REVIEWS

Edited by B. GILLIES

Identification Guide to European Passerines by Lars Svensson, Third revised edition, 1984. Stockholm: [Author] Pp 312, b. & w. figs many. 107 × 185 mm. $A28. Distributed outside the Nordic countries by the British Trust for Ornithology, Beech Grove, Tring, Herts HP23 5NR, U.K.

No European bander, working on bush birds, would go into the field without this indispensable and wonderful book. It provides him with detailed information on how safely to identify, age, and sex passerines in the hand. This latest edition covers 207 species and 50 sub-species. It is based on the study of 25 000 museum specimens, live birds at observatories in Sweden and Italy, and the literature.

The book starts with an excellent and well referenced section on techniques. This covers wing formulae (the only definitive identifier for many Palearctic species in the hand), wing length, tail length, total body length, bill, tarsus, and claw measurement. Ageing methods described include feather structure and wear, tail shape, moult, tail growth bars, and skull ossification. Shape of the cloacal region and incubation patches are discussed as an aid to sexing. Feather growth and colouration are discussed in the species descriptions. The great strength of 'Svensson' is that it identifies, in the major part of the book, the techniques which are relevant to particular species.

Whilst Svensson is an indispensable guide, it is not comprehensive. No mention is made, for example, of total head length measurements. This is increasingly seen as possibly the most useful technique for sexing size dimorphic species in which the sexes are visually indistinguishable. The book is not strong in its discussion of soft parts, i.e. wattles, eye colour, bill colour, gape flanges, feet and legs, etc. This is possibly not such a disadvantage in the palearctic where birds' life cycles are very much constrained by seasonal necessities. These do not apply with anything like the same force in Australia where soft part analysis is an invaluable addition to the bander's bag of tricks.

Only a few of the species described by Svensson occur in Australia. No book of corresponding quality and depth exists for Australian birds, although something of a start has been made with Disney's *Bird in the Hand*. It is highly desirable that there should be one. Surprisingly little is known of the life cycle of most Australian bush birds. Whilst much banding goes on, birds are examined for the information of interest to particular projects. Additional information that would be of value to ornithology in general is not collected. In many cases, species are released without any examination if they are not relevant to the project. It is at least in part the absence of an Australian Svensson that leads to these deplorable practices. This is a terrible wasted opportunity given the unique nature of Australian avifauna.

There are however difficulties. One is that Australian museum collections might not be sufficient to support a work of this quality and no-one would now seriously suggest that they be made so. Nor is it likely that funding would be forthcoming to support the man-years of work required. If we are to have such a book, it will have to come largely from the efforts of amateur banders. They would be well advised to study Svensson to learn the art of the possible.

Ken Rogers

A Review of the Norfolk Island Birds: Past and Present by R. Schodde, P. Fullagar and N. Hermes, 1983 (with prehistorical aspects by P. Rich, G. van Tets, K. Orth, C. Meredith, and P. Davidson), 1983. Canberra: Special Publication 8, Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. Pp 119, col. p11 front and back covers, b. & w. figs and maps 21, tables 10. 178 × 248 mm. No charge.

This soft covered book incorporates the results of the mapping survey of the Norfolk Island birds carried out during the RAOU Congress on the island in December 1978. The participants in the survey, particularly the Norfolk islanders, will feel all their hard work preparing gridded maps, etc, has been justified. It is an excellent introduction for anyone interested in the natural history of the island.

The introduction gives a brief history of the island, changes in vegetation, and the history of ornithological exploration. With reference to the vegetation it is incorrect to say Lantana has supplanted native species beneath forest canopies. Lantana will not grow under forest canopies as is clearly seen in Rocky Point Reserve. Here dense Lantana is now dead as the trees have grown above it and shaded it (see Williams 1984, Nat. Parks Jour. 28:3: 12-13 and Smithers & Disney 1969, Aust. Zool. 15: 127-140).

The next section gives the geological history and formation of the island and the fossil record. All the fossils have been found in modern dune sands (*ca* 700-800 BP) and contain a few species not previously recorded.

The forty-three breeding species of birds each receive a page giving distribution and taxonomy, historical record, RAOU census, present status, breeding and a gridded map of the RAOU observations. This is followed by short notes on the migrants and visitors.

