

since the 1985 edition. A total of 6940 sites are included covering 6,514,676 sq km and the introduction gives a brief history of the list, explains the criteria for inclusion and the eight categories used for classifying sites of conservation importance.

Additional information is provided on the biogeographical and ecological coverage of protected areas as well as World Heritage Convention natural sites, Biosphere Reserves and Ramsar sites.

**1990 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals**

*Compiled by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre*

IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK, 1990, 228 pp., SB £7.50/\$US15

This update of the 1988 Red List lists over 5000 taxa identified by IUCN as threatened with extinction. For each of the 698 mammals, 1047 birds, 191 reptiles, 63 amphibians, 762 fishes and 2250 invertebrates, the scientific and English names are given with the IUCN category as well as a brief description of the animal's range. Apart from the birds, for which the ICBP has now attempted a global review, the numbers given are only minima. Unfortunately many more taxa are threatened but have not been identified unfortunately as such by IUCN and many of these are undescribed. As studies and reviews continue, it will be apparent that many more are threatened.

The guest essay is on the role of captive breeding in the conservation of species, by Dr Nathan Flesness and Dr Tom Foose of the IUCN/SSC Captive Breeding Specialist Group.

**IUCN Directory of South Asian Protected Areas**

IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK, 1990, 320pp., SB £15/\$US30

This is the first in a series of directories on the protected area system of the Indomalayan Realm. It covers Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, giving area, population and GNP data for each country and describing policy and legislation relevant to their protected area systems, their administration and management, and key references. Summary lists and maps of protected areas are followed by descriptions of individual properties.

**The Handbook of New Zealand Mammals**

*Edited by Carolyn M. King*  
Oxford University Press/OUP New Zealand, 1990, 600pp., HB £38.00

This book describes all 46 species of land-breeding mammals that are, or have been, living in the wild in New Zealand. Of this total only 11 are native. Carolyn King has effectively collated the work of 29 authors whose contributions include much material previously unpublished or gathered from inaccessible or widely scattered sources. There is a useful introductory chapter, an identification guide and a key to skulls. The species accounts are set out in a standardized form for easy reference and are furnished with distribution maps and black-and-white photographs (the endpapers contain colour variations among wallabies, fallow deer, possums and ship rats). The adaptation to and effects of each species on the New Zealand environment is discussed. A glossary and 70 pages of references complete

this valuable book, which presents all that is known about New Zealand's mammals, identifies the gaps and should stimulate the research needed to fill them.

*Editor.*

**Guide to the Birds of Madagascar**

*Olivier Langrand*  
Yale University Press, 1991, 364 pp., HB £35/\$US40

A good comprehensive guide to the birds of Madagascar has been needed for some time now. This book fills the gap admirably. More than just an identification guide, its notes on distribution, status, diet, nesting and habitat, along with the general introductory chapters amount to an up-to-date overview of the current body of information on the Madagascan avifauna. Some of these birds have not been recorded for many years (although one, the Madagascar serpent eagle, has since been discovered by an expedition supported by the FFPS Oryx 100% Fund), others are extremely rare and threatened, and yet others are recorded from a scatter of widely separated localities. The apparent scarcity of some birds may well be a reflection of the thinness on the ground of ornithologists; one trusts that the publication of the guide itself will help the process of filling in the gaps but the author has also included descriptions of birds that are likely to turn up as well as those that have been recorded. For the visitor there is a very useful select list of birding sites, with details of how to reach them and of what might be seen. This is an essential book for anyone visiting Madagascar and interested in birds, however long their visit.

*Roger Wilson.*