

*Proceedings of the symposium on management of forest and range habitats for nongame birds.* Dixie R. Smith, Technical Coordinator. 1975. U.S. Forest Service General Technical Report WO-1. 343 pages (paper). Available from U.S. Forest Service, Washington, D.C. 20250.

These proceedings of a meeting held May 6-9, 1975 at Tucson, Arizona are typical of symposia in that a variety of papers is presented. In this case, "soft" papers delivered by administrators are mixed with more scientific offerings given by researchers.

Most reports in the first category are grouped in the "General session" and "Management of nongame birds in current policies and decision making" sections of the proceedings. The more substantial articles (the latter category) are contained in four sections, "Birds and their habitats," "Management of deciduous forest habitats," "Management of range habitats," and "Management of coniferous forest habitats." While the deciduous and coniferous forest sections contain some useful papers, most attention here will be directed to the other two sections.

In "Birds and their habitats," we find discussions of the regional variation in avian species diversity as assessed by annual Breeding Bird Surveys throughout the U.S. and southern Canada (Steven R. Peterson), the implications of avian behavior on habitat management (Jared Verner), the relationships between vegetation structure and breeding bird diversity (Russell P. Balda), and the implications of migration on habitat management (Alexander Sprunt, IV).

"The management of range habitats" section includes discussions of the composition and energetics of rangeland avifaunas (John A. Wiens and Melvin I. Dyer), the probable effects of 14 range management practices upon nongame bird habitats (Robert F. Buttery and Paul W. Shields), raptors in range management (Noel and Helen Snyder), and effects on birds of certain water management practices (Steven W. Carothers and R. Roy Johnson).

Many of the papers are of a general nature, and indicate that little is known about the particular subject. Others reflect current research practices in ornithology, including much of the quantitative methods employed in the International Biological Program work on biomes. All in all, a volume well worth examining by the avian ecologist or serious bird student.

Staff