Under the discussion at the end on the distribution and diversity of resident land and freshwater birds, it is not clear why the White-faced Heron *Ardea novaehollandiae*, Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*, Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*, and Sacred Kingfisher *Halcyon sancta* are considered pre-European indigenes. This is not supported by the description of the original island vegetation or by the facts given earlier under each of these species. All were first recorded some years after the first settlers arrived and started clearing the forest and creating suitable habitat for these birds.

This publication is free and can be obtained from the Government Conservator on the island or from the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, Canberra.

H.J. de S. Disney

Population Ecology of the Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*) in the Front Range of Colorado, by Frank E. Price and Carl E. Bock, 1983. Studies in Avian Biology No. 7. Lawrence, Kansas: Allen Press. Pp 84, many text figures. 175 × 250 mm. $9.00.

Dippers are smallish thrush-like birds that make a living by diving into, often icy-cold, mountain streams in the Americas and Eurasia. Therefore one may ask why this publication is being

reviewed in an Australasian journal. The answer is that it presents a study that has many qualities and which should be read by bird ecologists that have never seen a Dipper.

The authors collected information on the population dynamics, social and breeding behaviour and environment of the Dipper near Boulder, Colorado. Dippers provide some advantages in that they hold linear territories and are hence easy to find and capture. One disadvantage is that they have to be studied year-round, though many birds leave in late summer when streams start to dry up and in winter when they become ice-covered.

Price and Bock perform regression analyses on density in each season and breeding success. The weather, food abundance, habitat quality and the behaviour of the birds all play a part, and often interact with each other. In the authors' words '... one or two factors cannot be extracted and proudly displayed as those that "determine" population size or density of the Dipper. Instead, there are many interacting variables that operate with differing intensities to influence the major population processes of reproduction, mortality, emigration and immigration.' I suspect that these words probably apply to many, if not all, bird species.

All in all this is a valuable, thought-provoking and also highly readable study.

Hugh A. Ford

Tropical Seabird Biology, edited by R.W. Schreiber, 1983. Studies in Avian Biology No. 8, Los Angeles: Cooper Ornithological Society. Pp 114. 175 × 250 mm. US$12.00

This book is a product of a symposium convened by the Pacific Seabird Group. The six papers therein range from ecological physiology of incubation to structure of seabird communities. The problem with a collection of papers forming a volume is that it tends to be disjointed. Papers do relate to others in the volume but, unfortunately, not enough. Ricklefs in his paper shows the scope there is for inter-relating various aspects of seabird biology into a unified theme. To achieve this would have taken a great deal of time and co-ordination of the authors. However, if it were well done, the result would have been well worth the trouble.

The first paper 'An ecological comparison of oceanic seabird communities of the southern Pacific Ocean' is by Ainley and Boekelheide who examine differences between tropical, subtropical, subantarctic and Antarctic marine avifauna. The authors suggest that differences in characteristics of seabird communities are related to abundance and patchiness of prey, availability of wind as an energy source and the number of habitats available. To me, the most interesting hypotheses are that the availability of wind influences the structure of seabird communities and '... seabirds are strongly tied by morphological and behavioural adaptations to specific ... marine habitats ... which move about ... seasonally and interannually'. The marine habitats are water types as described by temperature-salinity regimes. Ainley and Boekelheide concluded that seabirds show little specialization and therefore few foraging guilds. These points are illustrated in the second paper 'Feeding overlap in some tropical and temperate seabird communities' by A.W. Diamond. He has taken on a difficult task because of the limited methods of analysis used and the non-uniformity of the data collected by various researchers.

Diamond has squeezed as much as he could from the data in terms of the methods of analysis used. Unfortunately he has been somewhat remiss in not qualifying many of his statements. For example, he states that overlap in the diet of >90% among members of the squid-eaters guild is a serious challenge to the theory of competition. It is not a serious challenge unless squid are in short supply or there is competition for access to squid and under these conditions high overlap is maintained long enough to hinder the competitors' reproductive effort and or chances of survival. A predator's behaviour is only one of the factors that affects the size of prey that it catches; Diamond effectively ignores the others. Morphological features such as width of gape not only affect the range of prey sizes eaten but also the optimal size. These features operate within the general framework of availability of prey species in each size class. Diamond does not consider an obvious cause for variations in prey types and sizes eaten by the same predator in different locations, i.e. differences in availability of prey species in each size class at each location.

