

The Smithsonian Institution. Second edition.—Paul H. Oehser; Louise Heskett, Research Associate. 1983. Boulder, Colorado, Westview Press. xvi + 223 pp. ISBN 0-86531-300-8. \$25.00.—The Smithsonian Institution is a magnificent, diverse museum, a tremendous national resource and a scientific Mecca of sorts. In this volume, Paul Oehser reviews the history of the Smithsonian in considerable detail, describes the current programs of the many branches, and discusses how museums such as this can contribute to science and, indeed, humanity. It is interesting reading, especially for those who like to have some historical perspective on contemporary activities.—J.A.W.

Birds of the St. Croix River Valley: Minnesota and Wisconsin.—Craig A. Faanes. 1981. Washington D.C., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North American Fauna Series No. 73. 196 pp. No price given.—The St. Croix River Valley encompasses about 11,550 km² in east-central Minnesota (3 counties) and north-western Wisconsin (2 counties and part of another). This area is described by Faanes as a biological "crossroads" for many species. Because of its location and mixed affinities of plant communities, the valley includes the northern and southern range limits of a number of species as well as the meeting point for typically eastern and western forms.

The first 24 pages are devoted to climate, physiography, habitats, terminology, and related subjects. The bulk of the book (156 pages) provides species accounts (312 by my count), including information on status, migration, nesting-season distribution, and habitat. Distributional data presented are from fieldwork conducted by the author during 1966–1980, published accounts in state journals and other sources (e.g. *American Birds*), unpublished data from resource agencies and other investigators, and data from survey routes established by the Fish and Wildlife Service and National Audubon Society. Five pages of references follow the species accounts.

The book is well prepared and appears free of typographical errors. It has a limited audience because of the relatively small area covered.—W.E.S.

Welt der Storche.—M. Philip Kahl. 1981. Hamburg and Berlin, Parey. 96 pp., 68 photographs. No price given.—With this German edition of his "Wonders of Storks" (1978, New York, Dodd, Mead & Co.), Phil Kahl makes available to another audience his insightful knowledge and fascination with storks. Ernst Schuz, the godfather of stork research, adds an introduction and a chapter on the White Stork. Kahl's short chapters cover the essence of storkhood, parographic species accounts, feeding, breeding, migration, and their human relationships. A book with 64

of Kahl's photographs can be recommended to anyone with an interest in birds. These are in black-and-white, but as such, they encourage a closer look at the biology they illustrate than is likely when one is distracted by the brilliant artistry of their color renditions. The text seems aimed at the educated layman, but this is also the book for graduate students preparing for a German qualifying examination and others ridden by private guilt over a dwindling facility with their hard-won foreign language. I am always pleased to see another piece of Phil Kahl's work, whether technical or popular. Through photographs, he allows his reader the ultimate in ornithological intimacy—an invitation to share his blind. Hopefully, additional translations will share his work with more of the naturalists of the world.—JAMES A. KUSHLAN.

South Texas fauna—A symposium honoring Dr. Allan H. Chaney.—Brian R. Chapman and John W. Tunnell, Jr. (Eds.). 1983. Kingsville, Texas, Texas A&I University Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute. No price given. v + 97 pp.—This volume, honoring a gentleman well known to biologists in Texas, presents two abstracts and 13 papers delivered at the symposium in December 1977. Of these, three papers have an immediate interest to ornithologists: "Current status of Roseate Spoonbills on the Texas Coast," by Brian R. Chapman; "Anatomical and vegetational features of dredged material islands and their utilization by birds: upper Laguna Madre of Texas," by Carlos H. Mendoza and Rene Ortiz; and "Growth energetics of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks," by Brian W. Cain.

Chapman notes a current population of 2,200 pairs of spoonbills in 27 colonies. He also reports a shift of the population from the upper to the central coastal areas, with over half the colonies located on dredged material islands. Mendoza and Ortiz studied 11 islands for 20 months in an attempt to determine relationships of physical and floristic properties of the islands to diversity and density of nesting birds. They report the distribution of nesting-bird colonies as related to: 1) the presence of the preferred plant species but at less than 90% vegetative cover; 2) presence of barren dredged material areas; and 3) non-barren areas with less than 30% vegetative cover. These factors reflect the needs of different colonial species that use the island; this paper should prove instructive to those who create or maintain spoil islands and to those who have concerns about these colonial birds. Cain's paper on the Whistling-Duck presents information on growth cost and efficiency that may well explain the limits of distribution for this species in Texas, but the recent, sudden expansion into central parts of the state indicates otherwise.—KEITH A. ARNOLD.