

of the systematics of Australian birds. There is a wealth of information here for anyone interested in the relationships of all birds, not just those found in Australia. Under each order they review what is known about familial interrelationships, and within each family they discuss generic relationships as they relate to Australian birds, then do the same for the Australian species. Compared to *The Directory of Australian Birds (Passerines)*, Christidis and Boles pay scant attention to distributions (and have no maps) or to detailed plumage variation, opting instead to create a synthesis of what is known about taxonomy. The two books complement each other very well, but obviously *Systematics and Taxonomy of Australian Birds* is more up-to-date on the literature.

Occasionally the linear taxonomic arrangement is a bit baffling, especially given their extended discussions about relationships. Placing the Petroicidae behind Paradisacidae, for example, rather

than much earlier in the passerine sequence must have been a lapse, as multiple papers have shown the former to be outside the core corvidans. Although this is a minor quibble, we can hope that the next edition will use the sequences of taxa as a means of conveying more information about relationships.

Christidis and Boles have brought a broader vision to the typical monograph about the birds of a particular area. This is a volume that will be widely consulted as a reference for the taxonomic literature about a large, diverse avifauna, and as a source for current thinking in avian systematics in general. Our knowledge about avian relationships, at all taxonomic levels, seems to many of us to be changing at light-speed. Thus, let us hope that the authors will see their way to offer up a revision in the not too distant future.

Biodiversity: Integrating Conservation and Production: Case Studies from Australian Farms, Forests and Fisheries

T. LeFroy, K. Bailey, G. Unwin and T. Norton (eds), 2008
CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood
Pp. x + 258 Paperback; ISBN 97806430945681
RRP AUD \$89.95

DAVID GOODALL¹

THIS book presents to a wider audience the papers read to a meeting in Tasmania, which brought people whose main interest was in biodiversity together with others who were concerned with economic production from the same areas. Introductory chapters, notably one by David Lindenmayer, set out general problems and principles in the management of land for competing purposes.

Production and the maintenance of biodiversity are often regarded as competing purposes in land management. But some practising farmers from Tasmania showed that this is not necessarily true – that the two goals may in fact be mutually supportive. In the aquatic environment another paper showed that the northern prawn fishery can benefit economically, if measures are taken to reduce the bycatch of non-target species, and hence improve biodiversity. Unfortunately there was no contribution from the rapidly-developing field of aquaculture.

Some readers will find the chapters on market-based techniques to encourage farming practices favourable to biodiversity particularly interesting.

Programs involving auctioning of alternative proposals for this purpose, for instance, are outlined.

As is inevitable in a wide-ranging conference, the attempts to draw all the threads together in summary chapters were doomed to end in little more than “motherhood” statements. But this does not detract from the interest of the individual case-studies presented.

The photographs which illustrate the book are unfortunately of poor quality – perhaps they were colour photographs not suitable for reproduction in black-and-white.

There is no index.

¹ School of Natural Sciences, Edith Cowan University, Joondalup W.A. 6027 Australia