

fact that Arlott encourages the birdwatcher to seek out “more in-depth tomes” for more information, yet the acknowledgments make no mention of anyone from the region, and the list of “Further Reading” includes only two of the many fine field guides that have come out of the region, and is instead dominated by generalized accounts of birds of the world and bird families. One begins to wonder how familiar the author is with the region!

Finally, I must point out that perhaps Princeton University Press does not know what this book is either. In the book’s short introduction, Arlott writes, “I had long realised that the West Indies needed a ‘pocket’ book...” This is a very strange comment indeed as Princeton itself published Raffaele *et al.*’s (2003) *Birds of the West Indies*, which is a highly successful, condensed version of Raffaele *et al.*’s (1998) *A guide to the birds of the West Indies*. Raffaele *et al.* (2003) is only very slightly larger than Arlott’s checklist (either one will fit in my jeans pocket), and it is lighter in weight while still containing 94 color plates compared to Arlott’s 80 plates. More importantly, Raffaele *et al.* (2003)

has larger, more detailed illustrations, more complete descriptions for identification, and range maps placed opposite the plates. In short, in my view, the Raffaele *et al.* (2003) does a far better job at providing the birdwatcher with a pocket-size guide for identification of the region’s birds without sacrificing quality and accuracy. Why this same publisher would invest in an inferior work when they already have a fine book for the same market just baffles me. One wonders, “What were they thinking?”—STEVEN C. LATTA, *National Aviary, Allegheny Commons West, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, USA*; e-mail: steven.latta@aviary.org.

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RECENT ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE FROM THE CARIBBEAN

Readers are invited to submit literature citations that should be highlighted in this section to STEVEN C. LATTA, *National Aviary, Allegheny Commons West, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, USA*; e-mail: steven.latta@aviary.org.

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