The one hundred or so islands of the Seychelles, totalling only 455 square kilometres of land, and scattered over 1.37 million square kilometres of the Indian Ocean, have long been of interest to ornithologists and birders alike for their endemic landbirds, important seabird colonies and, especially in recent years, the wide range of migrants and vagrants occurring there. This is an excellent field guide, very well presented and incorporating the wealth of new information which has been obtained since the last guide dedicated specifically to Seychelles birds appeared, in the mid-1970s. Some 250 species are described in total, including 26 endemic landbird species or subspecies, 41 non-endemic breeders (including 18 seabirds) and about 150 migrants or vagrants. All of these are described in detail, with colour plates of a very high standard. A feature which will be particularly helpful to visiting birders is that many migrant species which have not yet been recorded, but are thought likely to occur, are also described, and in many cases illustrated. With migrants potentially arriving in Seychelles from three continents, it is important to be aware of all the possibilities, and the text draws the reader’s attention specifically to potential confusion species. For example, one should by no means assume that a cuckoo Cuculus, snipe Gallinago or ‘Squacco-type’ heron Ardeola seen in Seychelles is going to be the one familiar to European birders. With this book, it should be possible to identify any bird encountered during a trip to the islands.

This book, however, is far more than just a field guide in the narrow sense of an identification manual. There is a huge amount of additional information, with sections dealing with the islands’ geological history and climate and the origins of the breeding birds; all the islands except the smallest rocks are described, with useful maps to put the islands in their geographical context. All breeding species have sections of text summarising their breeding biology and conservation status. The best birdwatching sites are listed and described, and there is a complete check-list. An incredibly comprehensive bibliography runs to seven pages, and all birdwatchers ‘on the front line’ who have contributed records or information to date (about 160 of them) are acknowledged individually. Even the six species which are known to have become extinct in Seychelles since 1770 are illustrated.

My only slight criticisms are that the typeface is a little faint, and that an indication of scale on the maps would have been helpful to those not familiar with the vast distances involved. These, however, are insignificant quibbles. The excellent identification sections and the huge amount of information make the book’s price a very reasonable one for anybody birdwatching in Seychelles, or simply interested in the birds of this fascinating region. Highly recommended.

John Phillips

The camera work of Paul Doherty coupled with the narrative skills of Bill Oddie continues to work well on video. This time the pair has gone for a major tour de force, and launched a double cassette encompassing 467 species found in North America. Paul Doherty has travelled the length and breadth of the continent, and has captured some beautiful images of species that most of us will never see.

So, is this a comprehensive A-Z of North American birds, showing every plumage, backed up by identification tips, comparisons with similar species, songs and diagnostic calls? The answer is no. To be fair, it does not purport to be an in-depth treatment, despite the blockbuster title. Most species are allotted just 20–30 seconds, so that, typically, only one or two individuals are illustrated, coupled with a succinct word portrait comprising key points rather than wide-ranging discussion. Think of the video as a potpourri of moving postcards, and you get an accurate picture of its contents. At times, I did feel a tinge of frustration at the brevity of both clips and commentary. Furthermore, I did wonder why many species common to both North America and Europe were included. The seabirds, for example, contain only Fulmar Fulmarus glacialis, Northern Gannet Morus bassanus, and Sooty Puffinus griseus and Manx Shearwaters P. puffinus, with not a single ‘North American’ tubenose, nor any west-coast seabirds (a few alcids apart). I assume that the video is aimed at a European market rather than a North American one, and that birdwatchers will use the tapes
to prepare for a North American trip, or as reference material for American species encountered on this side of the Atlantic. Autumn vagrant-hunters in Britain and Ireland will not, however, find any ‘confusing fall plumages’ depicted among the parulid warblers (nearly all are spring males), and when it comes to instructive shots of Yellow-billed Cacicus aurocapillus and Ovenbird Seiurus aurocapillus without hearing their evocative songs is like watching film of a Common Cuckoo Cuculus canorus without being told anything about its voice. Vocal comparisons are, however, presented well for crows (Corvidae) and meadowlarks Sturnella. A distribution summary is slavishly announced with each species, when a range map would have saved precious commentary time and done the job more effectively.

Commentary and picture part company in a few places, as, for example, when Bill characterises a particularly glum-faced female King Eider Somateria spectabilis as having a ‘happier’ facial expression than Common Eider S. mollissima. In essence, female King Eiders look as though they have a broken nose, but, more importantly, observers should concentrate on that blackish nail, very different from the lime-coloured nail of Common.

Future editions would benefit from the inclusion of Purple Finch Carpodacus purpureus, Evening Grosbeak Coccothraustes vespertinus, a lot more sparrows (Emberizinae) and a complete set of eastern Empidonax flycatchers. Often hailed as nightmarishly difficult, these last are quite straightforward, in spring and summer at least, if voice, habitat and range are taken into account. In fact, just like the video, with a little more thought and attention they may become really enjoyable.

