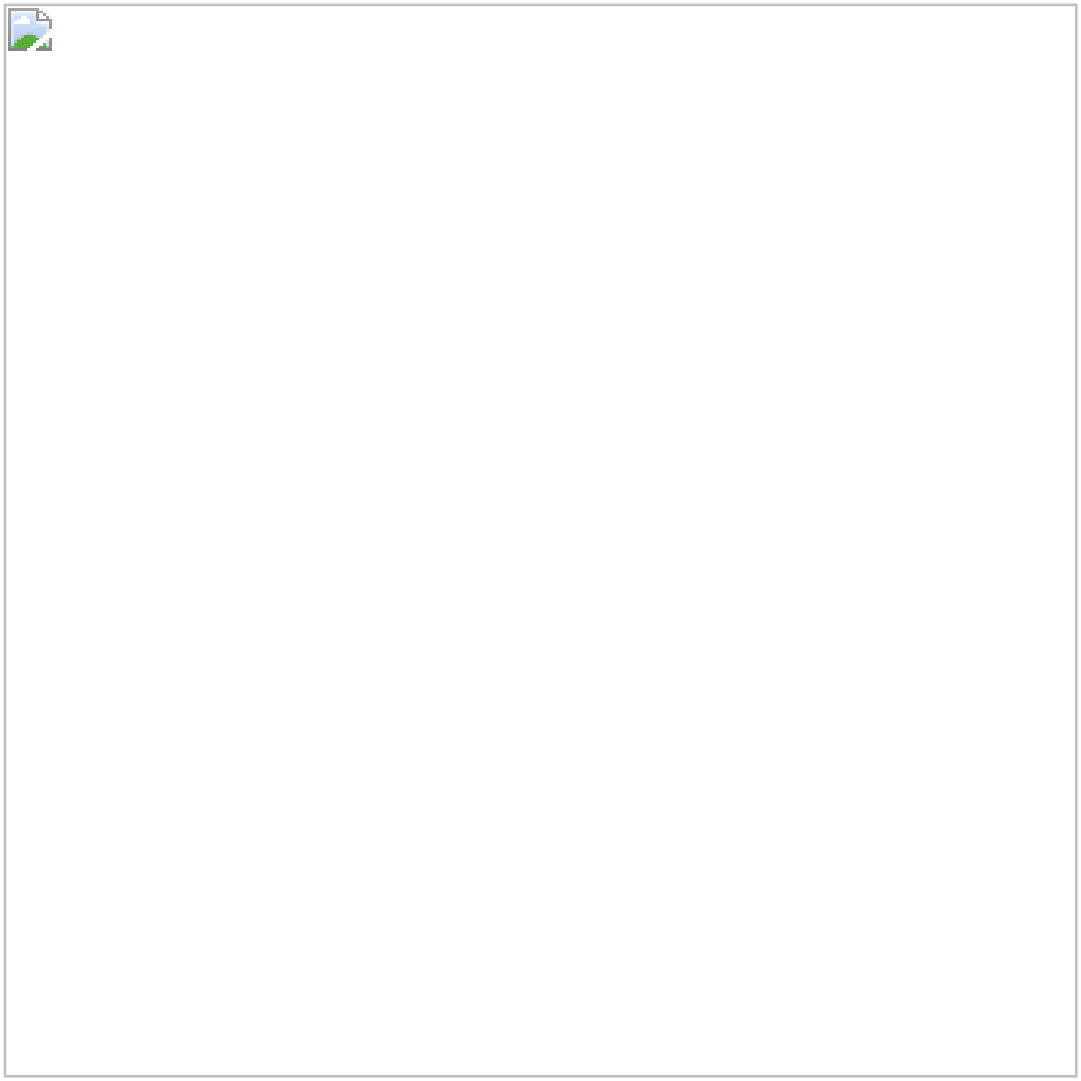

The Finnish Bird Ringing Atlas, vol. 1

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Source: The Auk, 130(4) : 816-817

Published By: American Ornithological Society

URL: https://doi.org/10.1525/auk.2013.130.4.816

full list of scientific names and common-name equivalents used in this book is included in the appendix.

Unlike typical field guides, *Cuckoos of the World* has in-depth species accounts that vary in length from one to two pages of text for poorly known species such as the Red-billed Malkoha (*Zanclostomus javanicus*) to about six pages for species, including the Common Cuckoo, that have been studied extensively. Breeding information includes details on behavior; phenology; descriptions of eggs, chicks, and nests (where applicable); and survival. Status and conservation entries are up-to-date to 2011. In-text citations are supplied throughout. The accounts also include lengthy descriptions of the species' appearance and an almost equally long field-identification entry; this, in conjunction with the descriptive material adjacent to the plates, may be excessive given the length of the book. It might have been sufficient to distill the field identification to fewer, easily accessible key features.

