

## REVIEWS

*Hawks in focus: A Study of Australia's Birds of Prey*, by Jack and Lindsay Cupper. 1981. Jaclin Enterprises, Mildura, Australia. pp. 208.

This book depicts, in a series of over 300 excellent colour photographs, all of Australia's diurnal birds of prey. Most remarkable, however, is the fact that Jack and Lindsay Cupper (father and son team) have obtained these photographs in the seven years between 1974 and 1981.

Birds of prey are among the most photogenic of birds, but are perhaps also some of the most difficult to work with because of their cautious behaviour, especially near the nest site. The authors have clearly used plenty of effort, patience and skill to assemble this portfolio.

Most photographs have been taken with a 6" x 7" format and the quality shows; the use of substantial tower hides was necessary for gaining access to many of the raptor nests.

The text consists largely of accounts of their activities in pursuit of birds of prey throughout Australia. Mixed with these accounts are interesting and valuable observations of raptor behaviour seldom to be found in field guides or handbooks. Some of their important observations, for example, notes on the interbreeding of Grey and Brown Goshawks (*Accipiter novaehollandiae* X *A. fasciatus*), are presented in separate chapters — fully illustrated, of course.

Each of the 24 species is covered well, and at the end of each species chapter are summaries dealing with alternative names, dimensions, distribution (with map), voice, prey, and details of nests and eggs.

John Fennel

*Aves Brasileiras*, by Johan Dalgas Frisch. 1981. Vol. I, 351 pp. with an addendum *Birds of Brazil, Identification Guide in the English Language*, 15 pp. Dalgas-Ecoltec-Ecologia Tecnica e Comercio Ltda, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Hearing the word "Brazil" any young bird lover or naturalist will turn his mind to this amazing country, which makes up more than half of the South American continent, and even more so to the Amazon valley and its unique vegetation and fantastic animal life. Johan Dalgas Frisch's book provides an adequate picture of the avifauna of Brazil.

Before I briefly discuss the book, its origin may be of some interest. Svend Frisch, Johan's father, a Danish-born engineer, spent a large part of his life drawing Brazilian birds. Early in this work Johan was hunting birds with his slingshot. Soon Svend persuaded his son to collect only birds that his father could use for his ambitious project of drawing all of Brazil's more than 2000 species. It wasn't