

The four major photographic contributors are M. F. Soper, D. Hadden, G. J. H. Moon and J. Warham, together with 11 other bird photographers.

This is not a collection of wholly new work — many of the prints have been published before. However, what is new is that no previous publisher has achieved such a high standard of photographic reproduction in this field of New Zealand birds.

This book is with few exceptions an excellent collection of superbly reproduced bird photographs, and Kowhai Publishing Ltd is to be congratulated on achieving this high standard — a standard which all subsequent publications of this sort must now try and attain.

A simple way of checking the quality of both the colour toning and the definition of detail in this book is to select a photograph and compare it with the same photograph printed some years earlier in another publication. A good example is M. F. Soper's Brown Creeper, where the same colour slide (though reversed) is printed in his books of 1972 and 1976. The marked superiority of the 1983 colour printing must truly do justice to the original colour slide.

There are perhaps five prints which to me do not match the high quality of the remainder in this book. One also wonders why the Australian Plumed Whistling Duck is included when, by the authors' own admission, only one recording of its presence in the wild has been made in New Zealand this century.

However, barring these minor criticisms, I consider this an exciting addition to our New Zealand bird books and one which has set a new very high standard of colour reproduction.

T. C. Dennison

Handlist of birds in New South Wales, by Alan K. Morris, A. R. McGill, and Glen Holmes. 1981. Sydney: NSW Field Ornithologists Club. Pp. 80, 3 maps. Cost to OSNZ members only \$A6.60 airmail.

At long last an up-to-date handbook on the birds of New South Wales has been published, making such publications now available for all Australian states. This replaces Arnold McGill's handlist of 1960 and is much more informative. It gives the abundance of each species, described as abundant, common, moderately common, uncommon, scarce, or rare; whether resident, nomadic, or migratory; the breeding season by means of the months during which eggs have been found; the regions in which the species is located; and finally the bird's type of habitat.

Three excellent maps are provided, one dividing the State into 17 regions, to define the range of each species, the second (unfortunately upside down) showing all the NSW rivers, and the third a map of the State's natural vegetation.

One intriguing aspect of the new Handlist is that few if any of the many new vernacular names laid down by the RAOU in 1977 appear

in the text, although these are all included in the comprehensive index. Thus, the beautiful little Crested Hawk is not under the heading of Pacific Baza, the Spine-tailed Swift not under White-throated Needletail, the Ground Thrush not under White's Thrush, and so on. By the RAOU decree, the Australian Little Grebe became the Australasian, not by reason of the breeding range extending to New Zealand. You might think so, but oh dear no. The modern concept of Australasia apparently excludes New Zealand but extends northward to New Guinea and Indonesia, which are within the breeding range of this species.

This booklet (225 x 179 mm) is fully recommended to all those members who have an interest in Australia's abounding birdlife, or who may be contemplating making contact with some of the 529 species in NSW. It is obtainable from Mr D. Larkins, 225 Kissing Point Road, Turramurra, NSW 2074, Australia.

A. Blackburn

Migration: paths through time and space, by R. Robin Baker. Hodder & Stoughton. 1982. 248 pp.; many drawings and photographs. \$23.50.

When Robin Baker's mammoth tome *The evolutionary ecology of animal migration* appeared in 1978, it was met with high praise and outright scorn. I found it too long and tedious to read. The text was stultifying; the price alarming. Clearly a shorter, pithy, more readable book was needed, one that took into account the new insights from contributors such as John Krebs, Nigel Davies, Richard Dawkins, and Geoffrey Parker.

This new offering by Robin Baker is just that. It contains 15 short chapters, a glossary of terms, and an index, all within a quarter the size of the previous book.

Baker's general thesis is bound to create much heat and light. "The main aim of the book is to provoke discussion and argument, not just about migration, but also about the concept of the organism on which the whole study of behaviour is based." He invites us to put out to pasture the ethological view of an animal as being little more than an automaton, wherein a specific stimulus goes in one end and a predictable response comes out the other. In this aging model, a little learning might be involved when the animal is very young (imprinting) or when faced with repeated trials and mistakes (conditioning). This ethological view of behaviour and migration in particular is discounted by Baker, largely because it is inflexible and biased towards a regimented genetic programming. It encases the animal within a useless coat of stereotypy.

Baker's premise is that animals are much smarter than we give them credit for. Most of them know where they are and where they are going. They learn. Many organisms have a cerebral sense of location as we do. Consequently, "If we have to attribute human thoughts, feelings, and emotions to other animals in order to under-