

REVIEWS

The Atlas of Australian Birds, by M. Blakers, S.J.J.F. Davies and P.N. Reilly. 1984. Melbourne University Press for the RAOU. 738 pages, 782 maps. Pre-devaluation price Aus \$49.

A large, well-illustrated atlas showing the distributions of 648 of the species on the Australian list in two-colour maps which summarise over 2½ million records. The coverage is for Australia, Tasmania and their inshore islands, offshore ones like Lord Howe and Macquarie being excluded.

There is one species to a page (slightly smaller than A4 size), about half the space being given to the map, the rest to a small sketch (mostly very accurate) of the bird and a summary of its world distribution, movements, changes within Australia and brief information on breeding and feeding habits. For some species there are also historical maps recording distribution changes since European settlement.

The methods of compilation from the records of 3000 field observers are fully explained, as are the biases involved and the weak places in the data bases. There is an up-to-date reference list of 1929 titles and several pages listing books and other major works consulted.

This is a major production and a credit to the RAOU and all the members concerned in the venture. Although quite expensive it will be a big help to those planning to watch or study birds in Australia, and OSNZ members should encourage their local libraries to add the work to their reference collections even if they don't purchase their own.

John Warham

*Bibliography of the Genera **Calidris** and **Limicola***, by Sven Blomquist. 1983. Special report from Ottenby Bird Observatory, No. 3.

*Bibliography of the Genus **Phalaropus***, by Sven Blomquist. 1983. Special report from Ottenby Bird Observatory No. 4.

From the Ottenby Bird Observatory, Sweden, come two publications which should be of interest to any serious student of the genera mentioned.

No. 3 (**Calidris** and **Limicola**) contains 1364 listed references from a wide selection of the ornithological journals of the world (including Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific) and in several languages, including English, Swedish, German, Finnish, Danish, Dutch and French, and at least one in Russian. However, English seems to be the language of most papers.

Report No. 4 (**Phalaropus**) seems to be equally exhaustive with 394 listed references.

The reports may be obtained from Ottenby Bird Observatory, P1. 1500, S-380 65 Degerhamn, Sweden. No. 3 costs \$US 7.00, and No. 4 \$US 4.00, both include surface mail postage; for airmail postage add \$US 1.00.

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