



**West African Ornithological Society
Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
Africain**



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Discovering Birds. An Introduction to the Birds of Nigeria. By Anne Nason, 1992. 104pp. Pisces Publications, Newbury. ISBN 1- 874357-00-5. £8.95 + £1.00 p&p from NCB, 36 Kingfisher Court, Hambridge Road, Newbury RG14 5SJ, U.K.

Published as part of the Nigerian Conservation Foundation's Conservation Education Programme, *Discovering Birds* gives an introduction to birds in general and to the birds of Nigeria and is particularly intended for young people.

Written in a simple and straightforward way it describes briefly the evolution, biology, behaviour and migration of birds, and the climate and vegetation zones of Nigeria. There are short chapters on birdwatching as a hobby, on African birds in folklore, on conservation and the work of the Nigerian Conservation Foundation. The five middle chapters describe some of the birds commonly found in five different types of habitat and each species described is illustrated. The disadvantages of this format are that allied species are not described together (the five species of kingfisher in the book, for example, are divided between three chapters) and that it is difficult for the reader to get an idea of the relative sizes of the birds. There is a useful glossary but, since scientific names are given together with the English names in the index, a brief introduction to scientific names might have been helpful.

The book is very well produced with excellent photographs, all in colour. Mrs Nason had been able to select only a few of the common birds to describe in each habitat and one can only wish there had been space for more. Such a book, that encourages an interest in ornithology and an awareness of the need for conservation in Nigeria's rising generation, is greatly to be welcomed.

Amberley Moore

African Waterfowl Census 1992. Compiled by C. Perennou, 1992. 87 pp. International Waterfowl Research Bureau, Slimbridge. Paperback £6 from IWRB, Slimbridge, GL2 7BX, UK.

The previous (1991) census report was reviewed in *Malimbus* 14: 32-33. In the year described in the present report, which is again completely bilingual (English/French), coverage of the census was expanded in West and southern Africa. In West Africa, counts were made in Gabon, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone. One new site, Corisco Bay in Gabon, meets Ramsar criteria, as has previously been predicted. Ramsar criteria are presented, with a list of already-designated sites. Population estimates are given for West Africa as a whole for certain species. Notes are provided for potential counters for the 1993 census.

This is to become an annual publication, so future issues will not be reviewed here.

Alan Tye