

## Book reviews

been lacking since, until now, apart from Hudson's own writings and several collections of his letters, there have only been short biographies and two bibliographies. Few of these even mention his strangely Victorian love affair with Linda Gardiner, assistant secretary of the RSPB. However, Hudson still deserves a biography written for the general reader, by someone who would do for Hudson what Alan Moorhead did for Darwin and the Nile explorers, and what William Gaunt did for art history. Hudson was one of the pioneers of modern conservation. His name is known to most conservationists, who may also have read *Hampshire Days* and one or two other of his books. But Hudson the passionate crusader is largely forgotten.

John A. Burton

### Also received

The following books have also been received and are held in the ffPS office for reference:

#### **The Fall of the Wild, the Rise of the Zoo** Robert Bendiner Dutton, 1982, \$15.50

*The Fall of the Wild and the Rise of the Zoo* is not recommended. Reading it in the ffPS Office in London Zoo, I not unnaturally first turned to look up Arabian oryx, and found that the account managed to omit any mention of the Fauna Preservation Society as we were then. The book is rife with errors. The literature concerning conservation and zoos has not been enriched by the publication of this book.

#### **The Wild Mammals of North America** Joseph A. Chapman and George A. Feldhamer (Editors) John Hopkins University Press, 1982, £37.50 (US\$65.00)

Nearly 1150 pages of closely written text, this is a massive compilation, each section written by acknowledged experts. It provides a useful, up-to-date, and detailed account of most species or groups of species, and the only major criticism concerns the species included in the book. Although it looks comprehensive, as the preface explains it only deals with '... 57 of the economi-  
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cally important mammalian species or species complexes'. Consequently, many of the species such as shrews, most bats and many other small mammals are omitted. Certainly this should be in the library of anyone interested in the exploitation or conservation of North American fauna. At £37 it is a bargain (3.2p or 5.6 cents per page!) and I recommend that authors and organisations used to publishers who consistently produce books at prices largely outside the reach of the individual scientist, take note.

#### **The Cotingas: bellbirds, umbrellabirds and their allies in tropical America**

David Snow  
Oxford University Press/British Museum  
(Natural History), £30.00

Written by a long-standing member of the ffPS, although primarily a comprehensive monograph of an interesting group of tropical birds, it is a book of considerable interest to conservationists. The cotingas include several endangered species and the fate of many of these is closely tied to that of the ever diminishing forests of South America. The introductory chapter on their distributional history and their probable areas of origin (Pleistocene refugia) is of particular interest.

All 65 species are illustrated—surprisingly—for the first time in a single book. Detailed distribution maps are a particularly useful feature for those concerned with developing conservation priorities in South American forests.

This book is available from ffPS at £31, inclusive of postage and packing.

#### **Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.**

**Volume 3: Waders to Gulls**  
Stanley Cramp (Chief Editor)  
Oxford University Press, 1983, £49.50

The book's 913 pages give full descriptions of 112 species: field characters, habitat, distribution, mortality, longevity, population, social patterns and behaviour, breeding, food, voice, plumage, moults, measurements, weights, structure and geographical variation. Each species is illustrated by a colour plate showing the full range of normal plumage together with distance flight views and,

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in addition, the text is interspersed with line drawings depicting behaviour. The artists are Norman Arlott, Dr P.J.K. Burton, N.W. Cusa, Robert Gillmor and D.I.M. Wallace.

**The Birds of Africa. Volume 1**  
Leslie H. Brown, Emil K. Urban and  
Kenneth Newman  
Academic Press, 1982, £53·40  
(US \$99·00)

This is the first of four volumes; when complete the series will be a valuable addition to the ornithological literature. Nearly all species are illustrated in full colour with coverage of age, sex and seasonal differences. In the book's 536 pages resident birds are described in full detail while visitors are also given extensive coverage. The illustrations, by Martin Woodcock and Peter Hayman, are a large-format version of the standard field-guide style; but a field-guide it will never be—the four volumes together will weigh over eight kilogrammes.

**Biology and Conservation of Sea  
Turtles: Proceedings of the World  
Conference on Sea Turtle  
Conservation held in Washington,  
USA in 1979**

K.A. Bjorndal (Editor)  
Smithsonian Institution, 1982, £23·00

The book's 583 pages include: an overview of turtle biology; extensive status reports of turtle populations in different regions of the world; conservation theory, techniques and law; and a sea turtle conservation strategy. It is available from: Eurospan, 3 Henrietta Street, London WC2E 8LU, UK.

New publications from IUCN  
**IUCN Directory on Wetlands of  
International Importance in the  
Western Palearctic (1980)**

Compiled by Eric Carp (International Waterfowl Research Bureau Administrator, 1969–73) for the United Nations Environment Programme

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(UNEP) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). This inventory of wetlands of international importance in Europe, West Asia and North Africa replaces the long-outdated MAR-list published by IUCN in 1965. It is of interest to governmental authorities in charge of the selection of wetland sites for protection under the Ramsar Convention, to scientists, and to amateur ornithologists. Over 900 wetland sites in 44 countries are listed in its 506 pages, with detailed descriptions and literature references for more than 300 sites. The country sections review the wetland situation on a national basis and include a map. The Introduction reviews the international efforts concerning the conservation of waterfowl and wetlands leading up to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the Ramsar Convention). Foreword by Professor G.V.T. Matthews, Director of the IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, UK.

Copies from IUCN, Avenue du Mont-Blanc, 1196 Gland, Switzerland. Price \$27·50, not including postage.

**Elephants and Rhinos in Africa: a time  
for decision**

Compiled and edited by Peter Jackson from the reports of the IUCN/SSC African Elephant and Rhino Specialist Groups. The booklet is illustrated and contains statistics relating to elephant and rhino distribution and trade in ivory and rhino horn, and recommended priorities for conservation.

**The Importance and Value of Wild  
Plants and Animals in Africa**

The aim of this report is to demonstrate the current economic and cultural importance of the wild fauna and flora in Africa and to indicate ways in which this importance may be maintained and intensified.

Both these publications cost US \$10·00 each (postage not included). Available from UNIPUB (for the Americas), Box 433, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10016, USA and IUCN Publication Services (for the rest of the world), Avenue du Mont-Blanc, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland.

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