breeds at some distance from the peninsula and are likely to occur in very small numbers.

I thought that a dozen species of mammal are more likely to be seen than the five depicted in the video. Especially missing were the whales; only a Killer Whale from the pod north of the Lemaire Channel is shown. The narrator does not mention the common species (Minke, Humpback) or the dolphins and does

not differentiate the species of fur seals. There are three mentions of Weddel Seal. The first does not look like a Weddel and the second time implies the Weddells and Elephant seals consort and call together. They do not and the footage shows only Elephants. The first shot of a Crabeater Seal is not identified while a later one is shown as the “first” sighting.

There are some comments on the historical significance of some sites, but these are not made in any context. For example, during the footage on Elephant Island the narrator comments on Shackleton’s experience. It is left to the viewer to know or find out about Shackleton’s expedition. Similarly the hut at Hope Bay (near the Esperanza Research Base) is identified only as Swedish from 1902. It is one of three huts from the Swedish South Polar Expedition led by Otto Norden-skjold. The base of another hut (on Paulet Island) is shown, but not identified. It was built by the survivors of the wrecked vessel “Antarctic” under Captain

C. A. Larsen, who were also members of the Swedish South Polar Expedition.

Visitors must remember that this is a springtime movie and some of the bird distributions will change noticeably as the season advances. Also the snow and ice cover will be diminished by January–February. However, whenever you go, you should see all of the species depicted within the same general area. This is a very good video for people who plan to visit or have visited this area. It gives an excellent sense of the stark but fascinating nature of this unforgiving wild land and its inhabitants. The footage of the penguins alone is quite delightful.

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Shorebirds of the Yellow Sea: Importance, Threats and Conservation Status

By M. A. Barter. 2002. Wetlands International Global Series 9, International Wader Studies 12, Canberra, Australia. 104 pp. Available free on internet, www.wetlands.org. 2.5 Mbt Word or 3.5 Mbt pdf.

This book is done and supported by individuals who went way beyond the horizon and came back with fame and appreciation; they just followed the birds. The East Asian Australasian Flyway (EAAF) is gigantic. This flyway not only presents tongue-breaking location names, it also connects the Australian and Asian wintering grounds with the breeding grounds in the Russian Arctic and even Alaska. Many of the huge mudflats with their shorebirds are still unknown and await their investigation. Australia and its well-known shorebird enthusiasts (“shorebird-aholics”) present the powerful “engine” to further such investigations on shorebirds along the EAAF. These individuals set a great example to be followed worldwide. Besides its unique and endemic birds, this flyway also offers great opportunities to evaluate findings from flyways elsewhere in the world. The author summarizes efficiently in 9 chapters over 10 years of field work in the Yellow Sea. This region presents over 36 shorebird species and is a key location for the EAAF during the migration and non-breeding seasons. Each of the 36 species is described well in the Species Accounts, which provide the international audience with official flyway estimates, important coastal regions of occurrences and many other details such as counting results for the migration seasons and literature references. In addition, a description (e.g., area, coordinates, protection status, threats, etc.) is given for 27 of the most relevant

shorebird migration sites in the Yellow Sea, known to date. Two chapters are devoted to shorebird threats, and conservation of shorebirds and their habitat. This topic cannot be emphasized strongly enough since the Yellow Sea harbours not only a high biodiversity but also globally threatened species such as the Spotted Greenshank (*Tringa guttifer*) and Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*), as well as near-threatened species like Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascarensis*) and Asian Dowitcher (*Limnodromus semipalmatus*). For six of the shorebird species the region carries, during northward migration, almost the entire breeding population of the flyway.

The text of this technical publication is written very well and efficiently, and the tables and black-and-white maps serve their purpose nicely. Summaries of the text in Korean and Chinese are provided, too. One should keep in mind that 12 major Asian rivers drain into the Yellow Sea; plenty of mudflats and estuaries to survey. Therefore, the publication raises the issue of how to survey migratory shorebirds efficiently in quantitative terms and for such a huge area? This book provides first answers, but leaves also some topics unanswered. For instance, how big is the underestimation of shorebirds at specific sites due to high turn-over rates? How many species get overlooked; e.g., for the rare birds such as Spoon-billed Sandpiper and Spotted Greenshanks (with an estimated global population of 1000 individuals). Predictive Modelling of shorebird populations and abundance still awaits its application. Birds need habitat, and the author outlines well which conservation policies work best to protect and