

from R.A. & M.J. Ashton, 89 Woronora Parade, Oatley, New South Wales 2223, Australia for \$A5.80 plus packing and postage.

Recommended for beginners or those interested in a particular area or group of Australian birds.

Les McPherson

Wildlife and wildlife habitat of American Samoa, 2 volumes (soft covers)

Volume 1, 120 pages, Environment and Ecology

Volume 2, 151 pages, Accounts of Flora and Fauna

Edited by Richard C. Banks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, from material gathered by A. Binion Amerson Jr., W. Arthur Whistler and Terry D. Schwaner, Environment Consultants, Ind., Dallas, Texas, from 15 June 1975 to 21 December 1976.

Volume 1 covers physical environment, biological environment, community relationships and recommendations on resource management.

Most of the numerous figures and tables and 23 photographs show plant communities, some reptiles, but no birds.

The section on birds includes ornithological history, faunal composition, biogeographical affinities, ecological distribution and a summary of the avifaunal distribution on the five islands and two atolls.

At the end of the book Tables 16-25 deal with birds — Table 16 a checklist; Table 17 distribution summary; Table 18 Status; Table 19 Endemic species; Table 20 Occurrence of bird species in various vegetation communities; Table 21 Habitat utilization by seabirds; Table 22 Habitat preference and food of waterfowl, marsh and land birds; Table 24 Densities and rounded population estimates of waterfowl, marsh and land birds on the five main islands.

Volume 2 covers climate, soils, plants and vertebrate animals. Twenty pages are given to birds, this being a coverage species by species of the 57 birds recorded from American Samoa. Several waders and seabirds occurring in New Zealand are discussed, as is the migratory Long-tailed Cuckoo. Each species, except for the three on the list regarded as errors, are treated as follows: Samoan name; status (resident or migrant etc.) discussion, mostly breeding data but with migratory waders interesting observations such as a Ruddy Turnstone breaking and eating tern eggs are mentioned; specimens (museum specimens known to exist).

At the conclusion of Vol. 2 Tables 55-72 deal with birds, including such aspects as mean densities of birds in study areas; population estimates and counts of seabirds summarised from colony observations; birds observed at sea between islands.

There are extensive acknowledgements, including two New Zealand sources, and a comprehensive list of references, including early notes from a *Notornis* article.

With a growing New Zealand interest in birds of the Pacific region, these two excellent and thoroughly prepared volumes are highly recommended to New Zealand ornithologists wanting to keep abreast of Pacific bird literature, even though much of the data presented in these volumes covers other aspects of American Samoan wildlife.

Unlike most publications, these books are available free of charge simply on request from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 1, 500 N.E. Multnomah Street, Suite 1692, Portland, Oregon 97232, USA.

Don Hadden