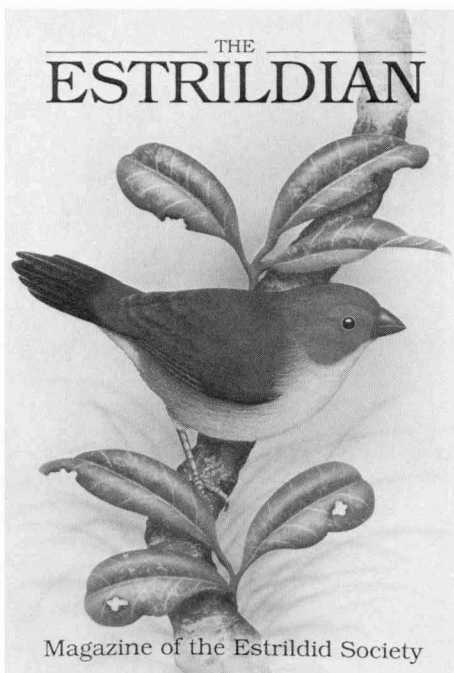


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The Estrildian

reviewed by Dale R. Thompson
Canyon Country, California

The Estrildian is a magazine of the Estrildid Society. It was established in the United Kingdom in 1991 for the welfare, study and breeding of estrildids in captivity. The original concept of the founders of The Estrildid Society was to cover only those waxbills belonging to the genus *Estrilda*, but this was expanded to cover all estrildids. There has been some discussion regarding whether or not this magazine should cover finches outside this group, such as the Cuban finches (Grassquits). No matter which way this goes, this excellent new society provides much needed information on the many estrildid finches now found in captivity. Although this society is based in England, the maga-



zine is available to aviculturists worldwide.

Since the availability of estrildid finches is now rapidly coming to a halt, good avicultural information is needed for all finch enthusiasts. It is

very possible that those finches now found in our aviaries may be the founding stock for upcoming generations.

The Estrildian not only gives excellent information on individual finch species, it also provides details on many related subjects. These subjects range from how to cultivate live food (insects, larvae, etc.) for our finches to which species are compatible with each other.

This is an excellent magazine for the beginner or for those experienced finch breeders wishing to branch out into new species. A beautiful color illustration of an Orange-cheeked Waxbill graces the cover. This illustration was done by Howard Robinson who also includes excellent black and white finch illustrations throughout the magazine. Of interest to me was the "Member's Sales and Wants" section in the back of the magazine. The wants far outweighed the sales which illustrates the great need to learn how to successfully reproduce these birds for many generations. This magazine is a great start to filling this need.

Subscriptions for *The Estrildian* are \$45.00 (U.S. currency — personal checks accepted) for U.S. aviculturists. The checks should be made out to The Estrildid Society and sent to Malcolm Story, 29 Sherburn Park Drive, Rowland Gill, Tyne & Wear, United Kingdom, NE39 1QU. ●

The Birds of Africa

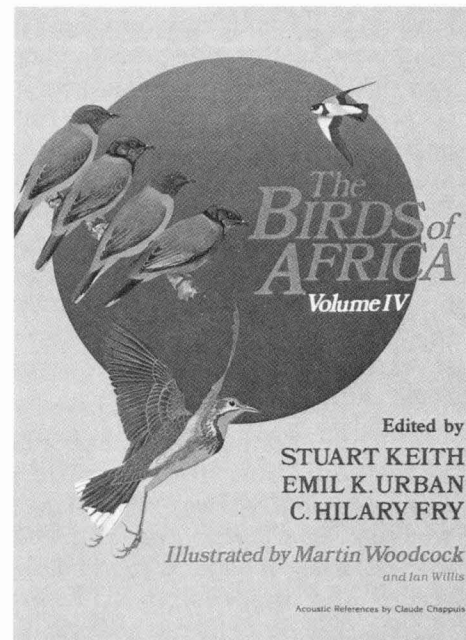
reviewed by Jack Clinton-Eitnrear
San Antonio, Texas

Publishers: Academic Press
Price: \$140.25 per volume (seven volumes are planned)

Editors: Leslie Brown, Emil Urban, Kenneth Newman (Vol. 1). Subsequent volumes edited by C. Hilary Fry, Stuart Keith and Emil Urban.

Collectors and readers of ornithological books have undoubtedly seen a

number of series begun but not completed. Nothing frustrates one more than to invest several hundred dollars in volumes one and two of a four volume set only to discover that the last two volumes will not be produced.



Fortunately for those with an interest in African birds this is not the case with *The Birds of Africa*. Volume one was published in 1982 and contained Ostriches to Falcons. Of interest to aviculturists are the accounts of penguins, storks, flamingoes and waterfowl. Number two in this series was available in 1986 and covered Gamebirds to Pigeons. Number three, published in 1988, was devoted to Parrots to Woodpeckers and finally volume three in 1992 tackled the first 312 of the roughly 1,200 passerine species on the continent and outlying islands. While it has been ten years since the first volume was available, it appears that with only three volumes remaining a series will actually be produced that provides all the volumes necessary to complete its topical area!

As with most comprehensive, hard-bound books, this series is an investment of significant magnitude. To obtain the first four volumes will "set you back" approximately \$600.00.

Another attribute of the "series" concept is that of constant price increases. This set has already spanned a decade so it seems reasonable that later volumes are increased by \$20.00. Given the cost and difficulty of securing many African species for captive breeding, the purchase would justify itself if it contributed, even in a small way, to your successfully breeding or maintaining one pair of birds. Nevertheless, I have noted numerous single volumes on the shelves of aviculturists. Undoubtedly they purchased only those volumes that contained species they were interested in. While I encourage you to consider purchasing the series (one never knows, you may change your interest and experience difficulty obtaining new volumes) I have included a listing of the contents of each volume.

The overall approach to species presentation is rather straight forward. Each species is discussed in terms of its range and status followed by a detailed description of the bird including immature and young, field characters, voice, general behavior, food and breeding biology. Reference is made to the various color plates that illustrate each species.

While books do exist that deal with the birds of north, east and south Africa, this series also includes west Africa. Given that a number of finches are exported from west Africa, lack of a good handbook has contributed to our inability to breed these species. Unfortunately, the three remaining volumes will cover the remaining 888 passerines of Africa including the finches!

Volume 1 Contents

Order Struthioniformes, Procellariiformes, Sphenisciformes, Pellecaniformes, Ciconiiformes, Phoenicopteriformes, Anseriformes, Falconiformes.

Volume 2 Contents

Order Galliformes, Gruiformes, Pteroclidiformes, Columbiformes.

Volume 3 Contents

Order Psittaciformes, Musophagiformes, Cuculiformes, Strigiformes, Camprimulgiformes, Apodiformes, Coraciiformes, Piciformes.

Volume 4 Contents

Order Passeriformes including the following families: Broadbills, Pittas, Larks, Swallows and Martins, Wagtails, Cuckoo-shrikes, Bulbuls, Waxwings, Dippers, Wrens, Accentors, Thrushes (to chats). ●

Exotic Bird Conservation Act Update

Representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Departments of Management Authority and Law Enforcement will conduct a question/answer round table session during the AFA Convention, August 5-8, '93, Salt Lake City, Utah. If you have any questions regarding this act you should seriously consider attending. For more information, telephone (602) 484-0931.



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