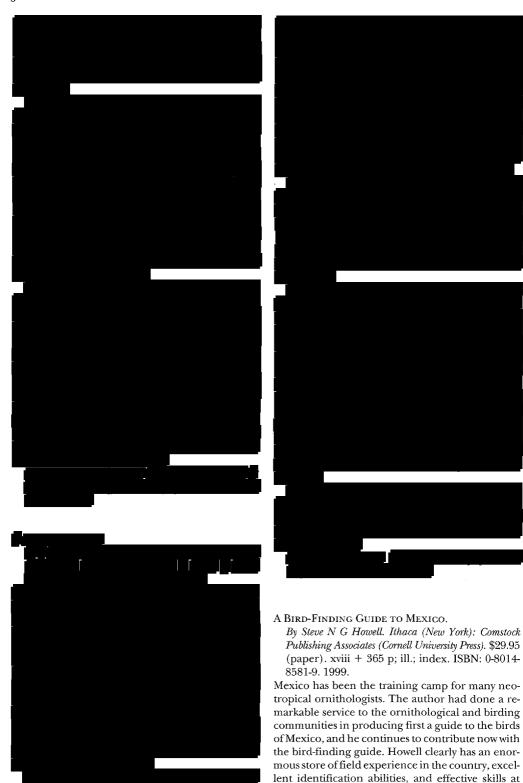
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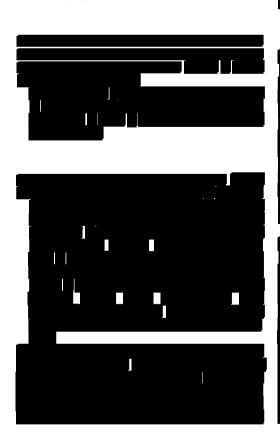
communicating his knowledge to a wide variety of readers.

A Bird-Finding Guide to Mexico is an excellent compendium of sites that birders and ornithologists can visit to see Mexican birds. The combined avifaunas of these sites sum to more than 950 species, which is almost 90% of the 1060 or so species known from the country. This diversity of sites, as well as the careful descriptions that accompany each, make this book quite useful in planning outings in Mexico.

The book is generally well presented and edited. For sites with which I am familiar, the descriptions are useful and clear, and should guide users to the interesting birds. On the negative side, Howell relies overmuch on common names (see in particular the new "splits" used), which leads to ambiguity. Howell also makes some cultural bungles. "The word mañana might come to mind when you think of Mexico . . . a national trait" (p 15) is odd if one knows Mexico. And his mirando a los pájaros ("birdwatching," p 14) has a second meaning that could cause embarrassment. Regardless, Howell has presented a very useful guide to where to see Mexican birds, more than a significant contribution.

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