The Central Place Foraging model with which Diamond concludes the paper is developed more fully by Ricklefs in the fifth paper. Central Place Foraging Theory allows seabirds far more latitude in prey size than Diamond admits. The prediction that the size of a prey item is related to travel time needs to be qualified. It may apply to birds that carry one prey at a time in their bills to their young but not to those that carry prey in their craws. For instance take two birds (A and B) of the same size, in which A feeds much further from its colony than B does. Therefore A should carry a larger prey load than B does but it could make it up with smaller or same size prey that B eats.

The third paper 'Physiological ecology of incubation in tropical seabirds' is by G.C. Whittow. The author aims to summarize what is known about the factors that affect the transfer of gas and heat between the egg and its microclimate. Low rates of gas transfer in seabird eggs may be attributed to prolonged incubation. In most tropical seabirds a large proportion of total water loss from, and oxygen uptake by the egg occurs during the pipping phase. I found Whittow's comment that differences within tropical seabird communities are partially explicable in terms of the length of incubation to be interesting and hope that this idea is developed further in the near future.

The fourth paper 'Growth strategies in marine terns' is by N.P.E. Langham. He measured growth rates of tropical and temperate species of tern and compared their respective strategies. Langham has used the eyeball method to compare growth rates, not a particularly useful method in this context. Another criticism is that comparisons between growth rates of tropical and temperate species are not strictly comparable because of the greater number of daylight hours available to temperate species. Although temperate inshore feeders may fledge in fewer days than tropical ones of the same body size, they take longer in terms of the number of daylight hours that they have available. For example, birds at the Farne Islands have 19 hours of daylight available per day in which to forage whereas those at One Tree Island have 13 hours of daylight. So Black-naped chicks (at One Tree Island) fledge after 312 hours of daylight whereas Arctic and Common Terns (at the Farne Islands) fledge after 361 and 418 hours of daylight respectively. However this does not affect the validity of Langham's conclusions. Growth rate is affected by brood size, frequency of feeding and the amount of food that a chick receives, ability of the chick to withstand periods of starvation and mobility of chick.

R.E. Ricklefs, in the fifth paper 'Some considerations on the reproductive energetics of pelagic seabirds', examines the effects of distance travelled in search of food and the problem of transporting food from hunting grounds to the chick on growth rate. Again Ricklefs has written a thought-provoking paper. He has presented a simple model of reproductive

energetic of pelagic seabirds. His use of power requirements of reproduction although simplified, still leads to conclusions worth testing. Ricklefs also itemises six areas of future research, all of which need to be investigated if we are to improve our understanding of seabird biology and develop a testable theory. To me, one of the most important areas of future research that he lists is to determine the biochemical composition of seabirds' diets if we were to understand patterns of seabird growth.

The final paper 'Contrasts in breeding strategies between some tropical and temperate marine Pelicaniformes' is by J.B. Nelson. He maintains that quality and availability of food strongly affect breeding strategy whereas climate, predation and availability of nest-sites are of more local significance. I think Nelson's thesis is correct and he uses numerous examples to illustrate his argument.

In conclusion, this is a book that students of seabird biology should study. It presents the state of the art and contains many ideas that warrant testing.

Kees Hulsman

Woodpeckers of the World by Lester L. Short, 1982. Delaware Mus. Nat. Hist. Monogr. Ser. No. 4. Pp xviii + 676, col pl1 101. 200 × 275 mm. US$99.95.

It is always good to see a monograph of a bird family published by the renowned world authority on the group. This is certainly applicable to woodpeckers and Dr Short. During his worldwide forays to study woodpeckers, the author caught up with 138 of 198 species and 26 of 27 genera ('*Xiphidiopicus* of Cuba yet eludes me') and has produced the first worldwide, illustrated coverage of woodpeckers in 120 years.

After treating the general biology of woodpeckers, the bulk of the book is devoted to the species accounts. An interesting innovation is that all superspecies groupings are clearly indicated by the square-bracketed insertion of the oldest name of the various superspecies (as proposed by Amadon, 1966, Syst. Zool. 15: 245-249). While this application helps clarify relationships within complex bird genera, this is the first time it has been formally designated in a monograph or other illustrated family treatment. This supports the growing trend to recognize distinctive subspecies as 'allospecies' (member of a superspecies), as discussed by Mayr (e.g. 1980, Acta XVII Congr. Int. Orn. 1: 95-112).

