REVIEWS

Wells, D.R 1998. *The Birds of the Thai-Malay Peninsula Volume One*: Non Passerines. London: Academic Press. ISBN 0 124742961 1. pp Iii + 648,69 colour plates.

Malaya, together with the island state of Singapore, especially the former Malaya as now represented by Western Malaysia, has always been rather lucky in term of its ornithological literature. When this reviewer first set foot in SE Asia in 1967, around the same time that the author commenced his long sojourn at the University of Malaya, there was already a sound base of bird books available for the Malaysian region, compared with the dearth of bird books for Indonesia. The situation has changed dramatically in Indonesia over the subsequent three decades, but the state of ornithological knowledge in Malaysia has been quietly making steady progress throughout this period.

Poorly known among the present generation of ornithologists were the four volumes of Robinson and his successor Chasen, published between 1927 and 1938. The intended fifth volume was still at the planning stage when Chases lost his life during the evacuation of Singapore in 1942. It was not until 19176 that Lord Medway (now the Earl of Cranbrook) and David Wells published *77ye Birds of the Malay Peninsula Volume 5: Conclusion and Survey of Every Species* (Witherby in association with Penerbit Universiti Malaya), thus completing the series. BMP5, as it is generally abbreviated, has become the standard ornithological reference for the peninsula region, up to latitude 10°N in the Kra Peninsula of Thailand, since that time. The present new work, which can be viewed as the culmination of the author's lifetime ornithological studies in the region in both a professional capacity and as a bird watcher, is a project of the Worldwide Fund for Nature Malaysia. It was sponsored by Lady McNeice, sister of the late Dato' Loke Wan Tho, who has stipulated that royalties from sales world wide shall accrue to the WWFM Conservation Fund.

Together with BMP5, them were the invaluable Annual Bird Reports of the Malayan Nature Society Journal, which were the main mpository of records for the region until the regrettable demise of the series early in the; 1990s. There is a new breed of newsletters such as *Enggang, Suara Enggang, lora, Singapore Avifauna. Birdline Singapore, Bangkok Bird Club Bulletin* and the Siam Society's *Natural History Bulletin.* However, none of these barring the last named are designed to replace the formal documentation of records in the annual report a format which *Kukila* is attempting to emulate with its periodic regional reviews. That newsletters do not replace formal documentation is reflected by the fact that the *Handbook of the Birds of the World* (see review below) appears to have failed to pick up the recent colonization of parts of Singapore by the Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis,* (although anomalously it does mention Panti reserve in Johore).

Now at least, we can update the state of knowledge in the Malay Peninsuls, to 31 December 1995 (a summary addendum for non passerines has been promised for Volume 2 this will also need to add the Aleutian Tern *Sterna aleutica*, from the recent records in Singapore waters). Who will continue the vitally important formal documentation into the future?

The introduction to the present volume outlines the reasons for extension of the northern limit to 11^0N, thus bringing into the review the southernmost Burmese (Myanmar) territory that supports typical Sunda forest birds. The title page states that the book covers Burma and Thailand south of the

eleventh parallel, Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore. Thus the region now covers the fourteen southern provinces of Thailand (including the whole of Chumpon province), and a portion of the Pakchan division of Myanmar. The Sundanese affinities of this northern extension are confirmed by the fact that a mere four species are added by its inclusion in the region's checklist. By way of emphasizing the value of this work to Indonesian ornithology, it is worth noting *dim* the southern limit lies in sight of Indonesia's Riau Archipelago.

Inevitably, given the political circumstances of Myanmar, recent scientific data from the Tenasserim region are non existent, and concern is also expressed about the state of the environment there as indicated by satellite imagery. Indeed the state of the environment generally takes a prominent position in the 21 page introductory essay. Map 5, *which overlays* the present forest cover with the hill foot boundary, or "steepland boundary" as it is generally known, shows an almost uncanny convergence. This boundary, generally at around 150 in above sea level, effectively corresponds with the lower limit of forest cover throughout the peninsula. Very few pockets of true lowland forest remain, "upon whose fate hangs the survival of close on one half of the Peninsula's bird species". In other words, the "largest, most characteristic bird species assemblage could be near (has perhaps already passed) a point of no return". Poignant is the statement that the torching of the Chalerm Prakiat wildlife sanctuary in Narathiwat province during the latest El Nino drought, apparently by squatters, is likely to have resulted in the final extinction of several bird species from Thailand's list. All this is very relevant to Indonesia's predicament, with its massive conversion of lowland forests during the last one or two decades, and indeed Indonesia has much to fear from the next and future El Nino events (see Editorial in this issue of *Kukila).*

The introduction also provides a biogeographical review and discussion of species assemblages in the different habitat categories, and the implications for conservation. There is a comprehensive gazetteer.

Eight artists were commissioned to prepare the 69 colour plates, *which range* from the aesthetically pleasing (David Digby) to the strictly functional (the 22 plates of Dana Gardner). The plates of Chris Rose suffer from poor reproduction. The only local (but not native) artist is Geoffrey Davison, who prepared the five galliformes plates.

Sequence of families is slightly unconventional, but following a baseline Wetmore sequence that substitutes phylogenetic information as it becomes available. Thankfully the result does not have the startling changes of the Sibley Alquist sequence, but familiarity is nevertheless compromised, with gamebirds and ducks preceding the grebes and oceanic birds in the species texts. This is the sequence adopted by Christidis & Bowles (1994): The Taxonomy and Species *of Birds of Australia* and its Territories (RAOU Monograph 2). Nomenclature is more conventional, although interestingly the use of the name Boobook is again promoted for owls in the genus *Ninox*, as first proposed in the Indonesian Checklist.

