

BOOK REVIEWS

division and advances in the study of dinoflagellate (Mehrotra). There is a tendency to correlate every event or boundary with European/American/Chinese events/boundary, which are seldom fully equivalent. Thus creation of Indian Stages (Raju) is most welcome. Raju *et al.* provide an insight in the paleogeography of the Indian plate during Cretaceous and Cenozoic. The theme of application of foraminifera/fossils in sequence stratigraphy incorporates eleven articles dealing with the use of foraminifera/fossils in stratigraphy, system tracts, set up of Bombay High coastal and sea-level changes during Holocene (eight contributions by Raju alone and/or with associates), sequence stratigraphy, bathymetry and hydrocarbon exploration (Ramesh, Peters and Raju). Illustrated review of petroleum systems in the Indian sedimentary basins (Kuldeep Chandra *et al.*) shall be of immense use to the earth scientists of various disciplines. The supplement has two sections: (i) Mesozoic stratigraphy of Nepal (after Bordet 1971; Gradstein *et al.*, 1992). More details are available for the Triassic in the works of Fuchs, Krystyn and Waterhouse (for details see Bhargava, this volume); (ii) Discovery of SSF from the Gangolihat Dolomite by Azmi and Paul (2004). Above the SSF level, search should be launched for younger fossils in the overlying carbonate sequence that is ideal for fossil preservation. Absence of the Blaini sequence, which is a marker in the Lesser Himalaya, needs to be explained. In the absence of both, the possibility of the SSF-bearing sequence either as an infolded outlier or tectonic involution like the Chilar (Rai *et al.*, *J. Palaeontol., Soc. India*, **42**, 71–80) in the Tons Valley (Bhargava, 2004, 2nd APG Conference, Abstr., 8–10) be considered.

The Editors of this volume have executed an ambitious project with dexterity and success. Except for minor printing errors and editorial inconsistencies, the publication is well brought out with a wealth of data concerning almost all the sedimentary basins. There are several articles which have overlapping data and are

complementary and also supplementary to each other. This was unavoidable under the present organization of themes. I hope that in the near future age/basin-wise compilation with holistic view shall be attempted by Raju and Peters. The only drawback in this volume is its big size. The APG has accomplished a great task by encapsulating enormous data collected by the ONGC over several decades, documented by figures and tables. This publication will be of immense use to students, researchers and professionals alike. I have no hesitation to recommend it to adorn the shelves of all the libraries – personal and institutional.

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Pakshi Prapancha. Harish R. Bhat and Pramod Subbarao. Price: Rs 465

Kannada being an ancient language, there is no dearth when it comes to evocative description of nature's beauty, her bounty or description of the myriad living beings that dwell in the forest-rich landscape of Karnataka. However, *Pakshi Prapancha* by Harish R. Bhat and Pramod Subbarao, has the distinction of being the first ever scientific field guide on birds brought out in Kannada.

The book boasts of excellent photographs that help a great deal in proper identification of birds, which is the primary objec-

tive of such a field guide. This itself is remarkable, as some of the birds captured by the photographers are exceptionally elusive and rare, while some of the birds though could be found in abundance, are difficult to be photographed owing to their swift movements, or inaccessible habitats. Karnataka has produced many nature photographers of international repute, and their contribution to the book is immense. It is gratifying that the quality of reproduction of these enchanting photographs is but satisfactory. Amazing are the photographs of the Malabar trogon, Malabar whistling thrush and the Malabar parakeet and other birds that dwell in dense reforests of Karnataka.

Of the 522 species of birds recorded from Karnataka, the book deals with 161 species. Each page of the book has a colour photograph of a bird, above which is written the Kannada name, common name (in English) and the scientific name. In most cases, the Sanskrit name and other names in local dialects are also given. One gets to appreciate about 200 photographs, and the book boasts of 85 quality sketches. Much effort has gone in the designing of the each leaf of the book. A table that pictorially depicts activity, food, etc. of a particular bird, and a sketch on its nesting habit renders the book invaluable. With a brief description of the habit, habitat, call, breeding season, average age, distribution, the most likely place to watch, and uniqueness of the bird, the field guide is complete in all aspects.

Yet another 100 pages are devoted to familiarize the reader with various aspects of bird life. Admirable are the efforts of the authors, who have painstakingly searched Kannada literature for poems that concern birds, and have placed such nuggets of poetry appropriately. As a result, one is also exposed to the richness of the language, the wisdom of the people and their ecological sensitivity. With all this, the book is also reasonably priced.

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