

certain physical characteristics which will assist in initial identification to generic level. Reference to the colour plates and associated descriptions then allows the observer to determine the correct species.

Accommodating the descriptions of such a large number of raptors in two languages and still keeping the book within suitable field guide dimensions has severely reduced the amount of descriptive information. As a result, identification of similar species may prove difficult. Australian examples of this are the Red Goshawk, Square-tailed Kite and the immature Black-breasted Buzzard. Failure to differentiate between these somewhat similar birds may cause some confusion particularly as they could all be found within the same range. Generally, however, the information available in the text is quite accurate and useful with the generic key being of particular value to observers in narrowing the search for a previously unencountered species.

Forty colour plates accompany the text and 160 line drawings are associated with the generic key. To economize, a large number of birds are shown on each plate and all are depicted with wings folded, as if perched. Occasionally some are shown with tail spread or wings partly open to expose diagnostic features. Although the author (who is also the artist) has gone to great lengths to reproduce authentic detail, colouration and proportion in his drawings, inaccuracy can be detected in at least the following Australian species: White-bellied Sea-Eagle (upperparts brown instead of blue-grey), Black Falcon (tail of immature should be unbarred as in adult; adult leg colour should be pale bluish-white to grey), Black-breasted Buzzard (wings should project beyond tail when folded).

As raptors are most often observed in flight, the complete omission of flight pattern illustrations and wing carriage angles reduces the overall effectiveness of the book as a field guide.

The book will find most appeal with the raptor enthusiast who has an opportunity to travel. Its use for those interested in Australian birds of prey is limited. Locally documented works offer far more detailed and accurate information.

TIM FRASER

*BIRDS OF PREY OF THE WORLD* by Friedhelm Weick in collaboration with Leslie Brown, Paul Parey Scientific Publishers, 1980. 159 pp, 1140 col. illus., 160 line drawings. \$48.00.

Friedhelm Weick has produced the first field guide to the diurnal birds of prey of the world. The book describes all known species and subspecies in immature and adult plumages. Written in both German and English, the book follows closely the guidelines of 'Eagles, Hawks and Falcons of the World' by Brown and Amadon and 'Birds of Prey of the World' by Grossman and Hamlet. A key describes