The species texts generally run to between one and two pages. They are presented under the headings of Group Relations (taxonornic status), Global Range, Identification and Description (including bare part colours, measurements, and weight), Distribution (within the region), Geographical Variation (sub specific differences), Status and Population, Habitats and Ecology, Foraging and Food, Social Organization, Movements, Survival, Social Interactions, Voice, Breeding, Moult, and Conservation.

Distribution covers hale more than a historical summary by province/state, though with island records always included. More detailed information is derived from the sections on status, habitats, movements etc. Every species description is accompanied by a map, at a safisfactorily legible scale. [Not always is the space justified, e.g. the single locations at Phuket for Pied Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus*, and at Selangor for little Stint *Calidris minuta* and European Oystacatcher *Haematopus astralegus*. *A* particularly useful feature of the maps is the pink background shading for the remaining forest areas (early 1990s situation). This is closely correlated with, but not the same as, the 150 m contour (see above). Except for coastal species, or where occurrence is sporadic, distribution boundaries follow political divisions.

It is important to understand the conventions on which the maps are based (described on p. xli) in order to interpret the naps correctly. For example, there is a gap along the Songkhla coast for the Mongolian Plover *Charadrius mengolus,* but not for the Iarge Sand Plover *C. leschenaulta,* which at first sight appears anomalous, until it is realized that there we no actual records for the former from Songkhla province Thus of course, for some species the maps highlight the gaps that wait to be filled. The convention is not always followed: how else the narrow squiggly hues for the Crested Argus *Rheinardia oceliata* and the Blue throated Barbet *Megalaima asiatica*?

The maps must always be used in conjunction with the text (which is generally alongside). One should never, for example, infer from the map for Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus* that this species occurs throughout the region (except for the seven named provinces). This is an extreme lowland specialist that must surely now have a constricted and increasingly fragmented range (throughout the Sundanese region it is seemingly extinct on Sumatra, if indeed it ever occurred there). *Contra* the findings of the Endemic Bird Area approach, it is the lowland species that we need to worry about. When will the Malay Nature Society implement an atlas project, that will pin point these forest fragments and highlight the dangers? Surely, it must already bold a lot of atlas applicable data.

The maps am good at illustrating gaps in (historical) distribution. For example the lack of records of Red throated Barbet ***Megalaima mystacophanos*** from Johore and Malacca is difficult to explain. However, having gained a lot of my early regional experience in Johore, and with that state's abundant coverage by jungle starved Singaporeans. I find it difficult to agree with the author's contention that the gap is unlikely to be real especially with a bird so readily (and generally only) identified from its call.

For the most part, however, the various headings give the author splendid scope to elaborate on many regional issues. Some of the comments, such as that on the Red throated Barbet, may be unsupported opinion, but they are opinions based on over three decades of study in the region, and future workers would do well to make this a standard reference. For example he recommends caution on the proposed Collared Scops Owl *Otus bakkamoena / lempiji* split based on voice claiming that the full range of calls is heard in the Peninsula, even from the same pairs around the author's garden. But commentary is new opinionated. The "Small island Scops Owl that visited the tiny, treeless Pulau Perak in 1975 76, seemingly as a pair, and raised a brood, is merely labelled *Otus* sp. (see the commentary in *Kukila* 10 on a "bevy of owls"). However, easily overlooked is the 'footnote' added in proof, on p. liii, concerning opinions on whether this is *Otus (sunia) nicobaricus,* rather than the 'small

island' group *manadensis;* the author prefers not to reach a conclusion over its identity without knowledge of vocalizations.

Nevertheless, data is confined rather rigidly to that available within the region, in some cases to the exclusion of extra regional data that would surely be valid. Thus local bTood hosts of the Large Hawk Cuckoo *Cuculus sparverioides* are not known, but a watch on *Garrulax* sp. is recommended. Just across the water in Sumatra, Chestnut capped Laughingthrush *Garrulax mitratus* has been named as a host *(Kukila* 8:25). In contrast, the syncopated duetting between pair members of the Helmeted Hornbill *Buceros vigil* is acknowledged from Kalimantan, but is apparently unknown in the Peninsula. This is astonishing, because my own experience would suggest that duetting is the norm, in both Kalimantan and Sumatra. It seems that drumming has not yet been confirmed for the Orange backed Woodpecker *Reinwardtipicus validu,,* but I have records of this from Sumatra, and indeed from within the region in South Thailand. Another surprise is the apparent lack of awareness of the trilling call of the Lineated Barbet *Megalaima lineata* (which likewise I can confirm from both Java and again in South Thailand).

Extra regional data may be mostly excluded, but indeed how far should the spatial boundaries of research extend? Sulawesi is omitted from the range of the Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis,* but awareness does extend to voicing doubts that the Javan Plover *Charadrius javanicus* has reached species level.

As editor of *Kukila,* BMP5 has been a constant and well thumbed companion when vetting records of Sundanese species common to both Malaysia and Indonesia. With the eagerly awaited publication of the second volume of "BTMP", we shall soon have a well used update!

DAH

Balen, S. van. 1999. ***Birds on fragmented islands: persistence in the forests of Java and Bali.*** Doctoral thesis ISBN 90 5808 150 8. Also published as Tropical Resource Management Papers No 30; ISSN 0926 9495, Wageningen University and Research Centre, the Netherlands. iv+I 81 pp.

Java and Bali have 38 restricted range species (breeding range <50,000 sq. km), and between 29 and 40 endemic species, depending on taxonomic position taken; they also support many regional Indonesian endemics. At the same time they are one of the most densely populated regions in the World, and less than 10% of land area now has a forest cover. Much of the forest is montane, and only about 2.3% of the original 10 million ha of tropical lowland forest remain, in patches ranging from 50,000 ha (Meru Betiri) down to tiny remnants. Although the majority of the endemics are montane, the author lists 13 as being lowland forest dwellers [this list includes (Javan) Honey buzzard, Javan Frogmouth, (Javan) Greater Goldenback, and Olive backed Tailorbird]. The islands also have 13 species that are listed as globally threatened.

