

Birds of the Western Palearctic

Last to go, sitting on the shelf
when the removal men had left –
Birds of the Western Palearctic –
twenty years of birthday presents
all mapped out by me for you.

I remember waiting with excitement
for the special offer – *Ostrich to Ducks*.
The satisfying weight and heft.
Elegant cover, solid binding.
Text authoritative, yet readable.

I would have bought the whole series,
right up to *Buntings and New World Warblers*.
Then the interactive version with video clips
and sound recordings: ‘The ultimate
birding resource on DVD-ROM
for Windows and Mac OSX’.

I know I packed up volumes I to III.
But what about IV, *Terns to Woodpeckers*?
I like terns and woodpeckers –
I hope we got that far.