

upon and "opened-up" a number of families to reveal relevant species sets, there appears to be no way of globally closing these down again, which makes for progressively more inefficient scrolling and retrieval; (the in-built, New Window option does not support a way around this); (ii) background documentation, on-screen and especially accompanying, is lamentable and indeed almost absent, e.g. in respect of the former, two quite different recordings of Plumbeous Pigeon – Andean slope and lowland according to accompanying on-board annotation – are not labelled specifically; (iii) the Search facility was not universally successful: several strings entered (e.g. tapaculos, flamingos) were not recognized; (iv) it proved impossible to print out the Screen Elements component of the Help Panel.

Notwithstanding these few operational shortcomings, the high quality of the vast majority of cuts housed on this CD-ROM, which retails at £79.95 making it excellent value for money, ensures that it is an invaluable aid in preparing oneself for a serious foray to an ornithologically fascinating country which is just "coming of age". Whispers through the audio grapevine indicate that version 2.0 may embrace 800+ species, and therefore will be awaited eagerly, but the lack of an audio-cut bookmark facility in the current version (sorely missed) must be attended to, for its absence in the subsequent version would be a travesty.

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Book notices

Important bird areas in Turkey. G. Magnin and M. Yarar. Istanbul: Doğal Hayati Koruma Derneği, 1997. 331 pp, US\$35.00.

Compiled for the Society for the Protection of Nature in Turkey (DHKD) this book describes 97 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in the country, covering an area of almost 3 million hectares. Some 65% are inland wetlands, including a number of very large salt lakes. However, the largest IBA (no. 60), a high montane biome in the north-east of the country adjacent to the Black Sea, covers 1,200,000 ha and is a bottleneck for raptor migration with very large numbers being reported, especially in autumn.

Each IBA account includes a map (with an inset locating the site within Turkey), a site description, an overview of its importance for particular species and a consideration of conservation issues. While more than half of the sites are fully protected by law, they nevertheless face many problems because of inadequate enforcement. Drainage for agriculture, pollution from sewage and illegal hunting feature in many accounts of wetland IBAs.

It is hoped that the publication of this book will help to raise awareness of the importance of these sites within Turkey. It will also be an invaluable guide to the visiting birder, Turkey having a wealth of birds and landscapes unfamiliar to Europeans. An increase in such ecotourism may, in turn, reinforce the value of these wildlife sites to government officials and politicians. More information on the book can be obtained by e-mailing DHKD. @ sariyer.cc.itu.edu.tr.