



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



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Reviews — Revues

Stratégie Préliminaire pour le Suivi des Oiseaux d'Eau en Afrique. Ed. by T. Dodman, 1997. 175 pp. Publ. 43, Wetlands International, Wageningen. ISBN 1-900442-14-0.

This report is the proceedings of a workshop in Senegal in 1996 on the development of waterbird counts and conservation in Africa. The contributions of about 20 authors form a valuable compilation and evaluation of the research on numbers, distribution and ecology of Palaearctic and Afrotropical Anatidae, since the initial Sahel zone work done by Francis Roux and Guy Jarry from the mid-1950s and the coordinated censuses of Palaearctic waterfowl populations, initiated by Wetlands International (in its former guise as IWRB), in 1967.

An introductory chapter explains the lack of international strategy for research on wetland conservation on the African continent, and that increased coordination would improve the probability of achieving research and conservation goals. Chapter 2 reviews the work done on wildfowl counts and its implications for conservation. Research on Anatidae and Ardeidae is singled out as particularly important. Other chapters deal with the international politics of wildfowl conservation (Ramsar and Bonn conventions), and international programmes for monitoring trends in waterbirds in Africa, proposed or initiated by the French working group on migratory West Palaearctic birds (OMPO) and Office National de la Chasse, WIWO in the Netherlands, and BirdLife International. A further section deals with the organization of waterbird counts and their objectives, in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Niger and Senegal.

Ernst P.R. Poorter

Centres of Plant Diversity. Volume 1: Europe, Africa, South West Asia and the Middle East. Ed. By S.D. Davis, V.H. Heywood & A.C. Hamilton, 1994. 354 pp., several maps and photos. WWF and IUCN, Gland. ISBN 2-8317-0197-X, hardback, £30.

The important project of which this is the first of three volumes, parallels, for plants, the Endemic Bird Area analyses published by BirdLife International. It attempts to identify and highlight plant diversity and endemism hotspots around the world, taking into account not only numbers of species present in an area and number of endemics but also degree of threat (amount of habitat/site destroyed), gene pool of value to