

I found Baker's exploration model, and its important effects on genetic programming, much more coherent and sensible than the rusty ethological models for behaviour. Some of Baker's views are obviously winners, others less so. One thing is certain: Baker has ensured that the world of migration will never be the same again. Read this book and find out why.

P. C. Harper

*A preliminary inventory of wetlands of international importance for waterfowl in West Europe and North-West Africa*, by D. A. Scott. I.W.R.B. Special Publication No. 2, September 1980.

The International Waterfowl Research Bureau monitors waterfowl in the Western Palearctic, aiming to identify the wetlands of greatest importance. This large 128-page booklet aims to provide for governments and local authorities an "inventory of wetlands which should receive priority in conservation measures, particularly in relation to international agreements such as the Ramsar convention or the EEC directive on the conservation of wild birds." The areas mentioned in this booklet refer only to waterfowl and so is more limited in scope than the *Directory of wetlands of international importance in the Western Palearctic* by Erik Capp.

The booklet is divided into two major sections: the Selection Process and the 22-country Inventory.

The Selection Process covers definitions, criteria for site selection, species coverage, biogeographical population, species accounts, the count data. Under species accounts (86 species are covered) we read, for example, "*Porphyrio porphyrio* Scarce and local in west Mediterranean Basin . . . population 500-600 pairs."

The major section of the book contains the Inventory for 22 countries ranging from Denmark to Niger. Entries vary considerably. The United Kingdom has 114 sites mentioned, Austria only 4, and Mali just a preliminary comment. In total 544 sites are covered. Each site entry contains the following data: name of site, location, geographical co-ordinates, area in hectares, protection status, threats to wetland habitat, major habitat type, breeding waterfowl of international importance including average numbers, passage or wintering waterfowl with counts and other species occurring at the sites in significant numbers.

The book concludes with a comment on the effectiveness of the inventory, sources of information and acknowledgement, references, three tables and three appendices. Table 1 covers numerical criteria for selected waterfowl species, Table 2, number of sites of international importance for individual species, and Table 3 effectiveness of the inventory for certain breeding waterfowl in the EEC.

Although this book has no immediate relevance to New Zealand it could well serve as a model for something similar here and so is recommended as worthy of study from that point of view.

Don Hadden