

- POWLESLAND, R.G.; PICKARD, C.R.; POWLESLAND, M.H. 1993. Seabirds found dead on New Zealand beaches in 1989, and a review of *Pelecanoides urinatrix*, *Phaethon rubricauda*, *P. lepturus* and *Fregata ariel* recoveries, 1943 to 1988. *Notornis* 39: 101-111.
- POWLESLAND, R.G.; POWLESLAND, M.H.; PICKARD, C.R. 1993. Seabirds found dead on New Zealand beaches in 1990, and a review of *Phalacrocorax*, *Leucocarbo* and *Stictocarbo* species recoveries, 1943 to 1990. *Notornis* 40: 27-43.

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REVIEWS

A Directory of Wetlands in New Zealand, by P. Cromarty and D.A. Scott (eds.) 1995. Department of Conservation, Wellington. 395 pp. ISBN 0-478-01776-6. \$41.00 plus \$2.50 postage (paperback). Available from Department of Conservation, Science Publishing, P.O. Box 10-420, Wellington.

Published for the Department of Conservation, the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau (IWRB) and the Ramsar Convention Bureau, this work covers 73 wetlands in the North, South and Stewart Islands which have been identified by the Department of Conservation as being of international importance based on the criteria of Article 2 of the Ramsar Convention. The book was initiated as part of the Oceania Wetland Inventory in conjunction with IWRB, the Asian Wetland Bureau (now combined as Wetlands International), the Ramsar Bureau and the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP).

The Introduction points out that the information is based on the best currently available, and other wetlands which exist in New Zealand may, on further investigation, fit the "international significance" criteria. Readers will no doubt question why particular wetlands have been excluded - Lake Ki Wainono in South Canterbury springs to this reader's mind.

Following the Introduction, Acknowledgements, a summary of wetlands and their conservation in New Zealand (including research, legislation and legal status, organisations and species of conservation concern) are the site accounts, broken into DoC conservancy groupings.

Each site description is based on standard wetland data sheets used in the Oceania Wetland Inventory, and is divided into subheadings - Title, Location, Area, Altitude, Overview, Physical features, Ecological features, Land tenure, Conservation

measures taken, Conservation measures proposed, Land use, Possible changes in land use, Disturbances and threats, Hydrological and biophysical values, Social and cultural values, Noteworthy fauna, Noteworthy flora, Scientific research and facilities, Conservation education, Recreation and tourism, Management authority, Jurisdiction, References, Reasons for inclusion and Source. A number of appendices on specific sites or groups of sites and references follow.

The basis for inclusion under Article 2 of the Ramsar Convention includes either representative or unique wetlands, criteria based on plants or animals or specific criteria based on waterfowl. Perhaps because of this, the choice and/or grouping is sometimes hard to fathom. For example Lake Taupo is separated from the "South Taupo Wetland", while the lakes and catchments of the Kaituna River (Rotorua lakes, excluding the upper Tarawera catchment) are grouped and the seven Upper Tarawera catchment lakes are lumped. Similarly the "Canterbury braided rivers complex" includes 10 major rivers, the McKenzie Country lakes and their headwaters, with the Ashley (including its estuary), Ahuriri and Waitaki headwaters rivers *being singled out for individual attention within the grouping*.

As expected, birds feature prominently under the "Noteworthy fauna" and "Reasons for inclusion" subheadings in the site accounts.

Perhaps the most surprising feature of the *Directory* is the absence of references to the large body of material, both published and available through other sources, which would have been available to the writers of individual site accounts from OSNZ. Of the 20 pages of references at the conclusion of the book, several OSNZ unpublished regional reports are cited, *OSNZ News* features twice and *Notornis* once. This is particularly surprising in view of the frequent statements relating to percentages of birds supported by a site in relation to regional populations of that species, which are generally uncited. Western Sandpiper *Calidris maurii*, Great Knot *C. tenuirostris* and Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* are listed, without reference, among species of conservation concern along with other vagrants and endemics with small populations.

The above criticisms notwithstanding, *A Directory of Wetlands in New Zealand* is a highly significant work and will be an easily accessible resource for planners, scientists and conservation bodies for many years to come. While site maps and other information have been excluded for reasons of space, details from contributors are held on file for reference purposes by DoC in Wellington and IWRB headquarters in the United Kingdom. It is to be hoped that if the book is to be republished there will be a call for additional accurate and sourced information from interested bodies and individuals.

Tony Crocker



Australian Birds of Prey – by Penny Olsen. University of New South Wales Press, 1995. 256pp. ISBN 0 86840 039 4 (Hardback).

Australian Birds of Prey is an in depth look at the 24 species of raptor which occur in Australia.