



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



Join the WAOS and support
the future availability of free
pdfs on this website.

<http://malimbus.free.fr/member.htm>

If this link does not work, please copy it to your browser and try again.
If you want to print this pdf, we suggest you begin on the next page (2) to conserve paper.

Devenez membre de la
SOOA et soutenez la
disponibilité future des pdfs
gratuits sur ce site.

<http://malimbus.free.fr/adhesion.htm>

Si ce lien ne fonctionne pas, veuillez le copier pour votre navigateur et réessayer.
Si vous souhaitez imprimer ce pdf, nous vous suggérons de commencer par la page suivante
(2) pour économiser du papier.

One point where I think *BoA* wins is the maps. Johnsgard's attempt to show more detail (usefully, showing major breeding colonies) but could have been better designed to do so. There are some errors (e.g. dots to indicate colony sizes omitted, although captions say they should be there). The mapped distributions often differ from those in *BoA*, and I think that *BoA* is usually more correct, particularly as in some cases Johnsgard's range descriptions agree with *BoA* maps, rather than with his own; as an extreme example, Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens* is shown breeding on the Seychelles but not so listed in the text. Some maps are definitely wrong, e.g. most of Africa is shown as "non-breeding" range of the Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*, whereas it is actually probably resident in much of this range, but breeding is simply not proven. Others omit some documented records which are mentioned in *BoA*.

Apart from the maps, I spotted few errors: a few mis-spellings only. Johnsgard has fulfilled the task he set himself in his usual thorough fashion.

Alan Tye



Darter - Anhinga d'Afrique - *Anhinga melanogaster*

Photo: Michael Gore

The Birds of CITES and How to Identify Them. By J. Erritzøe, 1993. xxii + 199 pp., 10 monochrome + 75 colour plates. Lutterworth Press, Cambridge. ISBN 0-7188-2894-1, £30 (hardback); ISBN 0-7188-2892-5, £26 (ringbound); ISBN 0-7188-2895-X, £95 (leatherbound).

Restrictions on trade imposed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES) cover 1478 bird species, the basis for this book. Species which are, or are likely to become, endangered, are illustrated in colour. A further 1072 "lookalike" species included in the CITES listings are illustrated in black and white. CITES Appendix III comprises species

which any party to the Convention has made subject to jurisdiction and in need of cooperation from other parties for the purposes of controlling trade; hence about 130 Ghanaian species are included in colour. This is not so interesting for the West African ornithologist as it may seem, as some of these are local races of species common worldwide, such as Green Fruit Pigeon, Village Weaver and Cattle Egret, although the implications of having to restrict trade in even common species merit consideration.

The title's claim to be an identification guide is over-ambitious, given the brief plumage descriptions, poor colours in many plates, lack of comparison with similar species for families not included in the lookalike list and scant referencing of regional handbooks and family monographs. It is doubtful whether the book will be useful on its own as an identification guide but, if misidentification leads to non-CITES species being erroneously included, this cannot be a bad thing for the birds. The availability of a leatherbound edition suggests it is aimed partly at the collectors' market. However, any attention to the problems caused to wildlife by the bird trade is welcome, and the support by WWF and Prince Philip in launching this book, together with its generally attractive appearance, should contribute to raising public awareness of CITES.

Hilary Tye

Handbook of the Birds of the World. Volume 1. Ostrich to ducks. Ed. by J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott & J. Sargatal, 1992. 696 pp., 50 colour paintings, numerous photos. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. ISBN 84-87334-10-5. Hardback c. £95.

The obvious course to take, when reviewing this book from a West African perspective, is to compare it with *The Birds of Africa* (Brown *et al.* 1982, Urban *et al.* 1986, Fry *et al.* 1988, Keith *et al.* 1992, Academic Press, London) (henceforth *BoA*). However, the two works have very different aims and approaches. The present book (henceforth *HBW*) does not attempt to usurp regional works, and the Family is the basic unit for the biological accounts. The family sections include systematics and evolution, morphology, habitat, habits, voice, food and feeding, breeding, movements, relations with man, status and conservation, with the emphasis on systematics, status and conservation. Family sections are profusely illustrated by photographs, which are excellent, many illustrating actions; from one photo of ostriches running, one can see exactly how the legs move.

Following the family account, each species has a concise text and a plate. The artists have done some brilliant work, especially Lluís Centelles and Francesc Jutglar. They deserve lots more commissions. All species are illustrated, as are many subspecies and both sexes if sufficiently different, but the book is not an identification guide and only breeding plumage is shown. Measurement sections are