taxonomically constrained, but considering the volume of literature available on just mammals and birds, and indeed the concentration of study in these taxa, this is not a problem. In any case, where empirical evidence is lacking from birds and mammals for apparently important behaviours (e.g. 'peripheral predation risk' – as a consequence of location and spacing within groups), then studies of fish and insects are included. Over 2200 references are considered in this review, with original data and graphs reproduced from many of them. The book is therefore useful as a reference source for these data and the list of studies alone, regardless of its synthesis. Where comprehensive reviews already exist of subsections of the topic, such as Lima and Dill's classic 1990 review (*Can. J. Zool.* **68**: 619–640), then the reader is referred to these reviews, although the topics are still covered in sufficient detail for the book to exist more or less as a stand-alone text.

The book is structured chronologically along a hypothetical predatory sequence. After first considering definitions of predation and the process of predator recognition, the focus is secondly on morphological and behavioural defences that prey use to avoid being detected (e.g. crypsis – background matching, counter-shading, disruptive coloration and apostatic selection), then thirdly on behaviours that prey use to determine if predators are in the vicinity and to minimize detection by predators (e.g. nest location, refuges, changing foraging to reduce predator encounters). Fourth, behaviours that warn conspecifics of predator risk are considered. There are two chapters dedicated to vigilance and the group-size effect, and factors affecting vigilance, although the influence of interference competition is given only cursory treatment. Fifth, Caro looks at behaviours by prey that has been noticed by a predator, but that might influence the subsequent probability of attack. There are chapters on alarm calls and signals of unprofitability (e.g. aposematism and pursuit-deterrent signals). Sixth, behaviours to reduce the probability of an individual being targeted after a predator has begun an attack are discussed, with particular consideration given to the anti-predation benefits of grouping. Seventh, morphological and behavioural defences upon being targeted are reviewed, whether the prey is alone or in a group (e.g. body size, weapons), separate chapters being devoted to nest defence, and group defence and mobbing. Eighth, flight and behaviours of last resort are considered (e.g. methods of escape, flight-initiation distance, mass-dependent predation in birds).

In the final chapter (of 13), an overview is attempted, but as the author explains, even the same anti-predation responses can be viewed as having several functions dependent on context and ecological circumstances, and every prey species exhibits a range of flexible behavioural responses to a given predator. It is hard to generalize, and so a comprehensive knowledge of specific studies is needed to understand why one behaviour is shown and not another: this book goes a long way to providing this knowledge in a single source. The book is also, as a consequence, full of fascinating natural history stories that make it an easy and enjoyable read.

Will Cresswell

Del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A. & Christie, D. (eds) **Handbook of the Birds of the World. Volume 10. Cuckoo-shrikes to Thrushes.** *896 pages, 81 colour plates, 427 colour photographs, 737 maps. Barcelona: Lynx Edicions, 2005. Hardback, £138.00, ISBN 84-87334-72-5.*

This is another superb volume of HBW, and dedicated followers of the series will certainly wish to purchase a copy, and many who have not yet decided to spend the money may be persuaded to do so. The main introductory section includes a very well-written summary on the ecology and impact of introduced birds by globally recognized experts in the field. In the core of Volume 10, species from 14 families are illustrated in 81 plates. The introductory texts describing each family are as well written, illustrated and referenced as usual. The Editors have wisely decided to expand the length of this section beyond the norm for the Turdidae, which are one of the best-known avian families and comprise 336 species. By contrast, each of two other families described has but a single representative: Hypocolius *Hypocolius ampelinus* (Hypocoliidae) and Palmchat *Dulus dominicus* (Dulidae).

It would be useful if the treatment of Near-threatened species were standardized in future volumes. For example, whilst both Grey-bellied Bulbul *Pycnonotus cyaniventris* and Brown Accentor *Prunella fulvescens* are Near-threatened, only the former is listed as such in the species texts. Also, when a species' range description indicates its possible occurrence in a certain area, e.g. Greater Shortwing *Heinrichia calligyna*, it may be useful to add a question mark to this region on the map. These are minor quibbles, however, and the HBW team are to be congratulated on producing another fine volume.

Karl Evans

Del Moral, J.C., Molina, B., De La Puenta, J. & Pérez-Tris, J. (eds) **Atlas de las Aves Invernantes de Madrid 1999–2001.** *397 pages, numerous colour paintings and figures (maps etc.), 12 colour photographs, tables. Madrid: SEO-Monticola and Comunidad de Madrid, 2002. Paperback, €30.00, ISBN 84-451-2262-2.*

New works leading to a better knowledge of large-scale bird distributions are good news for ornithologists. This is doubly so if the newly gathered information comes from a rich and comparatively unknown region such as the Mediterranean, and the excitement at the news may increase still further if the work is from a virtually unexplored period in that area: the winter. Winter atlases are probably scarce because fieldwork on harsh cold winter days is usually more unpleasant than during temperate spring

mornings. However, it is no less true that knowledge of winter bird distributions is essential if we aim at fully integrating information arising from the different ecological constraints prevailing in different seasons into the management and conservation of bird populations. The Mediterranean region is a key area if we want to move forward and begin to fill the immense gap in our knowledge of the winter distribution of European birds.

