His ability to collect such recondite birds as ant-pittas (*Grallaria*) is legendary and all the more remarkable for their having been obtained before the days of mist nets and tape recorders.

This is an induplicable achievement and a priceless ornithological legacy when one considers that native habitats in many of the places that Mel Carriker collected have since been destroyed and that populations of birds that perhaps only he ever obtained have gone extinct (see Graves 1986). All Neotropical biologists should be grateful that Mel Carriker has left us these singular insights into his father’s remarkable life.—Storrès L. Olson, Division of Birds, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560. E-mail: olsons@si.edu

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**Literature Cited**


**Ecological Consequences of Artificial Night Lighting.**—Catherine Rich and Travis Longcore, Editors. 2006. Island Press, Washington, D.C. i–xx + 458 pp., 49 figures. ISBN 1-55963-129-5. Paper, $29.95.—Seventeen chapters, including an introduction and final synthesis by the editors, consider the effects of pervasive artificial lighting on various organisms. There are sections on mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, fishes, invertebrates, and plants, each with one to four chapters by different authors with different approaches. Sections begin with excerpted essays on natural darkness from literary and natural-history sources (e.g., Thoreau).

Of the three chapters on birds, the first is “Effects of artificial night lighting on migrating birds,” by Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr. and Carroll G. Belser. They “examine how and why birds are attracted to light and the mechanisms of avian vision.” Mainly they provide a concise review of the literature on bird mortality at lights or lighted structures during migration, together with some original radar evidence and discussion of differential behavior by migrants at red- as opposed to white-lighted transmission towers, a long-debated topic.

The second bird chapter is “Influences of artificial light on marine birds,” by William A. Montevcechi. With a literature review that complements that of the first paper, this chapter focuses on the proliferation of artificial lighting at sea, especially bright lights for attracting and trapping fish, and those associated with oil rigs.
and platforms, and with their dangers to migrating and nocturnally feeding pelagic birds.

The third paper is "Road lighting and grassland birds: Local influence of road lighting on a Black-tailed Godwit Population," by Johannes G. de Molenaar, Maria E. Sanders, and Dick A. Jonkers. It is somewhat different from the first two bird papers, being more of a research report on the effects of road lighting on the breeding success of a population of Limosa limosa in a Netherlands wetland.

For all the organisms discussed in the book and for birds especially, the cumulative effect of global photopollution cannot be good. Night lights kill birds, and the aggregate mortality is undoubtedly large, probably vast, and possibly significant to populations. Furthermore, Montvecchi notes that "The mortality...associated with these artificial sources is not monitored or studied effectively." Gauthreaux and Belser state that "if bird conservation is a goal, we must...develop and follow policies that minimize the types of lighting with which bird mortality and behavioral disruption have been observed." Anyone interested in how human civilization affects natural environments will want to see this book; the literature reviews will be a treasure-trove for biologists beginning to learn about the problems.—Robert L. Crawford, 208 Juniata Street, Thomasville, Georgia 31792, USA. E-mail: rlcrawfd@rose.net

**Birds in European Cities.**—J. G. Kelcey and G. Rheinwald, Editors. 2005. GINSTER Verlag, Katharinen, Germany. x + 450 pp., 92 black-and-white maps and figures, 33 tables and appendices. ISBN 3-9806817-2-6. Hardbound, $37.—The world’s human population is growing and becoming more concentrated in urban landscapes (United Nations 2006). As cities change, so too will their bird habitats, populations, and communities. To learn from past changes in cities and to conserve birds in the face of continued urbanization, Kelcey and Rheinwald have collected and edited natural-history accounts of birds in 16 European cities for “anyone interested in birds, natural history, and the environment.” All chapters are written in English and divided into a subset of the following sections: historical development of the city, habitats in the city, past and present bird population abundance and bird community composition by habitat, conclusions, places to watch birds, references, and an appendix of breeding bird species.

The historical sections are short, but interesting and pertinent. Readers will find that most of the cities are quite old and were founded and periodically disturbed by activities related to security. For example, I learned that Florence was founded in 60 B.C. as a colony for retired Roman soldiers and that nightly locking of gates in Hamburg’s city walls limited sprawl until 1860. Such detail prepares the reader for the next sections on how and why birds have changed with the city. Each historical section also includes a map of the focal city. Unfortunately, most maps fail to provide a sense of city size and the spatial arrangement of habitats because they lack scales and standard landcover types (e.g., urban, suburban, and rural). The lack of standard landcover types is surprising, given that similar volumes on urban birds have generated standards and used them throughout their case studies (Marzluff et al. 2001).

The habitat sections generally include a detailed description of many habitat types and excellent photographs of habitats with especially dense populations or high species richness. A thorough read of the book provides the rationale for the fine divisions between habitats (e.g., 21 for Bratislava); in the closing chapter, the editors attempt to correlate bird species richness with habitat diversity. This test seems sensible, given that many empirical studies have found this (positive) correlation and used it to explain the species-area relationship and maximization of species richness in landscapes with intermediate levels of disturbance (Williams 1943, Horn 1975). Still, poor standardization of habitat types hinders comparison of bird–habitat associations among cities.

The bulk of each chapter is dedicated to description of past and present population abundance and community composition in specific habitats. If the reader does not mind qualitative analysis, a few long anecdotes, limited data on bird productivity and survivorship, largely tabular data presentation, and few references to published literature (seven chapters with less