With a wealth of historical scientific data, Java and Bali form a natural laboratory for studies into extinction rates in forest remnants (while the regeneration of vegetation on Krakatau demonstrates capacity for recolonization). This valuable thesis will be a significant contribution to the on going

SLOOS debate (“single large or several small reserves”), and will also be in high demand among the centres; of learning in Indonesia.

Chapters 2 to 4 deal with survival and extinction in bird communities, of which the first two, covering Krakatau (recolonisation) and the Bogor gardens (extinctions) have been published previously under joint authorship. Chapter 4 is the key paper describing the author's research into differential extinction patterns. Chapters 5 to 10 present case studies on three threatened species, with very different biological characteristics and human relationships: the Bali Starling, Green Peafowl and Javan Hawk eagle. Chapter I I is the 16 page synthesis on "survival on overpopulated island which brings the thesis together.

Appendix 2, which tabulates the forest species for the nineteen study areas of different sizes. from 6 ha to 50,000 ha, will serve as a useful distribution list for students of Javan ornithology. It includes a columit for Madura island and for Bali Barat national park, so it is to be regretted that Baluran National Park (a habitat no less "forest” than Bali Barat) is not included. Likewise excluded am birds of prey (is Grey headed Fish eagle still extant on Java?), nocturnal birds, seasonally conspicuous birds (since when was Chestnut capped Thrush ever "conspicuous”?), as arell as most species that have both migrant and resident populations. Furthermore, these are predominantly "lowland" sites, so the author's knowledge of the distribution of birds on Java's mountain 'Islands" is not presented here. When will this thirst for knowledge of the historical and present day distribution of Java's fascinating avifauna be satisfied by the publication of the long awaited BOU Checklist for Java and Bali, for which Dr. van Balen is a co author?

It is calculated that about 43 forest species have become extinct on Java, extinctions probably peaking when rates of deforestation peaked during the le century. Are will never know what most of these arere, but Box 11.4 lists ten probable species (all extant elsewhere in the Sundanese region), while Box 11.5 lists a further eight that are still nominally on the Javan checklist but for which there am no records for half a century. The actual number of endemic species will always be an issue, but its usefulness as a biodiversity measure may be queried. Four Javan taxa have been raised recently to species status (and already included as such in the Indonesian checklist), but Box 11.6 lists a further 14 endemic sub species with very restricted distribution. Regardless of whether or not some future taxonomist raises them to full species status, will they still be extant when that time comes?

It is not only fragmentation, of forest "tat that leads to extinction (an example is the woodpecker group, which appears to “'collapse” in habitats of below 2500 ha; this is apparently also the threshold for Javan Hawk eagle populations). The list of potential catastrophes includes not just the natural (vulcanism, tsunamis, drought and fire) but also the man made. The Straw headed Bulbul is one of those fisted in Box 11.5. When the most popular cage bird species such as this are driven to extinction, unexpected alternatives come next in line. The Olive backed Tailorbird has become very popular, and indeed the traders will take almost any species which might or might not sell. [I regularly see at least three Javan Kingfisher *Halcyon cyanoventris* for sale alongside the Bandung Sumedang road, which I currently travel each day). A regrettable new hazard is posed by "loss of anonymity" the arell intentioned election of the Javan Hawk eagle as the national symbol has instigated a hitherto non existent demand for captive birds. The Green Junglefowl, a hybrid form of which is the symbol for the province of East Java, is likewise meeting increased demand. Taken overall, the combined pressures

lead to statements such as "further collapse of the avifauna is to be expected", and "a number of species are thus declining at different speeds towards eventual extinction". This might be, of course, a polite way of saying a 'headlong rush". Remember that the thesis deals only with forest birds. Quite apart from the crash in open country raptors reported in our pages, how many Black Drongos *Dicrurus macrocercus* have you seen recently in Java?

DAH

del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott & J. Sargatal. Eds. 1999. *Handbook of the Birds of the World Vol. 5. Barn-owls to Hummingbirds*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. pp.759.

As for Volume 4, superlatives are again in order. But the HBW volume that deals with night birds and swifts has got to be a winner. And hummingbirds too, although these He outside the experience of this reviearer and of many *Kukila* readers (the last 213 pages of text, and 32 colour plates, are devoted to this family). This magnificent volume brings together soar of the best photographs available of many quite obscure species, with at least one stunning photograph on every page of the long essays that introduce each family, while 19 artists have contributed to the 76 species plates, beautifully executed and superbly reproduced.

Once again, this reviearer is amazed at the rigorous discipline and incredible co ordination that must have been required to produce a 759 page volume, with 38 individual authors and at least 7400 literature citations, that was published in 1999, yet can still include references to work published in that year (see Anon (1999) in *World Birdwatch* 21(l), in relation to a new Scops owl on Sangihe Island). It goes better than this, with a reference on p. 85 to a new species of *Ninox* from Indonesia "that is likely to be described before the current year is out". This has to be *Ninox ios* (see Rasmussen 1999, in "Other literature" below). The cut off date for data derived from *Kukila* is 1997 (Volume 9), as probably 1999 was arell advanced before Volume 10 reached the HBW editorial office in Barcelona.

