

Adults of each species are illustrated with several portraits which can only be described as masterpieces, and which are tributes to the authors' patience and skill with a camera. Flight and/or landing shots, nests and eggs, and downy and fledging young are also shown. Photographic coverage is not uniform; some species (predictably rare species such as the Grey Falcon) receive many pages of outstanding pictures, while others receive disappointingly few. However for most there is a good series on both sexes. The photos of some, such as the Red Gosnawk, are very useful for field identification since current field guides do not do them justice.

The text is divided into chapters on each species, with extra ones on interesting occurrences: rearing of kestrel chicks by Black-breasted Buzzards, and interbreeding of Brown and Grey (White) Goshawks. A chapter on equipment describes photographic methods in detail, and provides useful information for other aspiring photographers.

The authors mix an entertaining account of events surrounding the taking of their photographs with descriptions of the behaviour of the birds and their young. Incubation and/or fledging periods are given for most species but some appear to be estimates only. Data are given on the frequency of different clutch sizes in many species.

Unfortunately most of the food data are not quantified, but are still valuable and in some cases challenging to previously-held views. Of particular interest are the diets of the Square-tailed Kite (nestling birds only); and the Brown Goshawk (mostly rabbits) and Collared Sparrowhawk (small passerines only) where they breed together. Also of note is the large number of species found to feed mainly on rabbits.

Some other interesting points are that the Black-shouldered Kite and Spotted Harrier are breeding migrants to the Mildura district; the Square-tailed Kite, assumed to be nomadic, seems to be resident as a breeding adult, and may be absent from the arid Centre; the Black-breasted Buzzard may occasionally be polyandrous, like the New World Harris's Hawk and Galapagos Hawk. Data on fledging periods and juvenile plumages of the Square-tailed Kite and the Black-breasted Buzzard support the view that they are closely related and that the former has little in common with the Black Kite.

There are a few minor quibbles with the text. Repetition of literature data and distribution maps available elsewhere seems unnecessary, especially since the authors criticise other recent works for this, and current maps will be superseded by publication of the Atlas. Space thus saved could have been used for additional photos of less well represented species. A few typing or spelling errors are scattered through the text. Repeated reference to "tail primaries" is a little annoying. There is a notable error; having seen the unpublished slide, courtesy of the authors, the dark phase Brown Falcon stated to have hatched five chicks (p.93) was actually a Black Falcon. However these minor faults detract little from an otherwise outstanding book. The production of the book, a wholly Australian effort, is of a high standard and is a credit to the printer and publishers.

This remarkable work is excellent value for money. It is highly recommended to anyone interested in birds and is a must for raptor enthusiasts. Raptor biologists will find much of value in it and many indications of the wide scope for future research.

S. J. S. Debus. Armidale, N.S.W.

Obituary

Dr Harold James Frith, A.O., F.A.A., F.T.S., died suddenly at his home in Lismore on 28 June 1982. For 20 years, he was Chief of the CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research. He retired from that position in 1981 after suffering a serious heart attack and moved to Lismore in January 1982.

While Chief of the CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research, Dr Frith made a major contribution to the development of scientifically-based policies for the management of fauna in Australia. He also helped the Division to achieve world ranking among organizations of its kind. Dr Frith had a particular interest in the Australian Bird-banding Scheme and did much to ensure the development of the Scheme as a research facility of major importance to Australian science.

Dr Frith leaves his wife, a son and two married daughters.

New Members

CANNON, Dr C. E., Indooroopilly, Qld.
 CONGREVE, P., Cocklebidy, W.A.
 DUNNET, Dr G. M., Scotland.
 FIDDLER, R., Alice Springs, N.T.
 KRISTO, F. L., Ashcroft, N.S.W.
 MANUEL, S., Wye, N.S.W.
 PAYTON, G. R., Bunbury, W.A.
 RICHARDS, W., Kambalda, W.A.
 SUMMERS, G., Port Campbell, Vic.
 VERMEULEN, R., Kurrajong Hill, N.S.W.
 WADE, R. M., West Pennant Hills, N.S.W.