

## REVIEWS

**MacKinnon, J. & K. Phillipps. 1993. *A field guide to the birds of Borneo, Sumatra, Java and Ball*. Oxford University Press. 491 + xvi pp, 88 colour plates.**

This publication of a field guide to the Greater Sunda islands undoubtedly marks a break-through in Indonesian bird literature. While field guides proliferate around the world, ornithologists in Indonesia had to make do with a guide covering an adjacent area, the SE Asian field guide of King *et al.*, but this covers neither the endemics of the Greater Sundas nor, perhaps of equal significance, the sub-specific variations that are found on those islands. Alternatively, there were the older identification manuals such as Smythies' *Birds of Borneo* and Delacour's *Birds of Malaysia*, and the much older and now virtually unobtainable publications for Java by Kuroda or Hoogerwerf. John MacKinnon began to fill the gap with his *Field Guide to the Birds of Java and Ball* in 1988 (Gadjah Mada University Press), reviewed in *Kukila* 4:158-160. A further and much bigger step forward has now been taken.

A Greater Sundas guide has long been mooted by different potential authors; John MacKinnon and Karen Phillipps are to be congratulated for getting down to the task and bringing it speedily to fruition. The magnitude of this task is illustrated by the fact that no less than 820 species are described (this compares with the almost 1200 in the SE Asian field guide). With its more open format, the book (soft cover version) is larger than the equivalent version of the SE Asian guide, and easier to use, although its additional 200g might displease those who insist on carrying their identification guides into the field. There are 88 colour plates, sensibly all within one section at the front of the book. The book follows conventional field guide format, but for once without the pointers on the plates that appear to have become an almost obligatory feature nowadays.

The authors have largely kept abreast with the changing fashions of species definition, and nomenclature generally follows Sibley & Monroe (1990), although they wisely refrain from thrusting new sequences upon us. One might not always agree with the species splits but, with a few exceptions, they are in line with those in the Indonesian Checklist (1992). The authors are to be commended particularly on the treatment, in text and figures, of sub-specific variation. Even the melanistic phase of Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus atriceps* gets a description.

The introductory chapters occupy 44 pages, and together with the preliminary glossary and anatomy, provide a useful and well-written guide that will be especially valuable for novices and for those who are new to the region. There are succinct chapters on the region's geography, habitats and biogeography, but the map on p.4 (a larger version lies inside the front cover) has a rather unusual selection of names and features. While Borneo is shown as having five rivers (with the same line format as the international border), Sumatra has none. The West Sumatran islands appear as the Mentaur islands, although as shown, it might be inferred that Mentaur is an alternative name for Mentawai. Why does the map show Tambelan rather than Pontianak? The map does, however, neatly summarize the remaining forest cover.

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The section on conservation is short but instructive. It shows diagrammatically the rate of forest loss on Sumatra. Bar charts provide strong circumstantial evidence of the extent of losses from the avifauna of Java, and serve as a poignant warning for the need to preserve the remaining lowland forests on the other islands. The first-time visitor will appreciate the chapter on "When and where to see birds", although the rare species given for some of the reserves may be somewhat optimistic. Have Wallace's Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus nanus*. Silvery Wood-pigeon *Columba argentina* and Buettikoffer's Babbler *Pellomeum buettikofferi* really been confirmed in Berbak, and should we look for Rueck's Blue Flycatcher *Cyomis rueldi* in Gunung Leuser? There are also some errors such as on p. 22 where it is stated that the Javan Plover is extinct (this should be Javanese Lapwing *Vanellus macropterus*).

### The plates

The colour plates are the book's most rewarding feature. All but five species are illustrated (three of these are extreme vagrants and one is regionally extinct; the fifth is the Cave Swiftlet *Collocalia linchi*, which is compared in the caption with the Glossy Swiftlet *C. esculenta*). It is difficult to pick fault with any of the plates, except that perhaps some of the colours may be a little strong (e.g. Sunda Whistling Thrush *Myophonus glaucinus*). The Javan Tesia *Tesia superciliaris* should be compared with the amorphous specimen illustrated in the Java-Bali guide. If only birds always carried such perfect plumage! There are some errors, for example the juvenile Javan Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus barteisi* should have rufous underparts, not white, the Sunda Bhie Robin *Cinclidium diana* should have a silvery-white forehead (as correctly described in the text), and the tail of the Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja* should be purple, not blue. It is a pity that space could not be found to illustrate the juvenile plumage of the Javan Kingfisher *Halcyon cyanoventris*, in view of similarities to the White-throated *H. smyrnensis* and the latter species' apparent attempts to invade Java from Sumatra. There are also errors with some of the scales, for example the Blue-breasted Quail *Coturnix chinensis* and the Ruddy Cuckoo-dove *Macropygia emiliana* should both be smaller compared with some of the other species on the same plates. In the text drawings, the author informs us that the Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* has been mistakenly presented on p. 72 for the Black-necked, *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*, although not one reviewer has yet noticed this

