

## REVIEW OF THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL 'BIRDS INTERNATIONAL'

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This journal first appeared in January 1989. It is published and distributed from Sydney, Australia. They offer a local subscription rate for Australia and New Zealand of AUD 23 and two overseas rates AUD 34 and AUD 56 for surface and airmail respectively. I consider this is good value for money.

Considering the journal is a commercial rather than a "scientific" venture it was a very pleasant surprise to find so little intrusion from the inevitable advertisements. They are neither prominent nor do they interrupt the flow of the articles.

The articles are eminently readable and do not suffer from the dryness sometimes associated with supposedly more scientific publications. Yet there is enough detail and data in them to satisfy all but the most serious of ornithologists. This can only encourage a wider readership, ranging from the professional ornithologist to the enthusiastic amateur. This familiar approach also makes the journal easy to browse through.

The first edition has certainly lived up to the editorial aim of being a truly international journal, both in terms of authors and subject matter covered. With a representative article from each continent there is something for everyone, from the widely travelled to the "armchair birder". It is a hard act to follow.

The glossy nature of the journal is one of the immediate attractions on first picking it up. The layout and photographic reproduction are excellent. It is good to see that the binding is good enough to stand up to repeated handling.

In this age of heightened conservation awareness it is no great surprise that this topic be covered in any new bird journal. However, it is good to see that a permanent association with ICBP has been established from the start. The more media access such conservation organisations have the better.

"Introducing the Authors" is a nice touch and gives the reader a feel for the kind of person who chases half way round the world in search of an elusive bird, or spends hours cramped in a hide waiting to take photographs. It is an interesting insight into the different reasons people find birds fascinating and working with them so rewarding.

Though the articles are not truly scientific it would be interesting for some readers to be able to follow up on them by having a reading list, though not necessarily in the very stylized manner of scientific papers.

I look forward to future editions which if produced with as much care and thought will prove very interesting.

