This is the third volume in a Helm mini-series written by Nigel Wheatley, the others being *Where to watch birds in Africa* and *Where to watch birds in South America*. The book impresses impressively with a stunning cover photograph of an Ibisbill (*Ibidorhyncha struthersii*). So just how does this book help me find one? Well, I turn to the species index and see 21 pages listed, the first being page 39. Here I find that Ibisbill is one of 590 plus bird species recorded in Bhutan. Fine, but where can I find one? So on to page 40 where I read that "Paddies line the Paro River at the bottom of the valley where Ibisbill is a winter visitor", and under *Specialities* that Ibisbill occurs from November to April. Reading on I find other Ibisbill sites, too, nothing detailed, but still useful. In fact, there are no detailed species stake-outs in this book, but rather a mass of information to help you plan successful trips to Asia. As the author states in his introduction the book "is not meant to direct you to every site and bird in minutes detail, but to be a first point of reference - a guiding light".

Thirty nine countries are included and the detail for each understandably varies. Iraq for example gets one and a half pages (for obvious reasons not too much information is available and few birders want to go there), while 47 pages are devoted to Indonesia. Each country section includes details on geographical size, getting around, accommodation and food, health and safety, climate and timing, habitats, conservation and, of course, bird species. In particular very useful lists of endemics and/or near endemics. In fact for me these lists are the great attraction of the book not the multitude, some in tables, include lists of Asian bird families, country species lists, country endemic lists and lists of endemics for all the main areas and even individual sites within some of these areas. For example, anyone visiting Burma only needs to see that country section to find that over 970 species have been recorded and that this is the highest total for a southeast Asian country. of these four species are endemic. All this information is readily available, the reader does not have to wade through pages of text to find it. Hours if not days of library time has instantly been saved.

But though the author has produced an extremely user friendly book, one or two things baffled me. Why on earth is the Greek and thus European island of Lesbos included? Aren't there enough sites in Asia? To make matters worse the author includes the island under Turkey! But more disturbing, what on earth happened to the whole of Asia cast of the Urals, that
is non-European Russia? Such fantastic birding areas as Siberia and Kamchatka are omitted. The Middle East has a section to itself when perhaps it may have been a better publishing decision to have Nigel Wheatley write a complete and separate guide to that region.

Still, these points no doubt relate to publishing and editorial decisions rather than to any error on the author's part. All in all this is very useful and well produced book that will serve not only as a bird finding guide but as a concise ornithological reference, one that is going to save many travelling and non-traveling birders a great deal of time and money.