

A comparison of falconiform and strigiform community structure on three continents finds consistently fewer owls, and the missing owls are the large ones. This may be due to a simple habitat differentiation between these two groups: there are no thermals at night.

The chapter on matrix models provides an introduction to the leading text on that topic. The authors argue that matrix models will become the preferred method for analysis of demographic data from longterm studies. This chapter offers a primer in matrix modelling, and is remarkably lucid.

Excluding species that are crepuscular (active at dawn or dusk only), members of eight orders and 27 families of waterbirds are regularly or exclusively active at night. Most of these species are colonial breeders.

In contrast to the usual pattern, avian species richness in the summer increases with increasing latitude in the eastern United States. The two factors that facilitate this pattern are highly seasonal productivity in northern temperate forests, and migratory behaviour.

Eight different avian hatchling forms can be defined and characterised. Precociality (e.g. as in typical Anatidae) is the primitive form from which all other forms are derived.

One can always find something to complain about in reviews of this magnitude; I thought that the penguins were rather poorly served in the chapter on nocturnality. More generally, the chapters are frequently so long that they are impossible to read and absorb at a sitting. The cost of these volumes is too high for most readers of *Notornis* (whether amateur or professional ornithologists). But really, such complaints do the series a disservice and in at least some senses are in conflict with the object of the exercise. The good news is that authors will usually provide reprints, on request.

The information content and quality of presentation of volume 10 is typically excellent. I suggest that you start reading now, as it will take most of a year to do the volume justice. Vol. 11 is already here!

Ian G. McLean



The Birds of CITES and How to Identify Them. by Johannes Erritzoe, 1993. The Lutterworth Press, Cambridge. ISBN 0 7188 2894 1 hardback £30; ISBN 0 7188 2892 5 ringbound £26; ISBN 0 7188 2895 X leatherbound £95.

For the serious international ornithologist, anyone who might meet a smuggled bird, and all those who should be protecting our native wildlife from illegal imports, this book is a must. With 406 species described in detail - as one might see them in an aviary and without any reference to their natural habitat - and illustrated in colour alongside many more monochrome

illustrations of 'look alike' species, this is the first volume to bring together in colour all the birds which are listed in the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) agreement.

For those who want a reference to the CITES agreement the full text is included as an appendix and the classification of entries is further explained in the introduction. The included "Quick Guide to all Bird Families", which has monochrome illustrations of representative species and a glossary on the topography of a bird will be a great help to border control and law enforcement agencies.

Regrettably, few New Zealand birds are included in the CITES lists and those that are listed do not all match our local lists of threatened species. This book does not improve on the situation by not always recognising subspecies. For example Ghana has added their local variety of the White Heron to CITES list III and in this book the author has included New Zealand in the range of that species. To add to the confusion the taxonomic and common nomenclature differs to that in our "Checklist of Birds of New Zealand". The White Heron is listed as *Casmerodius albus*, Auckland Island Teal has Brown Teal and New Zealand Teal as the first mentioned common names, while Red-crowned Parakeet becomes Red fronted Parakeet.

The large and distinctly marked parrots should be easily recognisable from the bold and colourful illustrations but I would place money on even the most ardent Brown Teal lover not recognising the illustrations of the male Brown Teal. Kakapo lovers may also have difficulty recognising their loved one portrayed in an upright stance with a large eye and slightly modified facial features. If this illustration standard for the species we know is similar for the other, particularly more cryptic, species then the usefulness of this book must be in question - or at least this book should be used in conjunction with other reference material.

Dick Veitch



Errata

In the last issue, the title of R. Schuckard's paper (Notornis 41: 93-108, 1994) should read:

'New Zealand King Shag (*Leucocarbo carunculatus*) on Duffers Reef, Marlborough Sounds'

In the Abstracts, the sentence starting on line 9 should read:

'During the six months of courtship/breeding period, daily rhythm of the colony was different from the rest of the year; high numbers of birds departed in the early morning and afternoon.'