Perhaps one of the biggest headaches in a work of this magnitude, with such rapid advances being made in taxonomic studies, must be keeping up with the literature. Yet this feat is achieved; see for example Lambert & Rasmussen (1998) on the aforementioned Sangihe Island Scops owl, and Rasmussen (1998) on the new scops owl from Great Nicobar Island (both of which papers arere briefly revieared in *Kukila* 10 of the same year). The questions of *Otus* taxonomic status, especially island forms, are obviously very far from resolved. Regrettably, the mystery of the pair of scops owls which once visited and bred on the treeless Perak Island (see review of *The Birds of the 7hai Malay Peninsula* above) is ducked altogether, or else I overlooked it in the text. This is a pity, because interesting questions of scops owl dispersion and colonizing ability are raised by this event.

Not always are the most recent recommendations folloared. The split of the Christmas Boobook *Ninox natalis* from Moluccan Boobook *N. squamapila is* recognized (Norman *et al*. 1998 see “Other literature” below), but not of *N. hypogramma* (N. Maluku) and *N. squamapila* (Central and SE Maluku) as advocated in the same work.

The outline follows the format of the previous volumes. An "essay" introduces each family, folloared by the species accounts and plates. The authors and artists for each are named in the contents

fists at the beginning. Thus Murray Bruce is the author for both the essay and the species accounts for the barn owls, and three authors wrote the essay on the typical owls while nine authors prepared the species accounts. The essay for the typical owls runs to 76 pages, but perhaps 40% of this space is taken up with no less than 111 magnificent colour photographs (some in series). Each essay is divided into Systematics, Morphological Aspects, Habitat, General Habits, Voice, Food and Feeding, Breeding, Movements, Relationship with Man, and finally Status and Conservation, finishing with a General Bibliography. The photographs accompanying the easy on the typical owls include Moluccan Scop owl *Otus magicus*, Sulaaresi Scops owl *O. manadensis* and Sangihe Scops owl *O. collari* (all by Frank Lambert), and probably the first, colour photograph of the generally silent (and thus very poorly known) Javan Scops owl *O. angelinae* (by Manuel Ruedi).

Obviously an enormous arealth of global information is presented, but indicative ansarers are found to many specifically local question. The mystery of the single Sumatran record of White fronted Scops owl *O. sagitatus* is now placed into a context., or the two records in Sumatra (but none in Borneo) of Oriental Soops owl *O. sunia* (p. 130). There are still gaps, hoarever. Although the text on nightjars notes that peak calling times for most species are dusk and dawn, someone familiar with the two *Eurostopodus* species, of the western Sundanese region would surely have commented on the almost obligatory timing of their "song flight" at those hours, the most characteristic feature of these birds. The author of this section may have failed to pick up the range extension in 1988 of the Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affnis* into Singapore and latterly into West Malaysia, as the species is not listed for this region under Distribution; yet anomalously Panti Forest Reserve (West Malaysia) is mentioned under Status and Conservation. Under the Linchi Swiftlet *Collocalia linchi*, it is incorrect to say that in Sumatra it occurs only at high altitude, because the holotype of the sub species *ripleyi* was collected by its describer (Somadikarta 1986) at an altitude of 240 m in the Lampung plains.

Another example of the benefits of compiling such a arealth of data is the information on the colossal trade in edible swiftlet nests nearly 20 million nests a year traded across national boundaries, valued at US$ 1,060 million from Indonesia the main producer. In view of the dramatic decline in population from places such as the Niah Caves, it is pleasing to record that purpose built swift houses (p. 416) have caught on in Java (see Pramana Yuda & Felicia Zahida (1998) under "Other Literature" below). It would be very useful to know what proportion of nest derive from such "swiftlet farming", and whether any trends have been detected.

The short introduction to the volumes makes a statement on nomenclature, especially in relation to the hyphenation of group names, and follows the convention adopted by BirdLife International (e.g. Barred Owlet nightjar). It makes reference to the arguments in favour of this system as promoted by the Indonesian Checklist (Andrew, 1992: *The Birds of Indonesia:* ***a checklist***).

The 16 page Foreword is an essay (entitled *Risk Indicators and Status Assessment in Birds*) by one of the authors, Nigel Collar of Birdlife International, whose lead role in the preparation of much of the literature on threatened birds has given him a comprehensive overview of the status of conservation. As he says, by 2010 (when HBW is scheduled for completion), not only will are know more about birds than ever before; are will also have most of them "completely surrounded". David Arells' introduction to the Birds of *the Thai Malay* Peninsula carries a similar message, that very few

pockets of true lowland forest remain, "upon whose fate hangs the survival of close on one half of the Peninsula's bird species" in other words, the "largest, most characteristic bird species assemblage could be near (has perhaps already passed) a point of no return". Time is running out if HBW is not to become a historical document that passes on to our children and grandchildren the beauty and mystery of the world's avifauna that are alloared to pass into extinction.

Anyone requiring information on almost any subject relating to the owls, other night birds, and the swifts of Indonesia is likely to find it in this volume. Unfortunately, to most of our readers, anywhere, the price of HBW will inevitably make it accessible only in specialist libraries. In Indonesia this probably means only in the library of the Birdlife office.

DAH

Also received:

Mitchell Jones, A.J., Amori, G., Bogdanowicz, W., Krystufek, B., Reijuders, P.J.H., Spitzenberger, F., Stubbe, M., Thissen, J.B.M., Volhralfk, V. & J. Zima. ***Thee Atlas of European Mammals*****.** The Academic Press, London. 494 pp. E37.50.

The *Societas Europaea Mammalogica* was set up at a meeting hosted by the then *Secretariat de la Faune et de la Flore* in the National Museum of Natural History in Paris in 1988 primarily as a means for delivering an atlas project of European mammals. The first president was the late Françoise de Beaufort. Besides the ten listed authors, there arere co ordinators appointed for 37 countries or regions of Europe, 14 artists and a long list of authors of species accounts.