However, sometimes the text provides inadequate support for the plates to achieve their objective. For example, they do not assist in the difficulties of distinguishing Kentish, Javan and Red-capped Plovers *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *C. javanicus* and *C. ruficapillus*. The significance of the illustrations relating to different months and sexes is not explained (just south of the equator, which month would be breeding plumage?). If the "January male" Red-capped Plover represents breeding plumage, presumably the "July female (East Java)" is non-breeding, but this begs two questions (the January female and the July male)! These are not answered in the text; here it is stated that the bird has an "incomplete white collar", in contrast to the plate caption which states "no white hind collar".

Another example of poor support from the text is the Thick-billed Spiderhunter *Arachnothera crassirostris*, shov.-n in the plate to have orange pectoral tufts. In fact, coloured pectoral tufts are

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not the monopoly of this species, although the text makes reference to these only for the Yellow-eared *A. chrysozenys*, which has grey tufts.

There are some errors with the distribution codes on the plates, although these are correct in the text. For example, the Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis* and Ruddy Cuckoo-dove both occur on Borneo and Sumatra, the Black-headed Munia *Lonchura malacca* does not occur on Java and, sadly for those not yet familiar with the revised taxonomic status of Temminck's Sunbird *Aethopyga temminckii* and Scarlet Sunbird *A. mystacalis*, these are also incorrectly annotated (the former occurs on Sumatra and Borneo, the latter on Java).

### Systematic section

The systematic section follows conventional format, with sub-headings for Description, Voice, Range, Distribution and Status, and Habits. There is a brief introduction to each family. Alternative English names are given for many species, if not most. However, the system is a little confusing and may perhaps be somewhat overdone. Thus *Otus umbra* is named the Simeuteu Scops-owl, but no less than three alternatives are given: Simular, Simulu and Mentaur Scops-owl. The first two of these are no more than out-of-use alternative spellings for the island name, while the third name would apply to the entire West Sumatran chain, an unfortunate choice in view of other endemic owl taxa in these islands. It seems barely necessary to give any of these alternatives.

In contrast, the widely known alternative name of Brush Cuckoo (the name used in King *et al.*) for the Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis sepulcralis* is omitted, in favour of Grey-headed Cuckoo, although a footnote correctly points out that Brush Cuckoo is the name for *C. variolosus* (an Australo-Papuan form that formerly included *sepulcralis*). On p. 13 there is reference to "Scarlet Finch", a name which appears nowhere else in the book (including the index); presumably it refers to the Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava* (otherwise known as Strawberry Finch/Strawberry Waxbill/Red Munia!), although we were not aware that this species formerly predated crops in "hundreds of thousands".

It was pointed out above, under the *Charadrius* plovers, that the definition of seasons in the equatorial regions requires special care. What, for example, is meant by the White-headed Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus* being an "uncommon summer visitor" to South Sumatra - whose summer is intended by this? (It is in fact now known to be a rare breeder there). The statement on status of the Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus* misses the point that at least in the southern parts of the Greater Sundas, austral winter migrants greatly outnumber those during the northern winter.

There are also distribution errors in the text. For example, the text repeats what appears to be an error from Smythies that the Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* is "probably resident in the Barito drainage". Surely, the description of the Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* as an "occasional winter visitor to Brunei" is hardly a proper description of this bird's vagrant status in the region.

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Under status, for example, "regularly seen along the coastlines" is possibly an optimistic statement for the potentially threatened Beach Thick-knee *Burhinus giganteus* (= *Esacus magnirostris*), a bird almost unknown from mainland Sumatra, while the Yellow-throated Hanging-parrot *Loriculus pusillus* is hardly a common bird in Java and Bali. The range of the Black-backed Kingfisher *Ceyx erithacus* is much wider than that given, although within the region it is found only on Sumatra and Borneo, not throughout the Greater Sundas as implied, and it is important to register that some forms are migrant.