Each species account contains an excellent full-color range map that uses multiple colors and shading to indicate resident, seasonal, and transient distributions. The maps are large (ranging from about 6.5 × 6.5 cm to about 8.5 × 14 cm) and easily interpreted. Unlike many other identification guides or reference books of this nature, including Payne (1997, 2005), maps in *Cuckoos of the World* that depict species' ranges on continents and archipelagos are expanded to the width of both text columns. This allows for considerable precision in the placement of known and hypothetical sightings according to appropriate habitat, topographical features, and so forth, rather than merely shading the entire island or region to indicate that the species does occur there. The range maps vary appreciably from some other sources, because these authors have evaluated primary distributional information rather than simply reproducing previously published range maps.

Perhaps the most remarkable feature of *Cuckoos of the World* is the astounding number of outstanding full-color photographs. No effort has been spared to locate and include informative photographs of every cuckoo species, even rarely seen species such as the Sumatran Ground Cuckoo (*Carpococcyx viridis*), Mountain Long-tailed Cuckoo (*Cercococcyx montanus*), and Goliath Coucal (*Centropus goliath*). With a few understandable exceptions, the photographs are high definition and field characters are not obscured by foliage or other obstructions. Many accounts include four or more photographs featuring polymorphic plumages, different age and sex classes, parasitic chicks with hosts, and birds at the nest and in flight or feeding. This number of high-quality photographs of cuckoos has not been assembled elsewhere, so many readers will be unfamiliar with the sizable array of plumage patterns and colors evident in this family of birds. It is a pleasure to see so many of these unusual species brought to life by their photographs, rather than merely depicted by static illustrations.

Cuckoos of the World is an excellent addition to the literature on this fascinating group of birds. Hundreds of beautiful photographs, elegant color plates, and full-color oversized range maps set this book apart from other titles of this type. If I were to recommend a single book on cuckoos to a colleague or friend—be they amateur birders or professional ornithologists—this would certainly be the one.—Janice M. Hughes, *Department of Biology, Lakehead University, 955 Oliver Road, Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7B 5E1, Canada. E-mail: jmhughes@lakeheadu.ca*

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The Auk 130(4):816–817, 2013

The Finnish Bird Ringing Atlas, vol. 1.—Pertti Saurola, Jari Valkama, and William Velmala. 2013. Finnish Museum of Natural History and Ministry of Environment, Helsinki. 549 pp., figures and color plates. ISBN 9789521085727. Hardback, $65.—Bird banding, or "ringing," as it is largely known outside of North America, has been in use for over 100 years. An immense amount of information has been, and continues to be, accumulated via use of the archaic serially numbered metal leg ring, or bird band, and it is a major undertaking to summarize decades of ringing and subsequent encounter data in a useful form. As the encounter biologist at the U.S. Geological Survey Bird Banding Laboratory, I admittedly have particular interest in this book for drawing comparisons between the Finnish and North American banding programs, and I admire any banding scheme that completes the task of compiling data in a written form.

The book presents information in both Finnish and English, which it has done very well by having the content in each language on almost each page of the book. I do not read Finnish, so my review is only of the English content. The species accounts include just a summary in English, which may lessen the usefulness of the text for some readers. Captions for figures and photos are in both languages, and in this regard, the book is very well organized and easy to follow.

There are major sections of the book, rather than chapters, that touch on primary issues related to bird ringing, followed by individual species accounts in taxonomic order from Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) to Long-tailed Skua (*Stercorarius longicaudus*). The species accounts cover 125 species in detail, with very short accounts for 25 additional species for which ringing and encounter data are few.

The first section highlights why birds are ringed, covering many of the same topics and concerns that are addressed through

bird banding in North America, so bird ringers and those very familiar with bird ringing, the target audience, will likely skim this section. The second section explores the relationships of ringing schemes across Europe, including a history of the development of bird ringing on that continent. The contributions of H. C. C. Mortensen as the recognized inventor of modern bird ringing are briefly described, including interesting details about how he created the first uniquely identified bird rings and thus invented a new field of ornithology. There is some minor discussion of the significance of EURING for coordinating and supporting bird ringing across Europe and the usefulness of standardizing data fields for ringing and encounter data across all schemes. This section is brief, given the magnitude of EURING, but more information could easily be located elsewhere.