The atlas covers the continent of Europe east to the Black Sea and the European portion of Turkey, the borders of Russia (which country regrettably had to be excluded owing to lack of received data). It includes Iceland and Spitzbergen, and *inter alia* the smaller islands of the Azores, Madeira and the Canaries in the Atlantic, and of the Mediterranean region east to the Greek Islands. The basic mapping unit is the 50 km UTM square. Symbols differentiate betareen positive records since January 1970, with allowance for known subsequent extinctions, and presumed presence based upon earlier data. A total of 194 species is described, including introduced species. For each species, there is a map and a brief account consisting of distribution (global and European), geographic variation, habitat, population status, international legal and conservation status (which is also tabulated in an appendix), and literature. The common name of each species is given for up to 33 European languages. A useful adjunct to the maps would have been a transparent overlay giving more detailed physiographic information to assist in navigation.

Hong Kong Bird Report 1997. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, GPO Box 12460, Hong Kong. 168 pp + colour photos.

Besides the customary annual reports, the 1997 report includes the first Hong Kong records of Pacific Loon, little Gull and Chinese Leaf Warbler. The feature articles have a more local focus than usual (Greater Painted snipe, the importance of the Mai Po Ramsar site, apparent hybrid Mallard x Spot bill Ducks).

Zimmerman, Dale A., Donald, A. Turner, David. J. Pearson. 1999. ***Birds of Kenye and Northern Tanzania.*** Field Guide Edition. Princeton University Press. 576 pp, 124 colour plates, stiff covers. Price $29.95 paper, $39.50 cloth.

This is a comprehensive and detailed field guide that describes the 1084 species of the region. The preface status that it is an abridged edition of the authors' book of the same title published in 1996. The abridged text does not take short cuts, and so inevitably the font may prove rather small for genuine field use and the one kilogram areight rather heavy. Nevertheless the aims have been admirably achieved of satisfying these who "wanted all benefits of the big book available in the field". The colour plates, produce by the first author together with Ian Willis and Douglas Pratt, are of excellent quality, and tiny but legible maps accompany a majority of species texts. This reviearer has not set foot in Africa for over 27 years, but the plates of the glossy starlings; ("as seen in strong sunlight"') and the cisticolas (including the Singing, Rattling, Trilling. Siffling, Whistling, Winding, Croaking and of course our own Zitting Cisticola), soon took me back to that continent! Overall, this appears to be unusually good value for its quite modest price.

SUMMARY OF RECENT LITERATURE

Balen, S. van. 1996. The ornithological important of the Danau Sentarum wildlife reserve in West Kalimantan. *Sarawak Mus. J.* No. 71 (New Series): 125 144. Significant records from this paper have already appeared in Kalimantan Bird Report 2 (*Kukila* 9:141 169).

Balen S. van. 1998. Tropical forest raptors in Indonesia: recent information on distribution, status and conservation. *J. Raptor Research* 32(l): 56 63. Despite the title, this review covers all diurnal birds of prey, and includes not only habitat loss and hunting but also the problems of pesticide use in farmland. Includes an appendix listing the status, distribution and habitat requirements of the 68 species presently known from Indonesia (of which 10 are endemic to Indonesia while a further 7 are shared with Papua New Guinea only).

Balen S. van, V. Nijman & R. Sözer. 1999. Distribution and conservation of the Javan Hawk eagle *Spizaetus bartelsi*. *Bird Conservation International* 9: 333 349.

Balen S. van, R. Sözer. V. Nijman R. Dennis, E. Meijaard & P. Jepson. 1999. Juvenile plumage of Javan Crested Honey Buzzard, with comments on mimicri in south eastern Asian *Pernis* and *Spizaetus* species. *Dutch Birding* 21 (4): 192 198. Implicit in the tide is the comparison of the Javan sub species of the Crested Honey Buzzard, a very poorly known and apparently rare bird, with the Javan Hawk eagle, but mimicry is also examined within the two genera in Sumatra, Kalimantan, Sulaaresi and the Philippines.

Bishop. R. & A. Bishop. 1999. A record of Greater Painted snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* in Sulaaresi, Indonesia. *Forktail* 15: 105. A party of six (evidently a family party, although this is not stated)

was observed at Toraut, North Sulaaresi, on 4 and 6 August 1997, constituting the first records *of* this species for Sulaaresi.

Butchart, S.H.M., Buttu Ma'dika, Zarlif, Mohammad Yamin, Lukman, Mohammad Irfan, ldris Tinulele, Rizkan Intjehatu and Fachry Nur Mallo. *The status of Maleo in western Central Sulaaresi. Preliminary report of the Maleo Survey. Phase Two.* In a review of Rene Dekker's *Conservation and biology of megapodes* (1990) in *Kukila* 5: 152, this revieirer suggested that there are "wide areas (in Sulaaresi) where data may be lacking, but there is absolutely no cause for complacency". The long overdue extensive surveys of colonies of the Maleo *Macrocephalon maleo* are now underway, in this case through funding from NRM2/EPIQ, but the results are very much as predicted. Of 41 sites on the west coast for which there is information, the maleo is extinct at 34% and populations are declining at 82% of the active sites. Virtually all the sites are under some degree of threat, often severe. Without urgent intervention, the demise of yet another unique heritage seems assured within the space of the next few years, resulting from a combination of habitat loss, ignorance, poverty and the breakdown of traditional harvesting systems. Obviously urgent attention must be focussed upon awareness and upon key sites, and community ownership and management of the more promising sites is probably the way forward, as being developed by Kees Heij *et al.* for the Moluccan Megapode *Eulipoa wallacei* (see *Kukila* 10: 170 17 1, and Heij & Rompas, 1999, below). There is little time to lose.

