



Yellow-colored Sparrow

Gary W. Seib

These few criticisms are minor and do not detract from the overall high quality of the book. All serious ornithologists and naturalists in the prairie provinces and adjacent states should have a copy of this important addition to the avifaunal literature of the Northern Great Plains. Knapton and the Saskatchewan Natural History Society are to be congratulated on an excellent piece of work. — Reviewed by *Martin K. McMicholl*, c/o Beak Consultants Ltd., 530 11A St. N.E., Calgary, Alberta, T2E 6M7.

RIGHT WINGS OF SUMMER

AVID G. MEASURES. 1976. Prentice-Hall, Inc., Eaglewood Cliffs, N.J. 160 pp. \$12.95.

This is an ideal book for the novice, for the person just becoming interested in butterflies. It presents a fairly extensive, general background of butterflies without becoming too technically involved in scientific names, etc. For the experienced professional or amateur, it is an enjoyable book to read, bringing back memories and events as the author's and one's own experiences coincide. The book is filled with excerpts from his diaries, including field notes, delightful watercolors of butterflies in action, drawings and charts. The field notes, however, are somewhat illegible. There are also some very fine color photographs of live butterflies.

In Part One: "Beginnings", the author tells how, upon growing up in southern England, he discovered the natural world on his own. Today he is an artist, and he became interested in butterflies through their pleasing, colorful appearance.



Melissa Blues

Fred W. Lahrman

The author gives an account of butterflies and their habits in Part Two. Among the topics covered are sites, butterfly identification, general behaviour, breeding, feeding, colonial and territorial habits, life history, and death and predation. I found this part of the book especially interesting; in remarkable detail, it describes courtship rituals, egg laying, hibernation, and other related butterfly phenomena. Most of the information is drawn from the author's own observations.

In the last section of the book, "You and Butterflies", the author describes how you can get to know butterflies in your own locality, making careful notes and observations. He shows which plants attract which species, as well as indicating with charts when to look for certain species.

This is a beautiful, well-written book, a must for every naturalist and eager butterfly fan.

I question, however, the author's view that specimens should not be

collected, that it is even necessary to urge people to stop killing butterflies. He maintains that butterfly collecting is a major menace to their populations. This may be true in some special cases, e.g., tropical areas where butterflies are extensively collected for commercial purposes such as use in jewelry, or where, owing to habitat loss, a species has become rare and should be protected. Generally, though, collecting is done on a small scale and has no actual effect on the species. The real peril to butterflies lies in our increasing encroachment on the land from intensified agricultural practices, extensive use of pesticides and environmental pollutants discharged from industrial plants. All of these factors, especially through the eradication of habitat, are the real danger. Collecting, records and experimentation are necessary to get a better understanding of animals and their ecology. — Reviewed by Brook Alder Nero, 546 Coventry Road, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3R 1B6