

## Book reviews

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

*Book reviews*

(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 This inventory of wetlands of international importance in Europe, West Asia and North Africa replaces the long-outdated MAR-list published by IUCN in 1965.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.

149