Butchart, S.H.M. & Gillian C. Baker. In press. Priority sites for conservation of malcos *Macrocephalon maleo* in Central Sulaaresi. *Biological Conservation.* Out of 63 sites examined in Central and South Sulaaresi (43 of them newly discovered), only four are not yet threatened by egg collection or habitat destruction. Some 70% of the populations are declining. Eight priority sites are recommended for conservation efforts. Taking into consideration previous data from North Sulaaresi, the global population is estimated to be 4,000 7,000 breeding pairs. 131 confirmed nesting sites are known altogether, but out of the 119 whose current status is known, 42 are already abandoned, and only five are not yet threatened.

Cooper, D., J.F. Cooper & E. Hagen. 1999. Feeding behaviour of Aleutian Terns off Tanjung Balai, Indonesia. Letter to the editor, *Bull. Oriental Bird Cl.* 29:48. The story continues to unfold of Aleutian Terns wintering in Indonesian waters off Singapore. Unusual feeding behaviour is described, recalling some aspects of that of phalaropes and marsh terns, and it is questioned whether this could be a useful identification feature.

Crossland, A.C. 2000. Notes on the waders wintering at three sites at the north western tip of Sumatra. *The Stilt* 36: 4 6. Description of the waders at three sites near Banda Aceh during November December 1995.

Danielsen, F., Riza Kadarisman, H. Skov, Unang Suwarman & W.J.M. Verheugt. 1997. The Storms' Stork *Ciconia stormi* in Indonesia: breeding biology, population and conservation. *Ibis* 139 (!):

67 75. Describes the second known breeding record of Storn's Stork in the wild, at the Sembilang swamps of South Sumatra province, in 1989 (the first was in Surat Thani, South Thailand, in 1986). The population density is described as 20 to 40 within 110,000 ha of primary swamp forest, which would deduce a population of <100 birds in South Sumatra, and betareen 100 and 300 in Indonesia. The importance is emphasized of the Sembilang region, contiguous with Berbak national park in neighbouring Jambi, which hold 35 species of globally threatened species of mammals and birds. [Regrettably there has probably been serious degradation of the habitats of the Sembilang swamp, with conversions culminating in the forest fires of 1997, and the interventions planned by Aretlands International, for which funding is being sought, are regarded as extremely urgent. *Ed*.].

Diamond, J. & K.D. Bishop. 1999. *Ethno ornithology of the Ketengban People, Indonesian New Guinea.* pp 17 45 in: Medin, D.L & Scott. Atran (eds.): *Folkbiology.* Cambridge, Mass: Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press. This is a fascinating account of vernacular bird names used by people in an area of the mountains of Irian Jaya. The Ketengban language is one of approximately 1,000 native New Guinea languages; it is not written and no vocabulary has been published. It is arell known that forest darelling peoples have a very intimate knowledge of their environment, but the depth and fineness of this knowledge was found to be remarkable. The Ketengban guides of the authors had the ability to distinguish species that an so similar that an experienced ornithologist equipped with books and binoculars would have difficulty, even species that have no specifically identified function in the people's fives. The authors state that the Ketengbans "represent walking encyclopaedias of biology" with knowledge accumulated by at least 1,600 generations of humans. Inevitably the disappearance of such languages is accelerating, together with the traditional knowledge that they carry, which is unique and often of practical value. Biologists should make it a primary goal to record as much as possible of these languages before the opportunity is lost forever.

Diamond, J., K.D. Bishop & J.D. Gilardi. 1999. Geophagy in New Guinea birds. [The Alfred Newton Lecture presented at the Tropical Forests and Islands Conference, April 1"8]. *Ibis* 141: 181 193. Describes soil ingestion by up to 11 species of frugivores (mostly parrots and pigeons) at a landslide site in the Van Rees Mountains of Irian Jaya. The incidents arere systematic, parties flying in from considerable distances at regular times of the day. Hypotheses arere tested regarding the functions of geophagy, and it is suggested that in this case, geophagy serves to bind poisonous or otherwise unpleasant secondary compounds in ingested fruits and seed&

Dymond, N. 1999. Two records of Black headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala* in Sabah the first definite occurrences in Malaysia and Borneo. *Forktail* 15: 102 103. Vagrant Black headed Buntings arere observed on Pulau Tiga National Park, Sabah, in October 1996 and 1997. These confirm that the species reaches the island of Borneo as a vagrant, following earlier 'probable' records from Brunei.

Frith, C.B. & M.K. Poulsen. 1999. Distribution and status of the Paradise Crow *Lycororax pyrrhopterus* and Standardwing Bird of Paradise *Sentioptera wallacii,* with notes on biology and nidification. *Emu* 99 (4): 229 238. The two birds of paradise endemic to the northern Mollucas arere found to be the sixth and fifth most frequently recorded passerine during surveys on Halmahera. Hoarever populations on the smaller islands in the region require study and regular monitoring. The paper draws attention to the morphological differentiation of the Paradise Crow on Obi, considered by some authors as possibly having species status, but does not comment on the differences in vocalization reported by Lambert & Young (*Kukila* 7 (1):7, 1994).

Gregory Smith, R. 1997. An altitudinall study of the birds of Gunung Serapi, Sarawak. *Malayan Nat. J. Soc*. 50(4). 331 335. G. Serapi lies close to Kuching in SW Sarawak, and close to the Indonesian border. It is 911 m high (the study is confined to elevations up to 800 m), and incorporates the 2,230 ha Kubah National Park. Out of 125 spp., there arere 20 spp. not found above 300 in elevation. No doubt more intensive study would expand the altitudinal range of many species (e.g, surely the Brown Barbet *Calorhamphus fuliginosus* and Malaysian Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis turcosus* are not confined to altitudes above 500 m?). There are some strange errors in the text (e.g. Rufous fronted Babbler *Stachyris ruffirons* is described as a Borneo endemic and there is Yellow rumped Flycatclw as a typing error for Floarerpecker), while the format of the tabulated data proved difficult for ready assimilation.