Under the Silvery Wood-pigeon *Columba argentina*, the statement about the "completely black terminal half of tail" has no complementary statement under Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula bicolor*, nor in the plate captions, allowing for possible confusion. For the minivets, more emphasis should be given to the advantages to be gained from studying the females, and especially to the similarities between the Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus* and the very dark throated local subspecies of the Grey-chinned Minivet *P. Solaris*. For the bulbuls, eye colour can be a very useful guide, provided that the pitfalls of racial variations are understood, but more clarification is needed here. The opportunity has been taken to characterize the various races of Striped Tit-babbler *Macronous gularis* but the sub-species extant on Java is not adequately distinguished from the Grey-cheeked Tit-babbler *M. flavicollis*.

Habitats are sometimes incorrectly described. Coastal scrub, grass and secondary forest are not even typical subsidiary habitats of the Short-toed Coucal *Centropus rectunguis*, which is primarily but not exclusively a bird of alluvial forest. Surely the Edible-nest Swiftlet *Collocalia fuciphaga* also nests in buildings, and is widespread in Java and Bali? And another typical habitat of the White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti* is swampy areas of lowland forest, not necessarily associated with running water.

### Voice:

The concept of the sonosketches in Appendix 6 is excellent, although with a little more professionalism the product might have been so much better. In so many cases, the prefixes a), b) and c) are used without any cross-reference to the text, and thus have little meaning. It is acknowledged that the sketches are not to scale, but at least a common time scale on the horizontal axis might have been adopted throughout. Many of the sketches are difficult to recognize and bear very little relationship with the calls as known to the reviewers. It seems extraordinary that the sonagram of the Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* should be included, a bird that is known from just one positive record in the Greater Sundas, unless it is there purely to demonstrate the advantage of sonagrams for the benefit of European readers!

In the text, the voice of the Bornean Peacock-pheasant *Polyplectron schleiermacheri* is apparently copied directly from Smythies, but how was the sonagram derived - by further extrapolation from the same source? The description of the voice of the Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* misses the point that the call is repeated quite fast, but this feature is captured in the sonagram.

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## Appendices

At the rear of the book, there are several appendices, which have potential for considerable practical use. Appendix 1, a list of endemic and threatened species in the main reserves, would be more user-friendly if the reserve symbols at the head of the appendix were also separated into three islands, as in the columns.

Unfortunately the lists of endangered and threatened birds by island in Appendix 2 appear to be somewhat arbitrarily selected. For example, why is *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus* omitted from the Java list, whereas *Treron curvirostra* is included? The latter has only ever occurred on Deli and Tinjil islands of Java, where it is still common. The Sumatran list is seriously deficient (what of the White-winged Wood-duck *Cairina scutulata*, while *Cyornis ruckii* is merely described as rare), while Borneo apparently warrants only 13 species. It might have been more useful to simply list the threatened species from *Birds to Watch* for each island.

Appendix 3, land birds listed by island group, has a very serious error, in that column 2 ('B') is headed Batu Islands and column 4 ('B') the Banyak Islands. The names are reversed. It is not clear which is intended by "Sunda Straits Island". Some errors were also noted in the species for the West Sumatran islands (see the review of these islands by Holmes in the last issue of *Kukila*), and does *Spizaefus nanus* occur on Kangean? Nevertheless, the concept of reserve, island and mountain lists in Appendices 1, 3 and 4 is a useful one, and thankfully names are given (scientific names only), which is an enormous improvement on the species numbers only that were given in the companion volume on Java and Bah,

Appendix 5 is an annotated list of birds of the Malay Peninsula not described in the text, while Appendix 6 gives the sonosketches. Appendix 7 is a list of regional clubs, journals and museums, but unfortunately a long out-of-date address is given for WWF Indonesia, and the post code of *Kuidia* is incorrect.

It could be argued, perhaps, that the compilation of this book has been too hasty. Was there a self-imposed or publisher's deadline that left insufficient time for intensive checking and proof-reading by the authors or by the two named collaborators, Paul Andrew and Frank Rozendaal? There is an impressive list of persons acknowledged at the front of the book, but it is questioned how many of these were actually consulted - do the consultations in reality date back to the first author's Java and Bah guide? Would the collaborators and colleagues have allowed "no information" to remain for the voice of the Elegant Pitta *Pitta elegans*, or no description of the song of the Grey-breasted Babbler *Malacopteron albolulare*. A big opportunity may have been lost to draw together the immense amount of field data that has been gathered in recent years. But at the same time, and more significantly, the foundation has now been prepared for a systematic updating in future editions that should incorporate the new data as they become available. It is reported that a reprint is already in progress, but it would be wiser to await a complete list of corrections. A list of errors, by no means all included in this review, is being forwarded to the authors.

