
Book reviews

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SEABIRD STATUS AND CONSERVATION: A SUPPLEMENT

edited by J.P. Croxall

1991. ICBP Technical Publication No. 11. ICBP, Cambridge. Pp. 316, many maps, 138 x 215 mm. £17.50.

When the invaluable and now out-of-print *Status of the World's Seabirds* (ICBP Technical Publication No. 2) was published in 1987, a number of geographic areas were missing from the otherwise comprehensive coverage of this summary of the conservation of the world's seabirds. This supplement aims to fill these gaps and also gives updated accounts on a number of areas. Areas treated for the first time are the North American Great Lakes, Brazil, Uruguay, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Mariana Islands, Heard and MacDonald Islands and the Australian Antarctic Territory. Areas updated or given more specialised attention are Hudson Strait, British Columbia, California, Baja California, north-east USSR, south-east USSR and Indonesia.

The chapters on Heard and MacDonald Islands and the Australian Antarctic Territory are long overdue and extremely valuable. The nomenclature used differs from the recently published and comprehensive *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds* (S. Marchant & P.J. Higgins, 1990. Oxford University Press, Melbourne) in recognising two species of Rock-hopper Penguin (Northern and Southern) *Eudyptes chrysocome* and *E. moseleyi* (Jouventin 1982) but not the Heard Island Shag *Phalacrocorax nivalis*. An unfortunate misapprehension is perpetuated concerning the breeding distribution of the Chinstrap Penguin *Pygoscelis antarctica*. Ever since a breeding record of the Chinstrap Penguin on Heard Island was published (Downes *et al.* 1959), the range in distribution maps in

works such as *Seabirds: an Identification Guide* (P. Harrison, 1983. Croom Helm, London) has shown Heard as a breeding ground and so extended the bird's normal range around the entire continent. Apparently the Chinstrap Penguin does not usually breed here but stragglers occasionally visit and may attempt to copulate with Gentoo Penguins *Pygoscelis papua* (E. Woehler pers. comm.). It is a pity this forum did not mention it and put the myth to rest once and for all.

The chapter on the Australian Antarctic Territory is an excellent summary of the status of this area and points out the many gaps in our knowledge. It is noteworthy that two colonies of Emperor Penguins have not been visited since their discovery in 1958–59.

The papers on South America and Asia are useful in summarising the non-English literature. The revamped chapter on Indonesian colonies shows what a massive resource is present in this area. The apparant lack of Procellariiformes from this area is surprising and possibly reflects this lack of study. The production of the book is good, with many maps and easily read tables. A few maps of lesser quality appear to have slipped through but this is not surprising for the mysterious south-eastern USSR. However, at £17.50, this volume may only find itself on library and professional bookshelves.

References

- Jouventin, P. 1982. Visual and vocal signals in penguins, their evolution and adaptive characters. *Advances in Ethology* 24. Verlag Paul Parey, Berlin.
- Downes, M.C., Ealey, E.H.M., Gwynn, A.M. & Young, P.S. 1959. The Birds of Heard Island. ANARE Report Series 8 (1), 1-135.

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