

Book Reviews

Handbook of the Birds of the World. Volume 7. Jacamars to Woodpeckers.

Del Hoyo, J. Elliot, A. and Sargatal, J. (2002) eds. Lynx Edicions. 613pp. Price £110. ISBN 84-87334-37-7 DOI: 10.1017/S0959270903213277

The 7th volume of the 'HBW' series marks the last volume of the non-passerines. It covers Jacamars (Galbulidae), Puffbirds (Bucconidae), Barbets (Capitonidae), Toucans (Ramphastidae), Honeyguides (Indicatoridae) and Woodpeckers (Picidae). A thoughtful bonus is provided in a laminated index illustrating all non-passerine families covered in the first seven volumes, with the volume and page numbers where they are covered.

The foreword to Volume 7 is titled 'Extinct Birds', written by Errol Fuller, acknowledged as a major researcher in this area, and accompanied by illustrations of each species. It provides a fascinating if ultimately depressing overview of those species believed extinct, with no captive populations. Let's hope that none of the species covered in the main sections of HBW join this list.

The remainder of the book follows the established pattern with family accounts lavishly illustrated with excellent photographs followed by species accounts and colour plates of the usual high standard. As stated in a previous review of this series in BCI, an essential component of the library of the ornithologically-minded.

SEB BUCKTON

Parasites and Diseases of Wild Birds in Florida. Forrester, D.J. & Spalding, M.G.

(2003). University Press of Florida. 1132 pp.
DOI: 10.1017/S0959270903223273

This weighty and comprehensive tome comprises an excellent collation of information about causes of mortality and morbidity of Florida's avifauna. The extraordinary amount of data is sourced from published literature, federal disease surveillance bodies, as well as a wide range of veterinary services, universities, rehabilitation centres and private personnel. The main body of the book is divided according to host taxon and their diseases, rather than by disease, which is a more typical approach of books on wildlife health. This makes the book much more useful in terms of wildlife management as it is clear, therefore, which are the main diseases of concern for specific taxa. The final summary chapter brings the data together according to cause of mortality or morbidity and the good indexing also allows searching according to disease type. The book is written in a relatively simple style without too much use of specialised vocabulary. Extensive use of tables for summarising findings makes locating information

relatively easy. Ideally the photographs would be in colour (black and white photographs are not necessarily good for illustrating clinical or *post mortem* findings and e.g. stained histopathological sections). However, there may have been economic or production reasons for avoiding colour photography.

and well established in the field of wildlife health. Obviously they have a clear understanding of how the paucity of long-term monitoring data on wildlife disease prevents effective wildlife management. This was no doubt one of the drivers for the production of this book. Throughout the book they highlight the gaps in our knowledge and the incompleteness of the animal health record. The comment that the significance of disease findings is not known peppers many sections which illustrates our limited understanding of the ecology and impact of most diseases at the level of population. However, there must be few regions in the world outside North America for which such a volume of information of bird mortality and morbidity could be compiled.

Although the book is reasonably specialised, it will be of interest to those working in wildlife health, North American and other wildlife managers and those with an interest in public health, as there are frequent references to risks to human health. The division of the book according to host taxon will also aid those involved in single species conservation programmes e.g. those working on Whooping Cranes throughout their flyways. In conclusion, the book is both important and useful, and hopefully will spur others authors to tackle similar projects.

RUTH CROMIE