Anthony McGeehan

**VOICES OF AMAZONIAN BIRDS**

Vols. 1 to 3. By Thomas S. Schulenberg, Curtis A. Marantz & Peter H. English. 3 CDs.

**VOICES OF ANDEAN BIRDS**

Vols. 1 and 2. By Thomas S. Schulenberg. 2 CDs.


Discs US$14.95 each.

Remarkably, these five compact discs incorporate the vocalisations of 495 Neotropical species, nearly one-sixth of the entire South American list! For many species more than one vocalisation is given, these usually including the typical song and the most frequently heard call. The quality of the recordings is generally excellent, as might be expected from a compilation put together from LNS’s vast collection. No announcements are included on the discs, so that the listener, unless very familiar with the vocalisations of Neotropical birds, has to pay close attention to the number display on the CD player and refer constantly to the accompanying leaflet (which is well produced and gives the location where each recording was made, the name of the recordist, and occasionally some additional notes such as recent taxonomic changes).

The first three of these five discs started life as a resource produced by Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology for Conservation International’s Rapid Assessment Program. At that time they were called *Birds of Lowland South-eastern Peru*, included recordings of 291 species, and could be purchased direct from Cornell, although they were not more widely distributed. The new discs, which were developed with support from The Field Museum of Chicago and are now subtitled *Birds of the Rainforest of Southern Peru and Northern Bolivia*, cover 297 species, most of which are the same recordings. Some of the species on the earlier discs have not been included this time on the Amazon discs, but do appear instead on the Andean discs. A few have been dropped altogether. Thirty new species appear on the Amazon discs, some of which are well-known widespread species, but others, such as Elusive Antpitta Grallaria eludens, Black-faced Cotinga Conioptilon melibennyi and Selva Cacique Cacicus koepckeae, are very useful additions not readily available elsewhere.

The two Andean discs, subtitled *Birds of the Hill Forest of Southern Peru and Bolivia* and *Birds of the Cloud Forest of Southern Peru and Bolivia*, respectively, include the voices of many species not readily available elsewhere, a few notable examples being Bolivian Recurve-bill Simoxenops striatus, Gray-tailed Piha Lipaugus subulatis, Trilling Tapaculo Scytalopus parvirostris and Chestnut-belted Chat-tyrant Ochthoea thoracica.

Together, the five discs provide a wonderful resource for anyone interested in Neotropical forest birds. Moreover, as so many of the species included are widely distributed in South America, they will be of considerable use well beyond the borders of Peru and Bolivia, as well as invaluable within those two superb birding countries. This excellent compilation can be thoroughly recommended.

David Fisher

*British Birds* 94: 396-397, August 2001
281 species of birds can be seen in Seychelles. Also there are 22 orders, 63 families and 156 genera in Seychelles. The Seychelles consist of an archipelago of about 100 islands in the Indian Ocean northeast of Madagascar. The principal islands are Mahé (55 sq mi; 142 sq km), Praslin (15 sq mi; 38 sq km), and La Digue (4 sq mi; 10 sq km). The Aldabra, Farquhar, and Desroches groups are included in the territory of the republic. Seychelles on the map of Eastern Africa. Eastern Africa on the World map. This category shows all birds that lived in Seychelles. Birds by Country, Vertebrates of Seychelles, Birds of Africa. Birds of Seychelles. Category page. Edit. History. Talk (0). This category shows all birds that lived in Seychelles. Trending pages. Grey Francolin. This is a list of the bird species recorded in the Seychelles. It includes a total of 238 species. However, a total of 278 species have been accepted by Seychelles Bird Records Committee (SBRC) as recorded in Seychelles up to 1 January 2021 SBRC. This total includes 277 species per the The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World plus yellow-billed kite, currently treated by Clements as a subspecies of black kite, which has also been recorded in Seychelles. Fourteen extant species are endemic. Ten have The Seychelles Warbler or Timerl Dezil in Creole, came very close to extinction in the twentieth century. In 1968 there were about 29 birds left in a small patch of mangrove trees on Cousin Island. Continue Reading. Seychelles Magpie Robin. The most endangered of the endemic birds, Seychelles Magpie Robin or Pi Santez in Creole, came very close to extinction in the late twentieth century; in 1970 there were only about 25 surviving birds on one island (Fregate Island). Continue Reading. Seychelles Blue Pigeon. Jan 28, 2019 - Explore The Seychelles Islands's board “Birds of Seychelles”, followed by 924 people on Pinterest. See more ideas about seychelles, birds, animals. Seychelles 3(4), Aride. The most northerly granite island, Aride, lies 10 km north of Praslin. Royal Society for Nature Conservation (RSNC) purchased the island in 1973, with funds provided by Christopher Cadbury. It has received legal protection as a nature reserve since 1979.