



**West African Ornithological Society
Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
Africain**



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Book Reviews — Revues de Livres

Flore et Faune du Parc National d'Odzala, Congo. Ed. by R.J. Dowsett & F. Dowsett-Lemaire, 1997. 135 pp. Tauraco Res. Rep. 6, Tauraco Press, Liège. ISBN 2-87225-001-8, paperback, £12.

Odzala National Park is located in N Congo, and is one of seven national parks financed by the European Union's Ecofac Project. It contains forest-savanna mosaic in the south, forest in the north. This report also includes two chapters on the birds of two other reserves, Nouabalé-Ndoki N.P. on the border with Central African Republic, and Réserve de la Léfini in the southeast. Four of the chapters are in French, with English summaries (vegetation, large mammals, buffaloes, management planning) and five in English, with French summaries (birds, small mammals, butterflies, the other two reserves). All but one of the chapters (actually more like papers) are by one or more of the editors, and this unnecessarily separate treatment results in some repetition, such as vegetation descriptions, and a full-page map which appears in several places!

The ornithology of northern Congo has been virtually unexplored and the thorough 13-month study described in the Odzala bird chapter results in a list of 435 species, including such interesting discoveries as what is probably a new race of *Cisticola eximia* south of the forest block. New records of biogeographical interest were also obtained in Nouabalé-Ndoki and Léfini.

This is definitely not a guidebook, but is a scholarly contribution to the natural history, including the ornithology, of this poorly-known part of central Africa.

Alan Tye

A Bibliography of Afrotropical Birds, 1971–1990. By R.J. Dowsett, C.H. Fry & F. Dowsett-Lemaire, 1997. 338 pp. Tauraco Res. Rep. 7, Tauraco Press, Liège. ISBN 2-87225-002-6, paperback, £30.

This new bibliography attempts to continue Fry's annual bibliographic supplements to *Malimbus*, which covered the period 1975–86. The new work expands coverage to the Malagasy region, but omits Fry's valuable subject codings. The major part (> 6300 titles) is classified by "taxon" (including general categories such as "seabirds"), with the remaining 2000 titles grouped by region or research subject. The authors admit that the sections on diseases, parasites, anatomy and physiology are probably less complete than other subject areas.