Short has succinctly reviewed a mass of information on woodpecker systematics, biology, ecology vocalizations, etc, and the book's handier size (*vs* 'coffee table' tomes) is much to be commended for the frequent reference such books inspire.

The 101 colour plates grouped toward the end of the book provide a veritable showcase of the world-wide diversity of woodpeckers (notably absent, of course, from Australasia). All plates were painted by George Sandström and their reproduction is very good. It is a superlative contribution to the increasing stable of monographs covering bird families and is to be recommended, if only as a study in the evolution and adaptability of a highly specialised group of birds.

Murray D. Bruce

Contribution a l'etude des Oiseaux de Polynesie Orientale by D.T. Holyoak & J.C. Thibault, 1984. Paris: Mém. Mus. nat. d'Hist. Nat. (nouv. sér.) A (Zool.) 127: 1-209. 173 mm × 216 mm n.p.g.

Lest the title mislead you, this is the first time a comprehensive review of all birds recorded in eastern Polynesia has appeared since 1891, when L.W. Wiglesworth published his Aves Polynesiae (Abh. Ber. k. Zool. Anthr.-Ethn. Mus. Dresden, 1890/91, 6: i-x, 1-91). Prior to the authors' work, most of what is known of Polynesian birds emerged from the material gathered at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA, by the Whitney South Sea Expedition (1921-1930). Regrettably, no summary work of Polynesian birds followed the many papers based on Whitney material, although Ernst Mayr, the collection's curator during the 1930s and 1940s, based his Birds of the Southwest Pacific (1945, reprinted 1968, 1977), on the material collected from Samoa west to the Solomons and Micronesia, as well as using his findings in support of developments in evolutionary biology, especially speciation and biogeography.

Although two books on Polynesian birds have recently been published (P.L. Bruner, 1972, Field Guide to the Birds of French Polynesia; J.E. duPont, 1976, South Pacific Birds), the authors' field work in the early 1970s picked up where Whitney left off, as well as updating information on the status of many of the isolated island populations (a large number of which were discovered by the Whitney Expedition and next recorded by the authors). The precise coverage of this work is the Cook Is., Line Is., Society Is., Austral Is., Tuamotu Arch, Marquesas Is., Pitcairn Is., Easter and Sala-y-Gomez Is., as well as all sea birds recorded within this vast region. A total of 141 islands and their bird records are documented, with a total of 150 species discussed (plus two unsolved mysteries from the past). For each species the French and Polynesian names, description, taxonomy, distribution and status, habitat and feeding ecology, voice and reproduction are summarized. The closing date of the work is 31 December 1979, but a few records for 1979-1982 are included in an appendix. While many of these vulnerable island populations are endangered only one species appears to be an addition to the list of extinct birds, the fruit-dove *Ptilinopus mercieri* (its only known population was eliminated by a feral colony of Great Horned Owls *Bubo virginianus*!).

This will be the standard work on Polynesian birds for many years to come. Published and unpublished sources (including the Whitney journals) are exhaustively treated and it is the culmination of the authors' researches, whose many publications between 1973 and 1980 have already assured their authority on this fascinating avifauna.

Murray D. Bruce

Birds of the Netherlands Antilles by K.H. Voous, 1983. 2nd edn Utrecht: Foundation for Research in Surinam & the Netherlands Antilles. Pp 327, col. pl1 22, b. & w. pl1 6, maps as endpapers. 136 × 198 mm. $26.00.

Although a second edition to a bird guide first published in Dutch in 1955, the text has been greatly augmented (252 species described *vs* 147 in 1955) and 5 of the 27 plates were newly painted by the artist, H.J. Slijper, to match his original style. This new treatment in English is intended to cope with the increasing number of island-hopping, bird-watching tourists, as well as for local residents. In doing so, the author has produced an excellent, thoroughly documented guide/handbook to the two sections of the West Indies, which comprise the Netherlands Antilles: 1. The islands of Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire, off northern Venezuela; 2. The smaller islands of Saba, St Eustatius and St Martin (the latter divided between the

Netherlands and France), east of Puerto Rico, also the subject of a recent bird guide (Emu 84: 253).