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The pace at which Indonesia has taken its proper place on the ornithological map of the world is impressive, but until very recently, adequate field guides were simply not available or accessible for most of the country. Thankfully this is now being corrected, first with the New Guinea guide of Beehler, Pratt & Zimmerman (1986), then MacKinnon's guide to Java and Bali (1988), and now the present (Greater Sundas) guide. The only one of these that is readily accessible, either in price or availability, to most Indonesians is the Java and Bali book, published within the country and also translated into Indonesian. An Indonesian translation is reported to be in preparation of the current book, which will hopefully become accessible on the domestic market.

In the meantime, we await with eager anticipation the publication of the Wallacean Handbook, scheduled for 1995, that will complete the field guide coverage of this incredibly diverse nation.

DAH/SvB

**Madge, S. & H. Brown (date not given).** *Crows & Jays*. Helm/A & C Black, London. £25.95

There is something mysterious about this book: something related to the copyrights that resulted in its disappearance and re-appearance, and the fact that the book has no date. Also the fact that there is half a page of errata suggests a somewhat hurried printing. The book misses the general but normally very informative introduction of the other volumes in the series, yet has some rather redundant pages with a glossary and bird topography.

The plates are less meticulously produced than we are now accustomed to see in this series, but nevertheless of a high standard. The 30 colour plates include 15 species occurring in Indonesia, notable among which are the Banggai and Flores Crows. Intriguing are the Short-tailed Magpies of Java and Borneo: after reading the call descriptions for the latter island, compared with the cans known to the reviewer on the former, these may justify full species status. A split has been made for the Sumatran and Bornean Treepies, treatment also followed by MacKinnon & Philipps (see above). Another "extra" species for Indonesia is provided by separating the Violaceous Crow (from the Phillipines and Seram) from the Slender-billed Crow.

SvB

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**Clement, P., A. Harris & J. Davis (1993).** *Finches & Sparrows*. Hehn, London. £29.99

This is the fattest volume of the Hehn series to date. With 73 colour plates, it describes the 290 finches and Old World sparrows, among which are included 33 in the Indonesian avifauna (phis 3 species from Papua New Guinea). There are no surprising split or lumped species. Two artists, Alan Harris and John Davis, produced the plates, which are of a high standard. Their rather different styles, however, are slightly disturbing in the European serins (Davis gave these big, 'wide-awake' eyes) and African canaries (Harris provided them with tiny shrew eyes).

SvB

**Smith, S.W. (1993-1994).** *Bird recordings from the Moluccas, Lesser Sundas, Sulawesi and Java, Bali & Sumatra*. Four home-made cassette tapes, 46-minutes each, £7.50 each.

A relatively new product on the ever-growing market of birdwatcher's accessories is the home-made bird cassette. Steve Smith has produced a series of four tapes recorded during his visit in June -November 1991. The cuts of endemic species are especially valuable. The tapes are provided with simple cachets with lists of the species in minuscule printing. Each cut has the spoken English name of the bird (which is not always the same as written - the nomenclature of the Indonesian checklist is used in this review). A small pamphlet would have been more useful, as in many cases the background voices, which are sometimes of better quality than the primary, are not identified. Also, in too many cases, only the alarm or other vocalisations are given, often without the song. A reference is made to "further details - in a companion bird report", but no information is given on the title of this or how to obtain it.

A fault of commercial »-ordings of this nature is that they tend not to give a full repertoire of vocalizations for any one species, which can be confusing to a beginner. For example, only the 'bultok' call is given for the lined Barbet *Megalaima lineata* in Java, not the trilling call, while on the Sulawesi tape, both the rising and cadence calls are given for the Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomamis merulinus*, but the latter call of the Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *C. sepulcralis* is not given for the all important comparison. Perhaps this merely illustrates the need for further and more comprehensive compilations.

