The chapters following the introduction detail each of Australia’s resident raptors are divided into nine groups, with the species in each group covered in a single chapter. The nine groups are: Osprey, kites in the genus *Elanus*, Australian endemic hawks (Red Goshawk, Black-breasted Buzzard and Square-tailed Kite, Pacific Baza, large kites and sea-eagles, harriers, hawks in the genus *Accipiter*, booted eagles and falcons. For each species a detailed description covers differences between sexes and ages and also describes colour morphs. The description includes details of features used to identify the species from similar species. It is here that the author’s considerable knowledge of field characters and behaviour is apparent. Following the description, each account includes a summary of the Australian and extralimital (if applicable) distribution of the species. No maps are provided. This section is followed by ones on food and hunting, behaviour, breeding and threats and conservation. The behaviour section is particularly useful, providing a nice summary of the nature and characteristic haunts of each species.

The final chapter is a short, but very sobering, account of the threats facing Australian raptors and the management actions needed to ensure their survival. The chapter is both a summary and a synthesis of available information and includes many of the author’s own ideas. The topics covered are far ranging and it makes for a very interesting and thought provoking conclusion to the text. The final chapter is followed by a glossary and a bibliography that lists papers published concurrently with or since HANZAB, Vol. 2.

I did notice a number of small faults with this work that I will mention briefly. Colour plates of a species are often not close to the species account in the text. For example, the Little Eagle account begins on page 101, whereas the plates are next to page 40. Unfortunately, plates are not numbered or titled and each species account does not indicate the location of the plates for that species. This lack of co-ordination could be a nuisance when using the guide in the field. The lack of maps is not a major problem but it would have been useful to have them. Also, a subject index would have been a practical addition.

Overall, I rate this publication very highly and recommend it to all readers who identify raptors in the field. The book is written in a manner that makes it accessible to observers from a wide range of backgrounds and with varying levels of experience. I cannot think of a better reference for an observer who is developing an interest in Australian raptors. Likewise, it will be very useful to overseas ornithologists and birders coming to grips with our raptors. Finally, observers like myself, who require clarification on characters or behaviours from time to time, will also find it to be a worthwhile purchase. I very much look forward to the same author writing a similar guide for Australian owls.

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