
Book review

Edited by D. Jones

The Gang-Gang Cockatoo in Field and Aviary by L.E. Chambers

1996 Victorian Ornithological Research Group,
Melbourne, Victoria. Pp. 186, 210 x 295 mm, \$25.

The Gang-Gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum* is one of our most attractive cockatoos, as well as being one of the least studied. Chamber's comprehensive literature review highlights how little we know of the ecology of the species. In fact, there have been no detailed studies and what little we know comes from essentially opportunistic observations. Knowledge of the care and breeding of the species in captivity is also limited and requires further study or perhaps more aviculturalists should be encouraged to publish.

The core of the book is the section on summary of available data and the annotated bibliography. These sections are supplemented by author and subject bibliographies, distributions map from various sources, with the notable exception of the atlas of Australian Birds and a general index. The book is well produced with few typographic errors. However, the use of space is uneven. Twenty pages are given to the author biblio-

graphy, which repeats the information in the annotated bibliography which in turn repeats material in summary of data. At the other extreme, the two maps with detailed distribution data are far too small to be of much use.

In the introduction the author comments on the lack of data and the fact that many references are merely rewrites of earlier articles. It is disappointing that the author, having read all the articles has not been more critical indicating those articles with sound observations and those that are an anecdotal, speculative or merely rehashes. While the annotated bibliography is useful, the referencing has faults, in four cases editors were given the credit, the worst case being Keast (1985) who was only one of four editors and did not contribute to the seven papers with data on Gang-Gangs.

Despite these criticisms, Chambers has done an excellent job in compiling this review and the book will be a useful introduction to those interested in further studies of this fascinating species.

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Publications recently received

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***ACTA XXI CONGRESSUS INTERNATIONALIS ORNITHOLOGICI. VIENNA, AUSTRIA. PAPERS AND REPORTS. Edited by John Wingfield and John Coulson.**

1996. British Ornithologists' Union, Tring. Special
Issue of Ibis Vol. 138:1. Pp 146, 277 x 210 mm. £15.00
include. p&p.

***PITTAS, BROADBILLS AND ASITIES by Frank Lambert and Martin Woodcock**

1996. Pica Press, Mountfield, England. Pp 271, colour
plates 24, figures 22, many maps and an index. 240 x
176. £26.00

***NESTING MORTALITY OF GRANIVOROUS BIRDS DUE TO MICROORGANISMS AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES: SYNTHESIS Edited by J. Pinowski, B.P. Kavanaugh and B. Pinowski**

1995. PWN - Polish Scientific Publishers, Warsaw. Pp.
437, 238 x 164 mm. \$ 40 p&p.

GEOGRAPHIC VARIATION IN BIRDS OF JAVA by G. F. Mees

1996. Nuttall Ornithological Club, Cambridge, Mass.,
USA. Pp. 119, colour photographs 8, tables 13, many
maps. 236 x 156 mm. \$25.00.

*To be reviewed in *Emu*.