Gregory Smith, R. 1997. Pale bellied Myna *Acridotheres cinereus* in SW Sarawak. *Malayan Nat. J. Soc*. 50(4): 355 356. Describes an expanding population in the region (also described under the name *A. javanicus* in the Indonesian checklist).

Gregory Smith, R. 1998, Avian radiation betareen Sundaic and Australo Papuan Zones, with particular reference to Sulaaresi. *Malayan Nat. J. Soc*. 52(3 & 4): 217 22 1.

Hale, Martin. 1997. A first record of Yellow broared Warbler for Borneo. *Malayan Nat. J. Soc.* 50(3): 195 196. Description of *Phylloscopus inornatus* neaw Kuching on 3 January 1996.

Heij, C.J. & C.F.E. Rompas. 1999. *Ekologi Megapoda Maluku (burung Momoa,* Eulipoa wallacei) *di Pulau Haruku dan beberapa pulau di Maluku, Indonesia.* Rotterdam/ Ambon. Privately published by the senior author, Meidoornsingel 75, NL 3053 BK Rotterdam the Netherlands. This is a second edition of the Indonesian version of the biology of this megapode revieared in *Kukila* 10:170 171. The Foreword notes that the second edition is updated till 31st March 1999 and contains new data, newly published literature about the Moluccan megapode, new pictures and supplements (appendix). In view of the current socio politicall situation in Maluku, the research equipment has been removed, but data on eggs and hatchlings will continue to be collected.

King, B., P. Rostron, T. Luijendijk, R. Bouwman & C. Quispel. 1999. An undescribed *Muscicapa* flycatcher on Sulaaresi, Indonesia. *Forktail* 15: 104. Thbe avifuna of this remarkable biogeographic region continues to turn up surprises. In July 1997, a distinctive brown flycatcher was discovered at three different localities, two in Lore Lindu and one at Durnoga Bone. The authors believe that they represent an undescribed species in the Asian Brown Flycatcher *M. dauurica* complex.

Marsden, S.J. 1999. Estimation of parrot and hornbill densities using a point count distance sampling method. *Ibis* 141(3): 377 390.

Marsden, S.J. 1999. Patterns of diurnal flight activity in three Indonesian parrot species. *Papageienkunde* 3: 1 8. Studies of diurnal flight activity in Eclectus and Great billed Parrots and Yellow crested Cockatoos on Sumba indicate that rapid population assessments based on brief surveys of flying parrots may had to significantly biased results, unless there is a clear understanding of the biology of individual species.

McGowan, P.J.K. *et al*.(10 authors!). 1999. A review of the status of the Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus* ard recommendations for future action. *Bird Conservation* International 8(4): 331 348.

Momberg, Frank, Paul Jepson & Hans van Noord. 1998. *Justification and boundary proposals for a new protected area in the Sebuku Sembakung region, East Kalimantan.* 2nd Edition. Bio region Managernent and Integrated Park Management Project, WWF Indonesia/ EPIQ/USAID. Tech. Memo No. 1. The former Minister of Forestry has agreed in principle to the designation of this reserve as a national park, with total area of 448,589 ha, to extend the existing Kayan Mentarang national park. The region is considered as being of out standing importance, and the larger Kayan Mentarang / Sebuku Sembaku Ecosystem has been 1isted as a potential World Heritage Site. [Hoarever, agreement in principle does not amount to legal gazettement and management, and there is still a long way to go to secure this area].

Momberg, Frank, Paul Jepson & Hans van Noord. 1.998. *Thade in the Hill Myna* Gracula religiosa *from the Mahakam Lakes Region, East Kalimantan.* Bio regional Management and Integrated Park Management Project. WWF Indonesia/ EPIQ/USAID Tech. Mum No. 4. During a July 1998 survey the author found that the trade in Hill Mynas in the Mahakam Lakes region was locally substansial. A very rough estimate was made of 7000 birds per year being traded in the province. A sister report (Jepson, Momberg & van Noord: *Trade in reptiles from the Middle Mahakam Lake Area, East Kalimantan, lndonesia, with evidence of a casual link to the forest fires,* Tech. Memo. No. 3) notes that swamp forest habitats wore deliberately burned during the 1997/98 EI Nino drought to assist in capturing reptiles, particularly fresh water turtles, as a of income during hardship.

Momberg, Frank, Paul Jepson & Hans van Noord. 1998. *Kalimantan briodiversity Assessment. WWF Indonesia Project for Integrated Park Management and Bioregional Planning.* WWF Indonesia. This report focuses on 'bioregional planning' specifically for the province of East Kalimantan. This is timely, in view of the wholesale destruction of Kalimantan's natural habitats through galloping rates of conversion and the horrific episodes of forest fires during the past two decades.

Norman, J., 1. Christidis, M. Westerman & F.A.R. Hill. 1998. Molecular data confirms the species status of the Christmas Island Hawk owl *Ninox natalis. Emu* 98(4): 197 208.

O'Brien, T.G., M.F. Kinnaird, Sunarto, A.A. Dwiyahreni, W.M. Rombang & K. Anggraini. 1998. *Effects of the 1997fires on theforest and wildlife of the Bukit Barisan Selaran National Park, Sumatra,* ppl6. Wildlife Conservation Society Working Paper No. 13. New York. Fires nivaged several millions of hectares, especially of Sumatra and Kalimantan, during the drought of 1997 98. This report presents the results of a quantitative study on the impact of the fires on wildlife in one of the affected national parks.

O'Brien, T.G. *et al.* (5 authors). 1999. Distribution and conservation status of Bornean Peacockpheasant *Polyplectron schleiermacheri* in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia. *Bird Conservation* International 8(4): 373 385.