For the convenience of the guide's users, the text treats these areas in their two natural geographical divisions. While Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire cover the bulk of the book, all islands are discussed in relation to their bird life. The plates cover 145 of the 252 species treated (35 not in current North American guides) and are vividly painted and reproduced. The details on local bird biology and migration patterns make this a valuable reference for students of island bird faunas, and the author has already published some of his own conclusions (e.g. J. Yamashina Inst. Orn. 14: 171-178, 1982) The maps are divided between both endpapers, and lists of references and local plant names are appended.

The high quality production of this hardcover book ensures its use as a reference source as much as a field guide, and it is recommended as an excellent example of a guide/handbook to a group of small islands and its bird fauna. One can only hope more guides like this one will emerge on other small island groups in the West Indies.

Murray D. Bruce

They All Ran Wild. The Animals and Plants that Plague Australia by Eric C. Rolls, 1984. Sydney: Angus & Robertson. Rev. ed. Pp xx + 546. 200 × 265 mm. $29.95.

This book, first published in 1969, is now available in an expanded format, with text revisions in the form of annotations, and an abundance of illustrations. The title may be a bit misleading because the first part of the book is devoted to the rabbit (265 pp). The second part (247 pp), in 8 sections, includes three on the activities of acclimatization societies in the introduction of wild mammals, birds, and domestic animals and fish. The other sections cover hares, foxes, dingoes, 'Kangaroos: pest or valuable producer?', and one briefly summarizing a miscellaneous menagerie from rats and pigs, goats and camels, to donkeys and buffaloes.

Although birds are only a small proportion of the book, it is a scholarly work covering all facets of the status of exotic animals in Australia, from the earliest introductions and escapes through historical changes to the present. The inclusion of dingoes and kangaroos is very useful, offering a review of man's attitude towards them since the first days of European settlement.

For anyone involved with studying the effects of exotic animals on native species this is a valuable source book. It is also a fascinating book to read for its wealth of interesting historical facts and other details on a subject of interest to all who are concerned with the conservation of Australia's unique and often all too vulnerable native fauna.

Murray D. Bruce

Wildlife of the Brisbane Area edited by Wally Davies, 1983. Milton, Qld: Jacaranda Press. Pp xii + 216, col. pl1 16, numerous b. & w. photos, diagrams, maps. 138 × 213 mm. $10.95.

With the support of World Wildlife Fund Australia, to whom all profits go from the sale of this book, and additional support in various ways from other organisations and individuals, an intensive 18 month Brisbane wildlife survey was carried out during 1980–81, following earlier work done from 1975. The wealth of wildlife in the 3000 km² area extending to Beenleigh, Ipswich, Caboolture and the Bay Islands, is indicated by the species tallies: 399 birds, 63 mammals, 50 lizards, 32 snakes, 33 frogs, and 151 butterflies. The response by 1000 people during the survey period highlighted the importance of backyards as wildlife habitats. Indeed, they can play a significant role in the survival of many species, in addition to their presence in protected areas fringing the city.

This book is more than just a summary of the survey, it is a comprehensive, well illustrated guide to the Brisbane region and its habitats. The bulk of the book comprises detailed accounts of the terrestrial mammals, with selective coverage of the commoner marine mammals, birds, reptiles, frogs, fishes, butterflies and spiders. For birds, as for other animal groups covered, complete lists are included in an appendix, with coding to indicate records coverage and other details. Also here are lists of the contributing organisations and other contacts.

This successful co-operative project (29 authors contributed to the text) is obviously an essential reference if you live in the Brisbane area. However, it can also be a valuable reference to a much broader region in southeast Queensland and northeast New South Wales, in fact, of value to anyone with a general or specific interest in the wildlife of eastern Australia.

Murray D. Bruce

SOUND RECORDING REVIEWS

Edited by F.N. ROBINSON

The Birds of the Soviet Union: a sound guide (Russian), by Boris N. Veprintsev. Three 30 cm 33⅓ rpm long-playing records, nos. C90-18023/4, 5/6 & 7/8. 1982. Melodiya, All-Union Studio for Recorded Sound 32-34 Smolensk Square, Moscow 200, USSR. Obtainable, price £21 a set of three plus postage and packing, from J. Boswall, Wraxall, Bristol BS19 1JZ, United Kingdom.

