

A SPORTSMAN'S GUIDE TO GAME BIRDS

North American Game Birds of Upland and Shoreline. Paul A. Johnsgard. 1975. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln. xxix+183 pages. \$11.95 (cloth), \$6.95 (paper).

This book is one of Johnsgard's latest contributions to the waterfowl and upland game biology fields. Unlike several of his other works, however, this

volume will find its audience in hunters and possibly other amateur outdoor biologists.

Johnsgard's book contains 29 accounts of species or groups of species from the Galliformes, Gruiformes, Charadriiformes, and Columbiformes. Exotic species (e.g. Gray Partridge) are included. A typical species account contains information on range, identification, field marks, age and sex criteria, habitat and foods, social behavior and reproductive biology. A range map is given for each species. Two introductory chapters on basic biological information and hunting and recreational value are presented, as are a glossary and identification key. References are summarized in the back rather than with each species.

This book goes a long way in meeting Johnsgard's objective of producing "a guide to the more common species of American game birds, fuller than the typical bare-bones field guides but less detailed than a full-scale monographic treatment." The species accounts are interesting and readable. Several pen-and-ink drawings grace the book, and both color and black-and-white photographs will aid in identification. The overall effect is an attractive and well-composed volume.

The book obviously is intended for the untrained amateur. Measurements are given in both metric and Arabic units. Author citations are not presented in the text. And basic information is dwelled upon rather heavily. Treatment of species is uneven in some places (e.g. rails and shorebirds), but overall useful information is given throughout. This book would make a fine gift to a hunter or friend.

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