Some detailed comments are appended:

#### **Java and Bali & Sumatra.**

With these islands having so many endemics, the number of those recorded here is rather low: ca. 13 species, an unidentified Grey-throated Darkeye *Lophozasterops javanicus* in the background not included. Some of the other overheard birds in the background are the Banded Pitta *Pitta gtiajema* (which is just as prominent as the listed species Le. Common Taflorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*), Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus atriceps* and Mangrove Whistler *Pachycephala grisola*. The cuts are of

variable quality, for example one might have difficulty in identifying the Blue-tailed Trogon *Harpactes reinwardtii* from the tape, and most of the Cibodas recordings have apparently been recorded near the waterfalls and river; indeed the Pygmy Th *Psaltria exilis* was simply inaudible on our copies. It is unfortunate that, amongst other species, the Russet Bush-warbler *Bradypterus seebohmi* and Greyheaded Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis* are not presented with their very characteristic songs.

### Lesser Sunnas.

Out of 45 species, about half are endemic to the region, and there are some cuts of very high quality. We particularly enjoyed the Flores Crow *Corvus florensis*, the Orange-banded Thrush *Zoothera peronii*, one segment of the Plain Flyeater *Gerygone inomata*, and that unique bird so familiar to visitors to Ruteng, the Bare-throated Whistler *Pachycephala nudigula*. DAH was especially pleased to have confirmed two species which he had difficulty in pinning down in Timor, the Buff-banded Bushbird *Buettikoferella bivittata* in forest, and the Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta* which makes similar noises outside the forest. Worthy of comment would be the unusual mono-syllabic call of the Elegant Pitta *Pitta elegans* from Sumba (the call from Bores is the typical disyllabic call). In contrast, it is difficult to determine which sound is uttered by the Little Minivet *Pericrocotus lansbergei*.

Of interest to many will be the unknown Scopsowl *Otus* sp. from Sumba, although in our opinion the call might equally belong to a Boobook *Ninox* sp. Is one bird calling, or two?

### Sulawesi.

The tape manages to capture some 24 of Sulawesi's endemics. Particularly evocative of the mournful quality of many Sulawesi forest calls are the Black-billed Koel *Eudynamis melanorhyncha* and the Bay Coucal *Centropus celebensis*. While the Maleo *Macrocephalon maleo* and Golden-mantled Racquet-tail *Prioniturus platurus* calls are too short, those of the Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus* and the Moluccan Scopsowl *Otus manadensis* are much too long, although at least both calls of the cuckoo are heard. The Citrine Flycatcher *Culicicapa helianthea* occurs without mention as background in several recordings where it is sometimes more conspicuous than the primary species (e.g. in the Bush-warbler *Bradypterus castaneus* cut). Black-naped Fruit-dove *Ptilinopus melanospila* also occurs in the background of several recordings. The drumming of the Ashy Woodpecker *Mulleripicus fulvus* is particularly fine, although we only hear it twice.

### Moluccas.

Especially useful are the calls of the two (often elusive) Fruit-doves, the Superb *Ptilinopus superbus* and White-bibbed *P. rivoli*, the two owls (the Hillmahera race of Moluccan Scopsowl *Otus magicus* and the Mohiccan Boobook *Ninox squamapila*), and the two quite different calls of the Ivory-breasted Pitta *Pitta maxima*, but these are to name just a few. The Long-billed Crow *Corvus validus* recording is useful to distinguish it from Torresian Crow *C. orru* (although the latter is not included). Several other North Moluccan endemics are given: e.g. (rather distant)



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Wallace's Standardwing *Semioptera Wallace!* and Paradise Crow *Lycocorax pyrrhopterus*. Several times a scrubfowl is overheard in the background (e.g. Dusky scrubfowl *Megapodius freycinet* with the second hobbill), as is an Arctic Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*. The Moluecan Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina atriceps* calls are seemingly mixed with those of another species, and it is unfortunate that the more typical calls of the friarbirds do not appear to be given.

SvB, DAH

**Gibbs, D. Indonesia 1990. Home-made cassette, 90 minutes.** Available from Wildsounds at £6.50, or direct from the author (28 Blackamoor Lane, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 8RD, UK).

This may be an opportune moment to briefly review another cassette that has been in our possession for three years. David Gibbs covered similar terrain (Sulawesi, Hahnahera, Java and Sumatra), and recorded many of the same species; one even wonders if some of the Hahnahera cuts from Kali Putih (eg. Moluecan Scopsowl, Ivory-breasted Pitta and Wallace's Standardwing) may have been from the same individuals! Clearly the single 90-minute tape covering birds from four islands carries very much fewer species, especially as the individual cuts are generally longer than those of Steve Smith. However, for those seeking quality recordings, this tape is highly recommended. Additional endemic species not covered by Smith include: Sulawesi Hawk-cuckoo *Cuculus crassirostris*. Great Shortwing *Heinrichia calligyna*. Lilac-cheeked Kingfisher *Cittura cyanotis*, and Moluecan Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles crinifrons*, and it is pleasing to hear both the rising and cadence calls of the Rusty-breasted Cuckoo.

