

specific ecophysiological or reproductive traits which may be unique to the species and are only expressed following a disturbance event. Conversely, it could also be argued that disturbance may be limiting, rather than enhancing the establishment of such species, given that they are restricted in their distribution, yet disturbance, both natural and imposed, is of frequent occurrence in the Tasmanian environment.

In an attempt to answer these questions, a study was initiated early in 1989 by the Department of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage, which will form the basis of postgraduate degree at the University of Tasmania, to be carried out over the next few years. The study will look at plant strategies and processes such as germination and seedling establishment, in an effort to examine and explain the links between rarity and disturbance as exemplified by the Rhamnaceae. The author would be interested to hear from anyone who has made similar observations on rare plants and who would be willing to disclose any locations they may have. In particular, *Stenanthemum pimeleoides*, *Spyridium microphyllum*, *S. parvifolium*, *Discaria pubescens*, *Pomaderris elachophylla* and *P. phyllicifolia* are of special interest.

BOOK REVIEWS

Birds of Tasmania

by Robert H. Green

Published by Potoroo Publishing, Launceston

Reviewed by D.G. Hird

Described as an annotated checklist of Tasmanian birds, this Third Revised Edition, 1989, updates the 1977 Second Edition. A prominent additional feature is the inclusion of 16 pages of colour and plates, supplementing the black and white habitat photographs retained from the prior edition.

The continuing availability of this book should serve the more keen Tasmanian amateur ornithologist well. Tasmania, with its subset of the general Australian fauna, has fewer species to confuse the bird watcher, especially when sea birds are excluded. Check lists are vital supplements to field-guides and longer and more descriptive volumes. Although for many species the information provided may be unchanged between editions, many new references and interesting occasional records are added.

The colour photographs included in this volume are generally clear and well reproduced. Their inclusion in what is predominantly a check list is slightly incongruous, although they should not impede a reader's access to the latter.