These records, published just in time to be on sale at the XVIII International Ornithological Congress in Moscow in August 1982, are intended to parallel the new handbook of Soviet birds edited by V.D. Ilychev and V.E. Flint, the first volume of which appeared in November 1982 and was reviewed in Ibis 126: 266. These three are the first of a projected set of 25 that will eventually present the sounds of hopefully as many as 750 species; 450 have already been taped and are housed in the Library of Natural Sounds of the USSR Academy of Sciences at Puschino-on-Oka (address: Moscow Region 142292, USSR). From this collection, the sounds of 63 species — four divers and 59 waders — have been selected and published. The total needle time is 117 minutes and 24 seconds; an average of 1 minute 52 seconds per species. This is a good allowance. The birds' scientific names are announced by Boris N. Veprintsev, the principal recordist and compiler. He is also scientific

curator of the aforementioned archive; 8000 copies of each disc were pressed.

Although labelled 'stereo', only a few of the recordings were made in stereo. These include the following species: 2, 4, 6 (the band running 00′42″) and 14 on the first disc; 6, 10, 13 (the band running 01′05″) and 15 on the second; and 4, 5 and 13 on the third.

Endemic breeding species' voices are those of the Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*, Little Whimbrel *Numenius minutus* (see Ibis 124: 302-319 for sonagrams), Asiatic Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*, Spoonbilled Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*, Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*, Curlew Sandpiper *C. ferruginea* and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *C. acuminata*. With two exceptions those birds winter in Australia as do the following non-endemic Soviet waders whose voices can also be heard on the discs: Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Lesser (Eastern) Golden Plover *P. dominica*, Mongolian (Sand-) Plover *Charadrius mongolus*, Black-winged (Pied) Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*, Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*, Whimbrel *N. phaeopus*, Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*, Common Sandpiper *T. hypoleucos*, Greenshank *T. nebularia*, Marsh Sandpiper *T. stagnatilis*, Terek Sandpiper *T. terek*, Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*, Bar-tailed Godwit *L. lapponica*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Pectoral Sandpiper *C. melanotos*, Red-necked Stint *C. ruficollis*, Sanderling *C. alba*, Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* and Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*.

The four divers exclude *Gavia immer*, not a Russian bird, but include the White-throated Diver *Gavia pacifica* recently shown to be a full species (A.A. Kistchinski and V.E. Flint. 1983. Ornitologiya 18: 112-123).

Copies of the sleeve notes, 53 pages, translated from the Russian by M.G. Wilson, can also be separately obtained from J. Boswall, at the aforementioned address, price £2 plus postage. The discs themselves could supposedly be ordered by sending the money. As a test case a suitably generous sum was sent on 3rd May 1983 (transaction no. OPCO13216) from Lloyds Bank to Melodiya's bank and withdrawn by that organisation 9 days later, but despite this and subsequent letters no discs have been received. A few sets have since been brought personally from Russia by this reviewer and are available to *bona fide* enquirers. The 'profit' sends The Birds of the Western Palearctic to Moscow, Puschino and Alma Ata.

Jeffery Boswall

The Voices of Birds in Nature: 4 - Birds of Siberia (Russian), by Rudolph Naumov and Boris N. Veprintsev. One 25 cm 33⅓ rpm long-playing record, no. 14867/8. 1964, re-issued 1982. Melodiya, All-Union Studio for Recorded Sound, 32-34 Smolensk Square, Mowcow 200, USSR. Obtainable, price £6 plus postage and packing from J. Boswall, Wraxall, Bristol BS19 1JZ, Britain. (Profit sends 'Birds of the Western Palaearctic' to Moscow, Puschino and Alma-Ata).

Twenty-one species, recorded by Rudolph Naumov near Krasnoyarsk (56°30′N, 92°30′E) during June 1961 and June 1962, include White's (Scaly) Thrush *Zoothera dauma*, and two winter visitors to Australia, the Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus* and Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala*. The recordings were edited by Boris N. Veprintsev, who also wrote the commentary, spoken by S. Balashov.