The third section of the book provides a history of bird ringing in Finland, where it began as an organized activity near the same time as in many other countries, 1913. This section covers the many challenges every ringing scheme has faced over the decades in detail, highlighting advances in technology and the implications of changing technologies for the scheme. The authors explain the modern philosophical shift to, and enforcement of, using ringing solely for purposes of articulated research and conservation, versus the formerly accepted practice of ringing with no real scientific goals. Broad patterns are highlighted that have been observed over the decades for ringing and subsequent encounters. A subsection is dedicated to the increased use of field-readable auxiliary markers and a massive increase in subsequent resighting reports by the public. The most interesting portion of this section is toward the end, where encounters from foreign countries are summarized and conservation concerns across the globe are revealed. There are many photos and graphs throughout this section, illustrating the process and summarizing ringing and encounter data.

The authors dedicate the fourth section to the variety of marking methods other than the traditional bird ring. This is an exploding topic in the world of bird marking, and this section covers many of the methods and includes some remarkable figures that show results of different marking technologies.

Appropriately, the bulk of the text is dedicated to the individual species accounts, summarizing ringing and encounter data in a variety of innovative ways. The most recent data included are from 2007, so newer data have already been accumulating for six years. The species accounts are introduced with a thorough explanation of how to interpret the individual accounts, which include many maps, figures, charts, and standard statistics for each species. The symbols and colors used on the maps for each species take a bit of detailed reading and flipping back and forth to understand. Included in each account are annual ringing totals, ringing by age class, how and where birds were reencountered, ages of birds at reencounter, longevity records, and birds that migrated the longest or were reencountered the greatest distance away in the cardinal directions. Most readers will be able to access what they want to know about a species, on a broad scale, but the maps of all encounters for a species do not show where the individual birds were ringed. Data-hungry readers may want to know more about the individual records that are cause for the more interesting figures.

English readers should be prepared to miss out on some interpretation of the data or a thorough analysis of how the data were used, but the most important points were likely translated. Although this is not an identification guide, the species drawings could have been more scientifically accurate to assist readers who are not familiar with European species.

The book concludes with six pages of references, some interesting photographs, and two appendices. The first appendix includes the number of birds ringed and encountered for each species during 1913–2011, and the second includes totals of birds ringed in Finland but encountered in foreign countries, with some statistics on how the birds were encountered (found dead, killed, or found alive).

The text is thorough, remarkably well done, and accomplishes the goal outlined by the authors in the introduction. Additional volumes are anticipated that will cover the remaining Finnish species. This book would be an asset to any ornithologist's or bird bander's book shelf or any research library. Given the rapid availability of data through modern technology, banding atlases such as these quickly become out of date by many modern readers' standards. An accompanying online version of any ringing atlas could provide authors and readers with regular updates and a variety of online tools for exploring ringing and encounter data that are not possible in a printed version. The authors have already accomplished the most difficult task toward an online process, summarizing the Finnish ringing scheme's database in meaningful ways.—Jo Anna Lutmerding, *Bird Banding Laboratory, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, 12100 Beech Forest Road, Laurel, Maryland 20708. E-mail: jlutmerding@usgs.gov*

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Community Ecology.—Gary George Mittelbach. 2012. Sinauer Associates, Sunderland, Massachusetts. 400 pp. ISBN 9780878935093. Paper, $75.95.—Joining other textbooks on community ecology by Morin (2011, Wiley-Blackwell), Putnam (1994, Kluwer Academic), and Kikkawa and Anderson (1986, Blackwell Scientific), plus several edited books on the subject, Mittelbach's *Community Ecology* has a distinct tilt toward aquatic ecology, reflecting the author's area of expertise. Despite the importance of birds in the historical and current development of community ecology, this book has relatively few avian examples. Its 16 chapters are organized in five parts on contemporary community ecology and recent advances such as metacommunities, community phylogenetics, and the growing importance of molecular biology.

The first chapter describes the evolution of community ecology from Forbes, Clements, Gleason, and Elton to Lotka, Volterra, Gause, Hutchinson, and MacArthur. The debates over the importance of interspecific competition, null models, and new directions such as meta-analysis are included to introduce diversity in theory and differing schools of thought. Other than a brief comment about Forbes, community ecology before the 1900s is not mentioned. Two chapters in Part I concentrate on "the big picture" of patterns of biological diversity and ecosystem functioning.