



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



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## Book Reviews

**World Checklist of Threatened Birds.** Compiled by J. Norton, S. Stuart and T. Johnson, 1990. 274 pp. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough. ISBN 0-86139-601-4. Paperback, no price given.

This is a technical publication, produced for the purposes of the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) regulations as they apply to the United Kingdom. It provides a list of bird species appearing in Appendices 1-3 of CITES (unfortunately, no explanation is given of what these appendices are) as well as additional species included in ICBP's *Birds to Watch* (Collar & Andrew 1988). Some groups (e.g. all Falconiformes, Strigiformes and Otididae and most Psittaciformes) are treated comprehensively, even non-threatened species, because of the possibility of confusion with threatened species.

The bulk of the book is a systematic list. Each species' entry includes its CITES category, degree of threat, major kinds of exploitation, world breeding and non-breeding ranges and references. Readers interested in West Africa will find the book a useful, if brief, source of data on the status (legal and otherwise) of many birds of the region, particularly because Ghana has chosen to include on Appendix 3 a huge proportion of its common birds!

Alan Tye

**The Zoological Exploration of Southern Africa 1650-1790**, by L.C. Rookmaaker, 1989. 368 + XII pages, 16 colour plates, many monochrome illustrations. A.A. Balkema, P.O. Box 1675, Rotterdam. Df 185 (£59.50), ISBN 90-6191-867-7

This book's main focus lies outside our area of interest but it includes much of relevance to West African ornithology. It covers a period from the first Dutch settlement at the Cape (c. 1650) to the early period of serious zoology, which commenced in the second half of the 18th century. Most of the subject matter is birds and mammals.

The book is organised into four parts. Part 1 reviews all known sources, commencing with Hondius (1652) while Part 2 deals in greater detail with seven of the most important explorers. These sections include brief biographies which often throw new light on the importance of some otherwise little-known naturalists (e.g. R.J. Gordon). Throughout the book, animals are listed and cross-referenced by source works, locality (identified with coordinates where possible) and species names. Species are identified by their modern names, the names used in the explorers' original works, page references and often with brief notes clarifying identifications or other points. Extant specimens collected or mentioned by the original authors are listed by collection and