The Madrid winter atlas is a good first step, but it is by no means only of theoretical interest. The organizers of this collective work have put an immense effort into moving beyond more traditional atlas approaches to collect data in a more useful and informative manner. and they have indeed succeeded. In the first place, information gathered per 10-km square surveyed is not limited to presence–absence data, but includes a proxy for the abundance of most species: the number of contacts per 10 h of effective fieldwork. Using this innovative approach, the Atlas allows an easy and direct quantitative comparison of the distribution of species between the atlas squares. This is not always evident for most atlases, which do not explicitly include sampling effort when representing the distribution of species. Furthermore, the use of a relative-abundance index allows also the inclusion of quantitative information describing habitat use. This added value enriches the Atlas with data describing the basics of species' winter habitat ecology in Madrid and allows a more detailed interpretation of the observed distribution patterns. This splendid work has only two obvious shortcomings: first, two winters is probably too short a period to cover variability in the distribution of species during winter representatively; and second, the lack of a much needed English summary, which might have facilitated future wider use of the information included.

To conclude, this Madrid winter atlas can be recommended as a pioneering work, and as a milestone in the mapping of winter bird distributions in the Mediterranean. It also deserves praise for achieving surprisingly high technical standards through its rigorous and informative methodological approach.

Lluís Brotons

Den Besten, J.W. **Birds of Kangra.** *175 pages, most in full colour (over 500 colour photographs). Dharamsala, India: Moonpeak Publishers, and New Delhi, India: Mosaic Books, 2004. Paperback, US$20.00, ISBN 81-901297-4-0. Contact emails: denbesten@rediffmail.com, israel4@vsnl.com (Raphael Israel, Mosaic Books).*

Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh State, in northwest India, occupies that part of the Pir Panjal mountain range that sits between the defiles of the Ravi and Beas rivers, thus embracing the broad Kangra valley, at the foot of the Himalayan front-ranges, and the southern flanks of the Dhauladhar Range. The mountains rise to almost 5000 m on the northern border of Kangra, whereas the lowest parts of the district are well inside the tropical zone at a mere 300 m altitude. This gives the region a wide range of climates and avian habitats.

The birds of Kangra were well documented more than 80 years ago by the indefatigable Hugh Whistler, then of the Indian Police Service. Since Whistler's time, the attractiveness to birds of this already very attractive area has been enhanced by the construction of the Pong Dam, which has impounded a huge lake, varying in seasonal extent, now one of India's foremost waterbird sites. In winter, the wetland supports huge concentrations of ducks, geese, coots, cormorants and wading birds.

This book is difficult to categorize. It does not adopt the usual species-list approach. Instead, each page or double-page spread is devoted to a group (partridges, peafowl, crakes and rails, grebes, etc.) with usually one species highlighted and given a large picture, with brief notes and tiny pictures of other species (e.g. for woodpeckers, the Brown-fronted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos auriceps* is featured and tiny thumbnails are shown of nine other woodpeckers, out of the 14 species reported from the district). A complete list of the 555 species recorded in the district up to 2003 is given in an appendix.

Thirty-eight pages of general geographical and tourist information precede the text on the birds, among them a few pages describing major birdwatching sites. Information in the section devoted to the birds is mainly of the 'interesting facts' variety, with no attempt to provide a field guide or more than faint indications of where to find species. The writing style is long on enthusiasm, if a little lacking in facts.

The book is printed on heavy, glossy paper and the photographs reproduce nicely, although not all are up to the standard that we have come to expect. However, as they all seem to have been taken in Kangra, they are at least authentic with respect to locally occurring races. The design of the book is a little too elaborate for my own taste (text overlays pictures and appears in more than one colour, for instance). It does not pretend to be a definitive study of Kangra's birds, so it may not be of great interest to anyone who has not or will not visit the area. However, as a primer for visitors and tourists about what kinds of birds they may expect on a Kangra holiday it does an excellent job. It is clearly the product of much dedication and the enthusiasm of the author shines through. I highly recommend it to anyone travelling in search of birds northwest of Delhi.

Tony Gaston

Ferguson-Lees, J. & Christie, D. **Raptors of the World: A Field Guide.** *320 pages, 118 colour plates, 279 distribution maps, 17 other figures (3 colour maps and 14 drawings), 7 tables. London: Christopher Helm, 2005. Paperback, £19.99, ISBN 0-7136-6957-8.*

This field guide is a slimmed-down version of the weighty Helm Identification Guide on the world's raptors by the