DAH/SvB

**Pilai Poonswad & Alan C. Kemp (eds.). 1993. Manual to the conservation of Asian Hornbills.** Hornbill Project, Dept. of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand, xviii +513 pp, 30 pp of colour plates, numerous line drawings and maps. ISBN 974-587-693-3.

It seems strange that Dr. Pilai Poonswad who, together with Alan Kemp, has been instrumental in initiating, undertaking and guiding hornbill conservation studies in Asia, is not listed as a member of the Hornbill Specialist Group in the January 1993 Directory of the Species Survival Commission of the IUCN. Although some 21 contributors are listed in this manual, including three from Indonesia, this magnificent compendium of information on Asian Hornbills must be viewed as a tribute to her on-going commitment to the plight of hornbills in her native Thailand and neighbouring Asian countries. It is certainly the most comprehensive compilation to date on the biology, ecology, study techniques and conservation of this striking family. Hornbills are valuable both as indicators of ecological health, and as "flagship" species that have great popular appeal. It might be argued that the protection of sufficient habitat to conserve viable populations of hornbills will be adequate to conserve the majority of the animal species that share that habitat, although it

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should be remembered that, with their powers of flight, hornbills are somewhat tolerant of habitat fragmentation.

The book is divided into three parts. Part I consists of General Information on Asian Hornbills. The first chapter by Alan Kemp places the subject matter in context, while the bulk of the rest of this section, written by Dr. Pilai, provides the detailed species-orientated description and biology. There are 31 species recognized in Asia, in six genera (*Rhinoplax* is included in *Buceros*, and *Rhyticeros* and *Berenicornis* in *Aceros*), of which 13 occur in Indonesia (this excludes *Rhyticeros subruficollis* as an Indonesian species). Part II describes Field Techniques, which will be especially valuable for research workers, and includes aspects of radio-tagging. Part III consists of the Proceedings of the First International Workshop on the Conservation of Asian Hornbills and their Habitats which was held at Khao Yai National Park in Thailand in April 1992, which includes country statements on hornbill status and distribution. The manual concludes with the magnificent series of colour plates.

This work will be the standard reference on Asian hornbills for the foreseeable future, and will be compulsory reading for many students of tropical ecology, not just those engaged in the study of hornbills. My one criticism must be the high price: US\$ 100 (inclusive of surface mail). This is at least partly the result of the large print face and high quality paper, resulting in a book that weighs nearly 2 kg. Is the "coffee table" format appropriate for a manual of this nature?

DAH

**ALSO RECEIVED:**

**Bock, Walter J. (1994). *History and nomenclature of avian family-group names*. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. No. 222. 281 pp, 1 fig., 5 tables. Price \$ 22.00**

This publication is the product of the analysis by the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature of the nomenclatural history of avian family-group names. Among the results, of particular interest to checklist authors and editors, is a complete list of avian family-group names with authors, dates, and citations, and a formal application to the ICZN to adopt the presented list as the official base-line.

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**Hong Kong Bird Report 1993.** Available from Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, GPO Box 12460, Hong Kong. Price HK\$ 150 plus postage.

This annual report continues to grow in size, with over 220 pages liberally illustrated with colour photographs. Among the crop of this year's first records will be found identification notes, potentially of interest to birders in Indonesia, of Red-necked and Grey Phalaropes, and of the five species of *Locustella* warblers (*L. certhiola*, *L. lanceolata*, *L. fasciolata*, *L. pleskei* and *L. ochotensis*), together with juvenile terns of *Sterna hirundo*, *S. aleutica*, *S. dougallii* and *S. sumatrana*. The longest feature article in this year's report is one on weather and migration at Hong Kong. Readers may like to know that this report is also available in UK (Sebastian Anstruther, Bariavington Estate, Petworth, W. Sussex GU28 OLG, at £12.50), and the Netherlands (Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Postbus 227, 3500 AE Utrecht, at NLG 36.25). For postage outside UK/Netherlands, add £1.00 or NLG 0.75. Both 1992 and 1993 reports are also available at a reduced combined price of HK\$ 240, £20.00 or NLG 58.