



**West African Ornithological Society  
Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest  
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## Book Reviews

**Enquête Faunistique et Floristique dans la Forêt de Nyungwe, Rwanda.** Ed. by R.J. Dowsett, 1990. 140 pp. Tauraco Research Report 3, Tauraco Press, Jupille-Liège. £7 (inc. p & p) from 194 rue de Bois de Breux, B-4020 Jupille-Liège, Belgium.

This is a collection of papers on various aspects of the biology of this important forest. Three chapters (including the one on the study area) and the annexe are in French, four (including the two on birds) in English. One of the bird chapters deals with the behavioural ecology, status and distribution of Nyungwe forest birds, the other with the zoogeography and systematics of forest birds of the Albertine Rift, of which Nyungwe is a part. Both pay special attention to the Albertine endemics and threatened species, and Chapter 3 contains a lot of new behavioural and ecological information about these species and others, including the call of what was probably the Itombwe Owl *Phodilus prigoginei*. Chapter 4 has a section on speciation in the *Apalis* warblers of the region. Other chapters deal with vegetation, mammals, butterflies, amphibians and reptiles, while the annexe examines Cyamudongo Forest, an outlier of Nyungwe.

Alan Tye

**La Réserve de Konkouati: Congo. Le secteur sud-est.** By P. Heeketsweiler & J. Mokoko-Ikonga, 1991. 323pp. IUCN, Gland. ISBN 2-8317-0080-9.

**La Réserve de Konkouati: Congo. Le secteur sud-ouest.** By C. Doumenge, 1992. 231 pp. IUCN, Gland. ISBN 2-8317-0095-7.

Paperbacks £12.50 each from IUCN, 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, UK.

Both of these reports are based on impact studies carried out for petroleum companies, BP in the south-east sector and Chevron in the south-west. The Konkouati Reserve is situated in south-western Congo, adjacent to Gabon. Like other faunal reserves in Congo it is a reserve only on paper, being open to all forms of exploitation (logging, mining, bush-meat hunting *etc.*). It encompasses a great variety of habitats: mangrove, lagoons and marshes, a mosaic of forest patches and grassland savannas, seasonally flooded forest and tall dry-land forest (extending inland into the great massif of the Mayombe). Its natural history is very poorly known, like that of most parts of the country.

Both reports follow the same format, with the main chapters covering the physical environment, biological inventories, human environment and exploitation of local resources, and impact of oil exploration. Neither BP nor Chevron found exploitable oil in the area so their impact will have been limited - except for BP's reprehensible