

hundreds of drawings, ranging from the simple thumbnail sketch showing a pose to detailed anatomical drawings, is generally excellent, though occasionally, as with the page of de Brazza's monkeys, there has been a tendency to caricature. One or two, for example those of the dugong swimming, are not helpful and detract from the high standard elsewhere.

Once or twice the author steps into fields he does not fully understand. I would question his wisdom in ascribing misshapen lions' skulls from early 20th century zoos to lack of muscular exercise; there are other factors which might at that time have been playing their part. Also, why on page vi, in a map of the whole of Africa, emphasise the desert of SW Africa 2000 miles from his subject area and ignore the Sahara only 500 miles away? These however are small points when compared to the wealth of knowledge and experience he has put into this book. I wish that I had been able to read it before my first visit to East Africa.

M.R. BRAMBELL

**An Atlas of Speciation in African Passerine Birds**, by B.P. Hall and R.E. Moreau. British Museum (Natural History), £15.

**Birds of Surinam**, by François Haverschmidt. Oliver & Boyd, £13.

**A Checklist of the Birds of Ethiopia**, by Emil K. Urban and Leslie H. Brown. Haile Selassie I University Press, £1.70 (hard covers £2.10).

**Bibliography of the Avifauna of Ethiopia**, by Emil K. Urban. Haile Selassie I University Press, 42p.

It is sad to see Reg Moreau's name appear for the last time on a newly published book, but it is one which is worthy of his great knowledge of Africa's avifauna. Together with Pat Hall, who because of his last illness had to do most (if not all) of the labour of actually plotting the locations of specimens on maps, he completed a titanic task. The mapping of all precise locations of reliable specimen records, together with some reliable sight records, for all the 900 species of songbirds resident in Africa south of the Sahara, provides, as Ernst Mayr says in his introduction, 'a veritable gold mine of information'. It is the raw material for innumerable studies in biogeography, ecology and evolution, which the fortunate students of African birds will in future be able to quarry and cannibalise. Very much of a work for the specialist, it will be quite invaluable for the specialist who turns to it.

Haverschmidt's excellent *Birds of Surinam*, with fine colour and black-and-white illustrations by Paul Barruel, first appeared in 1968, and it is good news that the demand for it has been so great as to stimulate the present reprint. The Chief Justice of the territory that is still better known to many as Dutch Guiana is well known as one of the ablest and most meticulous of modern ornithologists, and his feat takes us back to the time when ability to write an avifauna of the region was almost a *sine qua non* for governors of British East African colonies. In effect, we have here an avifauna for the northern half of South America, though, alas, a mite too heavy to take into the field, even in a knapsack.

The two booklets from the Haile Selassie I University Press will both prove invaluable to bird-watchers visiting Ethiopia. The first is a complete check-list of all the birds of a country which has many endemics to offer, and the second a most useful bibliography. The two authors are undoubtedly the two ornithologists with the greatest knowledge of Ethiopian birds today.

RICHARD FITTER