

RECENT INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BIRD PRESERVATION PUBLICATIONS

Threatened Birds of Africa and Related Islands

Authors: N.J. Collar & S.N. Stuart (796 pp.)

All over the world birds are acutely threatened by loss of habitat from tropical forest destruction, wetland drainage and poisoning from pesticides. The third edition of the ICBP/IUCN Bird Red Data Book takes a geographical approach to threatened species. Part I, Threatened Birds of Africa and Related Islands, describes in detail the status of 177 species.

All information has been completely revised from earlier editions. Careful analysis has revealed a considerably larger number of threatened birds, according to standard IUCN criteria, than previously believed. Much new information on the ecology of each species has been added. The book identifies local threats and makes specific conservation recommendations. "Borderline cases" - those species not now considered threatened but whose future status must be watched closely - are discussed in an extensive appendix.

Commissioned specially for this edition, noted bird artist Norman Arlott has painted 12 full colour portraits of some of the most threatened African birds. Four of them have never been illustrated in colour before.

Threatened Birds of Africa and Related Islands provides up-to-date information which will stand as a benchmark for conservation efforts for years to come. To date, no bird species has become extinct in continental Africa. Here is a call to action to ensure this record remains unbroken.

Price: 24.00 U.K. Pounds, free mailing

Status and Conservation of the World's Seabirds

Editors: J.P. Croxall, P.G.H. Evans & R.W. Schreiber (800 pp.)

Leading experts on the ecology of seabirds from 18 countries have contributed 46 papers to this volume. Together they add up to the most complete and up-to-date survey published on the conservation problems of seabirds all over the world. Based on the presentations made at the seabird symposium of the XVIII ICBP World Conference, much of the scientific data is published here for the first time.

The book covers all the main seabird habitats associated with each continent or ocean, including islands, coastlines and the open seas. Hazards faced by seabirds from introduced predators and habitat destruction on islands, from commercial fisheries,

gillnet mortality and oil pollution at sea, are treated in detail. A final section consists of a series of recommendations for world seabird conservation, which makes this volume a must for all scientists and conservationists working with seabirds.

Price 26.90 U.K. Pounds, free mailing

Conservation of Island Birds

Editor: P.J. Moors (276 pp.)

Islands are home for some of the world's most fascinating wildlife. Time, isolation and small areas have led to unique assemblages of species with high numbers of endemic plants and animals. The ranges of 10 % of the world's bird species are limited to single islands only.

However, island floras and faunas are inherently fragile and vulnerable to human disturbance. 200 of the 217 species or races of birds which are known to have become extinct in the last four centuries were found on islands. This alarming trend continues: the majority of bird species approaching extinction today live on islands.

Birds on Islands is the result of an international symposium held at the XVIII ICBP World Conference. By means of a series of case studies, a wide range of international experts survey the problems associated with the conservation of threatened birds on offshore islands. Historically, the most important cause of extinction on islands has been from introduced predators. Today, destruction of habitat, competition from alien species, and avian disease pose increasingly significant threats to island species.

Birds on Islands, No. 3 in the ICBP Publication Series, has been edited as a companion volume to ICBP's recent publication, Status and Conservation of the World's Seabirds (Technical Publication No. 2).

Price 16.50 U.K. Pounds, free mailing

NB - All books will be sent surface mail. Please allow six weeks for delivery.

Order from: International Council for Bird Preservation, 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, England

Reviews of the above publications will appear in future issues of *Cormorant*.

EDITORIAL STYLE OF THE *CORMORANT* : COMMON NAMES AND HYPHENS

Several reviews and comments received both in correspondence and orally of African Seabird Group publications, including its journal *Cormorant*, have alluded to the lack of hyphens in such common names as "Redtailed Tropicbird" and "Blackbellied Stormpetrel". One reviewer has even blamed this on "the hypnotic influence of a renegade classicist" (Bourne 1984).

Such comments suggest to the reader that the policy of *Cormorant* in this regard is an arbitrary one and is restricted to African Seabird Group publications. This is not so and in leaving out the hyphens the A.S.G. has, in actual fact, had the interests of conformity in mind.

The African Seabird Group, originally the Southern African Seabird Group, made a policy decision to follow the prevalent South African spelling of common names of birds. Consultation of several sources (*e.g.* Maclean 1978, Clancey 1980, Newman 1984, Maclean 1985) will show that the "running together" of common names was and is accepted policy in the country in which *Cormorant* is edited, published and printed.

The dropping of hyphens was, at least in part, due to the influence of Fowler (1974) who suggests that the unnecessary use of hypnens should be avoided (G.L. Maclean *in litt.*).

Purists must therefore look elsewhere than the A.S.G. for the culprit who instigated the hyphenless seabird. Perhaps those who dislike the A.S.G.'s style should consider using the term "sea-bird" in their own publications?

REFERENCES

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