Poulsen, M.K. 1998. *Prioritas Konservasi Keragaman Hayari di Pulau Duru: Dengan Acuan Khusus tentang Usulan Suaka Margasativa Kapalat* Mada [Biodiversity Conservation Priorities on Buru with Special Reference to the Proposed Kapalat Mada Wildlife Sanctuary]. PHPA/BirdUfe International, Bogor. Report No 8. With its ten endemic species, and many regional endemic taxa, the island of Buru surely justifies priority treatment. The 1,450 sq. km proposed wildlife reserve already has the status of Protection Forest, but gazettement of the change in status should nevertheless be treated as urgent.

Poulsen, M.K., F.R. Lambert & Y. Cahyadin. 1998. *Evaluation of the Proposed Lalobata andAke Tajaare National Park in the context of biodiversity conservation priorities on Halmahera.* Bogor: PKA/BirdLife International Indonesia Programme. Report No. 9. [Published in both English and Indonesia in a single volume]. Halmahera is surely a major priority, with *inter alia* its four endemic bird genera (see, for example, Frith and Poulsen, above), its 24 endemic species, its 43 restricted range species, its 5 threatened species, and its current status as the *largest island in Indonesia without* a *protected area.* 'Me two areas of Lalobata (1,400 sq. km) and Ake Tajaare (730 sq. kin, not 7,400 as given in the Summary) are separated by a proposed buffer zone that would have degrees of protection status, the entire area to be managed as a single unit. Elsewhere in the Halmahera group of islands, the only other 'protected' area is a nature reserve at Ginning Sibela on Bacan.

Ign. PTamana Yuda & Felicia Zahida (Eds). 1998. *Prosiding Seminar Regional Pengelolaan Sarang Burung Walet Secara Berkelanjuum* (Proceedings on a regional seminar on the sustainable

management of swiftlet nests). Universitas Atma Jaya Yogjakarta. The seminar, held on 30 November 1998, was organized by the Biology Faculty of Atma Jaya University together with Yayasan KERATI (Foundation). 11w proceedings (in the Indonesian language) examine the ecology of Indonesian species of swiftlet, especially in relation to cave ecosystems, the declining yields of birds' nests from the limestone caves of Gunung Kidul (Yogjakarta), and the growth and potential of the practice of artificial nesting sites,

While the declining yields from caves throughout SE Asia, from over harvesting in response to growing markets in Hong Kong and elsewhere, has long been a concern owners of shop houses having breeding 'birds' nest' swiftlet colonies have always appreciated their good fortune and looked after their source of revenue. This would be one example of the huge importance of secure property rights in the management of natural resources. Recently there has been an extraordinary expansion of 'houses' specially constructed to attract swiftlets (and the accompanying large profits) in Java, which alleviates these concerns to some extent.

It appears that most nests harvested from natural sites in Sumatra and Kali am the Black nest Swiftlet *Aerodromus maximus,* with a few white nests, here described as deriving from *A. germani.* The production from the artificial houses on Java is entirely of the White nest Swiftlet *A. fuciphagus.* Booklets are available on construction and management techniques for these houses (manipulation of fight intensity, humidity mad temperature, fostering of young *faciphaga* by the first occupants, which am usually C*ollocalia esculenra*) There were (in 1994) some 1500 swiftlet houses on Java, but it is five or six years before the first harvest can be taken. Information is not available on how many of these houses fail to come to fruition.

Rasmussen, P.C. 1999. A new species of hawk owl Ninax from North Sulawesi, Indonesia. *Wilson Bull*. 111(4): 457464. The description is presented of the type (and only) specimen from which the Cinnabar Hawk owl *Ninox ios* was named.

Rozendaal, F.G. & F.R. Lambert. 1999. The taxonomic and conservation status of *Pinarolestes sanghirensis* Oustalet 1881. *Forktail* 15: 1 13. Tlie Wallacean Check list (White & Bruce 1986) dismissed the Sangihe provenance for two specimens of Rufous or Little Shrike thrus *Colluricincla megarhyncha sanghirensis* in the Natural History Museum of Paris as a likely incidence of mis labelling. The taxon has been subsequently rediscovered in steep forest rentrasits on Sangihe and is hem re described. It is resunncted as the Sangibe Shrikethrush *Colluricincla sanghirensis,* gndanic to the island of Sangibe and adding yet further to the unique endemism of The Sangihe Talaud islands (see reviews in *Kukila* 10).

Trainor, C., Prayitno, W., Lesmana, D., and A. Gatur. 2000. *Thse biological and cultural importance of the Mbeliling forest for Biodiverstry Conservation on Flores* PKA/BirdLife lnternationaVWWF, Bogor. Repot No. 10. pp. 67. Bilingual report on the Mbeliling forests of the SW comer of Flores bow of the Flores Monarch, Wallace's Hanging parrot and Flores Crow.

Vickery, P.D. & J.R. Herkert (eds.). 1999. *Ecology and conservation of grassland birds of the Western Hemisphere.* Proceedings of a Conference, Tulsa, Oklahoma, October 1995. Cooper Ornithological Society, Studies in Avian Biology No 19. viii + 299 pp.

Widodo, W., J.H. Cox & P.C. Rasmussen. 1999. Rediscovery of Flores Scops Owl *Otus alfredi* on Flores, Indonesia, and reaffirmation of its specific status. *Forktail* 15: 15 23. Resolution of the mysteries and affinities of the Flores Scops Owl are now in sight after the collection of a fourth specimen in 1994. This (presumed) endemic taxon is now confirmed as a full species, most closely related to the *spilocephalus* group, negating theories that it is a rufous morph of more widely occurring scops owls. Its territorial vocalizations, along with those of *O. angelinae* of Java, still await description.