

– **Handbook of the Birds of the World. Edited by J. del Hoyo, A. Elliot and J. Sargatal. Vol. 3. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.**

This is the third volume of the series, covering the non-passerine families from Ophistocomidae to Alcidae. The very high standards of the first volumes are maintained, and therefore this monumental work is the major modern reference to the birds of the world. The photographs and plates continue to be impressive. The HBW is a must for any ornithological library. Nevertheless, we notice that many taxonomic changes are not fully explained or referenced. The photograph of *Aramides cajanea* (page 113) is in fact of *A. ypecaha*.

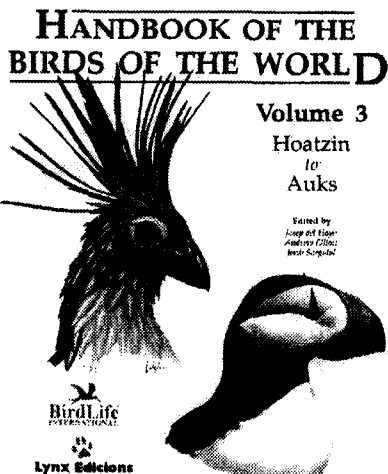
All this said, we will comment on the three published volumes from a Neotropical perspective. There is a single Latin American author in the third volume, versus none in the previous ones. Is this a trend? On the other hand, there is a reasonable coverage of the literature produced in the Neotropics. The literature cited section is useful for checking the citation frequency of Latin American journals, and we must say that Hornero scores well over many competitors. Some useful Neotropical references are missing: because of that, for instance, the colonial nesting habits of *Cygnus melanocorypha* were not mentioned. The annual waterbird censuses of Humedales para las Américas (Wetlands for the Americas) should have been cited more thoroughly and frequently for waterbird populations (only the 1992 census is in the Literature Cited). All this suggests that it would be advantageous to increase the number of Latin American authors, particularly for the endemic Neotropical families.

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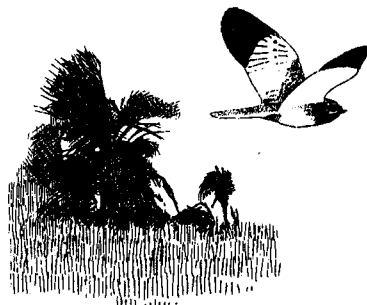
– **J. C. Lowen., L. Bartrina, R. P. Clay & J. A. Tobias. 1996. Biological surveys and conservation priorities in Eastern Paraguay. CBS Conservation Publications, Cambridge, UK. Dirección del primer autor : BirdLife International, Wellbrook Court Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA, UK.**

Esta obra es el resultado de las recientes expediciones Yacutinga y Canopy al Paraguay. Contiene mucha información útil sobre las reservas naturales y otras áreas de importancia de este país. La mayoría de localidades exploradas corresponden al Paraguay Oriental, mas que al Chaco. Esto es justificable por ser el Oriente la zona mas poblada y transformada del país, y por tanto la mas necesitada de inmediata protección de sus ambientes naturales. No sólo es útil el libro como un inventario de aves (y de mamíferos) sino como un testimonio de los problemas ambientales paraguayos, los que se repiten también en otros países. En las listas de aves aparecen varias citas de especies nuevas para el Paraguay. También se proponen cambios de status para algunas especies del Libro Rojo de las Américas.

Rosendo M. Fraga



Biological surveys and conservation priorities in eastern Paraguay



James C. Lowen, Lucia Bartrina, Robert P. Clay and Joe A. Tobias

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