

meditated, man-made changes of the environment. However, the losses sustained by the farmer, orchardist and others occur on all five continents and they are very serious so that research stations have been established to deal with this problem. The part describing the rare and endangered species is very short, confined to two American species and no references are given. Finally, the use of inches and feet instead of metric measures now used by all biologists will cause a small inconvenience to some of them.

The above critical remarks are not intended to diminish the value of this massive contribution to ornithology, our *scientia amabilis*. It will serve as a fundamental text to students of avian biology on both hemispheres. Moreover, owing to its encyclopaedic character and the excellence of its source material, it will be indispensable to university professors of biology, taxonomists and, in fact, to every practising ornithologist.

K. W.



*Birds of Nepal with reference to Kashmir and Sikkim*, by Robert L. Fleming Sr & Jr. 350 pp. Published by the authors, P.O. Box 229, Katmandu, Nepal.

This book, the culmination of 25 years study in the Himalayas, contains a tenth of the known birds of the world within its 350 pages. In field guide form it synthesizes the known information, incorporates new data on 38 species previously unknown in Nepal as well as dealing with an additional 16 species recently rediscovered.

Lain S. Bangdal and two Nepalese artists have provided 150 coloured plates and the dust jacket which depicts Crimson Horned and Impeyan Pheasants.

Dealing with birds of a region which has special links with New Zealand since Sir Edmund Hilary's triumph, this book might be welcomed especially by ornithologically-minded New Zealand mountaineers and Sir Edmund's community workers in Nepal.

S. I. A.