Jeffery Boswall

The Voices of Birds in Nature: 5 - Birds of the Far East (Russian), by Boris N. Veprintsev, Natasha Litvinenko, Yuri Shibaev and Irene Neufeldt. One 25 cm 33⅓ rpm long-playing record, no. 17821/2. 1966, re-issued 1982. Melodiya, All-Union Studio for Recorded Sound, 32-34 Smolensk Square, Moscow 200, USSR. Obtainable, price £6 plus postage and packing from J. Boswall, Wraxall, Bristol BS19 1JZ, Britain. (Profit sends 'Birds of the Western Palearctic' to Moscow, Puschino and Alma-Ata).

This record presents the voices of seventeen bird species taped near Vladivostock between May and July 1963–1965. The Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus* is one of four *Cuculus* species to be featured. The commentary is spoken by V. Gertsik.

Jeffery Boswall

The Voices of Birds in Nature: 6 - Birds of Central Asia (Russian), by Boris N. Veprintsev. One 30 cm 33⅓ rpm long-playing record, no. 034449/50. 1974, re-issued 1982. Melodiya, All-Union Studio for Recorded Sound, 32-34 Smolensk Square, Moscow 200, USSR. Obtainable, price £7 plus postage and packing, from J. Boswall, Wraxall, Bristol BS19 1JZ, Britain. (Profit sends 'Birds of the Western Palearctic' to Moscow, Puschino and Alma-Ata).

This is the first disc to be officially published by the Library of Wildlife Sounds of the USSR Academy of Sciences, which was formally established at Puschino-on-Oke, Moscow Region, in 1973, and of which Boris N. Veprintsev is the curator. The recordings on this disc were made during April and May 1968 in the Dal'verzin district including the island of Dzhidali in the river Syr-Darya (41°N, 69°E), which is not far from Tashkent, and also in the Lyenkoransk Nature Reserve (38°N, 49°E) in Azerbaijan, adjacent to the border with Iran.

Of the twenty-two bird species featured, those of interest to Australians include several introduced birds — the Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*, the Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*, Common Mynah *Acridotheres tristis*, Blackbird *Turdus merula*, and Ring-necked Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*, plus a vagrant, the Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*, together with the more familiar Black-winged (Pied) Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*.

Jeffery Boswall

Voices of Matsalu, by Fred Jussi. One 30 cm 33⅓ rpm long-playing stereo record, no. C90-13845/6. 1979. Melodiya, All-Union Studio for Recorded Sound, 32-34 Smolensk Square, Moscow 200, USSR, but normally obtainable only from Matsalu State Nature Reserve, Lihula, Itaapsalu Region, Estonian SSR. Currently also obtainable, price £7 plus postage and packing, from J. Boswall, Wraxall, Bristol BS19 1JZ, Britain. (Profit sends bird books to Estonia).

This, the first disc from the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic, wherein Matsalu State Nature Reserve is a coastal wetland of international importance, was recorded by Fred Jüssi, himself a wildlife recordist of exceptional talent with a particularly aesthetic approach. He normally works as a freelance nature recordist, photographer and writer, and broadcaster with Eesti Radio in Tallin.

Among the thirty species heard on this record are the Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Corncrake *Crex crex* and Black-tailed

Godwit *Limosa limosa*, the Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* and Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*, Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*, Blackbird *Turdus merula* and the European Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*.

Jeffery Boswall

Bird voices of Lahemaa, by Fred Jussi. One 30 cm 33⅓ rpm stereo long-playing record, no. C90-16867/8. 1982. Melodiya, All-Union Studio for Recorded Sound, 32-34 Smolensk Square, Moscow 200, USSR. Obtainable, price £7 plus postage and packing, from J. Boswall, Wraxall, Bristol BS19 1JZ, Britain. (Profit sends bird books to Estonia).

Twenty-four bird species are featured on this second wildlife record from Fred Jüssi. The sleeve notes on this excellent production are printed in Estonian, Russian and English (though Nightjar *C. europaeus* read Egyptian Nightjar *Caprimulgus aegyptius*, and for Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* (twice read Thrush Nightingale *L. luscinia*). Latin names of both featured and background vocalists are included, as are dates and hours of the recordings.

Of interest to Australians are two waders — the Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos* and the Redshank *T. totanus* — and two introduced European birds — the Blackbird *Turdus merula* and Song Thrush *T. philomelos*.

Jeffery Boswall

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